

FILLMORE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

January 12, 2010

This is a preliminary draft of the January 12, 2010 minutes as interpreted by the Clerk of the Board for use in preparing the official minutes. It is expected that there will be corrections, additions, and/or omissions before the final minutes are reviewed and officially approved by the County Board.

The Board of County Commissioners of Fillmore County, Minnesota met in regular session this 12th day of January, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room, Fillmore County Courthouse, in the City of Preston.

The following members were present: Duane Bakke, Marc Prestby, Chuck Amunrud, Randy Dahl, and Thomas Kaase. Also present were: Karen Brown, Coordinator/Clerk; Shirl Boelter, Auditor/Treasurer; Daryl Jensen, Sheriff; Karen Reisner, Fillmore County Journal; and Lisa Brainerd, Republican-Leader.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

On motion by Amunrud and seconded by Kaase, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Kaase, the Board unanimously approved the following Consent Agenda:

1. January 5, 2010 County Board minutes, as presented.
2. December 1, 2009 Social Services minutes, as presented.
3. Step increase to Merit Grade 4/Step D for Deborah Peterson, Financial Worker effective January 13, 2010, as recommended by Social Services Director.
4. Family and Medical Leave for employee #1349 for the period of up to twelve (12) weeks beginning December 11, 2009 in accordance with County Policy.
5. Appointment of Thomas Boyd, Social Services Director, and Pamela Schroeder, Accounting Technician, Lead to the Finance Committee.

Thomas Boyd, Social Services Director, was present for the Social Services portion of the meeting.

On motion by Kaase and seconded by Dahl, the Board unanimously approved the payment of the following Commissioners' warrants:

WARRANTS

The Auditor's warrants were reviewed.

Chair Bakke reported that Commissioner Kaase had asked about having citizen input during each board meeting. After discussion the consensus was to schedule citizen input for each meeting to allow for more frequent opportunities to address the Board.

Karen Brown, Coordinator, gave an update on the Public Health Department. She stated that she and Ashley Stinson, Human Resources Officer, have been working with the Public Health staff during the transition. Services to the public and client visits are continuing. The H1N1 and seasonal flu shot clinics have been scheduled and are being held. The grant applications and related documents are being submitted in a timely manner. Brown also stated that any change in administration of public health will result in a survey by Medicare. Staff are preparing for this audit. Since there was no supervisor besides the director, three of the staff members are sharing the responsibilities. It is recommended that an interim director be appointed.

On motion by Amunrud and seconded by Dahl, the Board unanimously approved the interim appointment of Julie Loven, Public Health Nurse/Home Care Coordinator, as interim Public Health Director, with additional compensation of \$500/month, effective January 13, 2010.

Chair Bakke announced that a Southeast Minnesota (SE MN) Leadership Summit will be held at 9:00 a.m. at the Borromeo Church, 1900 East 6th Street, Hwy 14, St. Charles, MN on Monday, January 25th to discuss regional issues and meet with legislators.

On motion by Kaase and seconded by Dahl, the Board unanimously approved the payment of registration fees for ten (10) people at \$5.00 per person to Winona County Auditor/Treasurer for participation in the SE MN Leadership Summit scheduled for Monday, January 25th in St. Charles.

Mark White, Forestville State Park, entered the meeting. White reviewed the park's planning process with their management plan's focus on setting aside and protecting steep, less productive and sensitive areas. The proposed acquisition to expand boundaries of Forestville has been an area of interest for several years. Although the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has had conversations with the family about the purchase of the land, the final decision has not been made and land use decisions will be made by these private owners until the land is actually acquired. White reported that Minnesota Department of Forestry budgets have been tight in recent years, but Minnesota Parks and Wildlife budgets have been good in recent years. The determination was made for Minnesota Parks to proceed toward legislative approval for this acquisition plan to change Forestville's boundaries.

Mr. White reported that he had met with the townships and no opposition was given. He is coming to the Board today to make sure there aren't major concerns from Board members about the proposed change. White stated that under current Minnesota laws, payment in lieu of taxes would exceed the current tax revenue. There was discussion about proposed changes in the funding for these payments and a review would need to be done at the time of the sale. Members stated that they wanted to retain the public hunting rights on the land. Mr. White encouraged members to work with legislators to obtain any stipulations on the land.

There was discussion about the apparent conflict between this proposal and the reduced hours of service at the historic site. White explained the different funding sources and that the majority of costs are realized once a building is constructed and he assured members that there are no construction plans. He also stated that funds for the historic site are the same, but are being used more effectively to minimize the effect on visitors.

Cynthia Blagsvedt, Assessor, and Phyllis Hendrickson, Workforce Investment Center, were present. A proposal to hire a temporary worker for 25 hours per week was discussed. There would be a contract for this person and the wage would be covered by the Workforce Center. There will be no benefits and no liability for unemployment.

On motion by Amunrud and seconded by Prestby, the Board unanimously approved to enter into an agreement with the Workforce Center for a temporary employee to be paid \$7.25 per hour for the Assessor's office for up to ninety days. Blagsvedt will come back to the Board for future temporary employees. (Agreement on file in Auditor/Treasurer's office)

John Grindelund, Highway Engineer, entered the meeting.

On motion by Kaase and seconded by Dahl, the Board unanimously approved the Airport Maintenance and Operations grant agreement for reimbursements of up to \$19,855 with the State of Minnesota. (Agreement on file in the Highway Department)

There was discussion about amending the airport hangar lease agreements. Currently the rate is \$100 for twenty (20) years. The Airport Committee is recommending increasing the hangar lease rate to \$75 per year for twenty (20) years with a review of rates and possible market increase after each five (5) year period. There was discussion about the committee's recommendation for a shorter period for lease transfers, but it was determined that the investment required for a hanger would seem to require the same lease period.

On motion by Dahl and seconded by Kaase, the Board unanimously approved to increase the Airport hangar lease rate to \$75 per year for twenty (20) years with a review of rates and possible market increase after each five (5) year period for both new and transferred leases to be effective immediately. An updated lease agreement will be prepared.

Christopher Graves, Zoning, and Don Miller, EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC, were present.

On motion by Amunrud and seconded by Dahl, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION 2010- 004: Conditional Use Permit for EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC for an electrical collector substation in Bristol Township, Section 14

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Kaase, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:

RESOLUTION 2010-005: Conditional Use Permit for EcoHarmony West Wind, LLC for an electrical switch station in Bristol Township, Section 23

Mr. Miller gave a brief update and stated that the State is preparing an environmental report. A public hearing is scheduled for February with possible review by the Public Utilities Commission in March. They are hoping to break ground in late 2010 or early 2011.

The following committee reports and announcements were given: Bakke – Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) correspondence regarding General Assistance; Dahl and Amunrud – Semcac; and Kaase – Developmental Achievement Center (DAC), Soil and Water Conservation District, Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Legislative Forum in Spring Valley and Southeast Minnesota (SE MN) Area Regional Trails. Commissioner Kaase requested approval to attend the Southeast MN (SE MN) Regional Radio Board conference in Alabama as there will be minimal costs to the County.

On motion by Amunrud and seconded by Dahl, the Board unanimously approved out-of-state travel for Commissioner Kaase to travel to Mobile, Alabama with expenses to be reimbursed by the SE MN Regional Radio Board.

Committee reports continued: Prestby – Personnel and Department Head; Amunrud- EMS Legislative Forum, Technology, AMC Accountability Council and Open House for Semcac on January 22; and Bakke – AMC Board of Directors and SE MN Water Resources Board.

There was discussion about needing to get a decision on a repayment to the Auditor/Treasurer due to the overpayments to the elected officials as a result of the 27 pay periods in 2009. New practices have been implemented to prevent a recurrence.

On motion by Kaase and seconded by Amunrud, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:12 a.m.