

FILLMORE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' MINUTES

March 9, 2010

This is a preliminary draft of the March 9, 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 9th day of March, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room, Fillmore County Courthouse, in the City of Preston.

The following members were present: Marc Prestby, Chuck Amunrud, Randy Dahl, and Thomas Kaase. Absent: Commissioner Duane Bakke. 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 Kaase and seconded by Amunrud, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

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

1. March 2, 2010 County Board minutes, as presented.
2. February 2, 2010 Social Services minutes, as presented.
3. Step increase for Diane Olson, Financial Worker, to Grade 4/Step B, effective April 4, 2010 as recommended by the Social Services Director.
4. Step increase for Charlotte Zeyer, Office Support Specialist, to Grade 1/Step D, effective April 6, 2010 as recommended by the Social Services Director.
5. Step increase for Jennifer Peterson, Financial Worker, to Grade 4/Step C, effective April 27, 2010 as recommended by the Social Services Director.
6. Overnight stay for Accounting Technician, Lead, and Accounting Technician to attend Secretary of State's Election Training in May as recommended by the Auditor/Treasurer.
7. Intermittent Family and Medical Leave of Absence for employee #1291 for a period of up to four (4) weeks beginning March 2, 2010 in accordance with County Policy.

Thomas Boyd, Community Services Administrator, and Gail Bunge, Financial Supervisor, were present for the Social Services portion of the meeting.

Coordinator Brown reported that there were no costs to the County for Commissioner Bakke's meetings in St. Paul on February 18th and 19th since the Association of MN Counties (AMC) covered the expenses.

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

WARRANTS

The Auditor's warrants were reviewed.

On motion by Kaase and seconded by Dahl, the Board unanimously approved extending the advertisement period for the Director of Nursing position in the Community Services Department, Public Health Division, until filled.

On motion by Kaase and seconded by Dahl, the Board unanimously approved to accept the resignation from Sandra Underbakke, PC/Network Technician effective Friday, March 19, 2010 and thanked her for her years of service to Fillmore County.

Dahl reported that Semcac Community Action had asked for support from Fillmore County for continued coverage through Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT). There are concerns that there will be more costs for community action agencies and counties if they are required to purchase coverage elsewhere. Members asked for additional information.

The Citizens' Input portion of the meeting was opened at 9:32 a.m. and closed since no one from the public was present to comment.

Shirl Boelter, Auditor/Treasurer, was present to discuss Census 2010. She noted that the census forms will be mailed or delivered very soon and asked that all present ensure that the forms are mailed back prior to May 3rd. After that point, the costs for the census increase as people will then go to homes for the completed forms.

Since there is a congressional seat at risk, it is imperative that everyone be counted in the census. Fillmore County's response rate for the last census was 80% compared to the national rate of 72%. It is hoped that this rate will be improved in 2010.

There was discussion about strategies to include the Amish in the census. Auditor/Treasurer Boelter will work with Winona County, Sheriff Jensen and Public Health to reach out to the Amish community on this issue.

Boelter also reported that the new primary date is a month earlier and on the 2nd Tuesday in August, the 10th. Filing will begin in May. This will bring Minnesota into compliance with federal regulations for absentee ballots.

The following committee reports and announcements were given: Amunrud – Highway Safety in Rushford on March 10th, Workforce Center, and Veteran Services Officer (VSO) interviews; Kaase – Highway Safety; and Dahl – Social Services.

Cris Gastner, Economic Development Authority, and Phil Dybing, Lanesboro Local, were present to discuss a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) funding application for Lanesboro Local. They are only asking for project support since they do not need the County to act in a fiscal capacity under the community facilities loans and grants program. USDA is seeking to gauge opposition, support and public awareness of the project.

Dybing gave some history of the organization and discussed the growth in one year. They have gone from only a web presence to a storefront and 139 members. Although they use Lanesboro in their business name, they work with many producers outside Lanesboro. They have purchased land and are looking to build. Gastner stated that Lanesboro Local has a strong business plan and their experience makes the application stronger. The intent is to hire two (2) full time people within the next few years.

On motion by Amunrud and seconded by Kaase, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:
RESOLUTION 2010-013: Support for Lanesboro Local project

Committee reports continued: Prestby – Township and VSO; Kaase – Southeast Minnesota Area Regional Trails and Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD); Amunrud – Social Services and State Accountability work group; Dahl – Social Services; Kaase – SWCD forums and Developmental Achievement Center; and Prestby – Department Head.

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

On motion by Kaase and seconded by Amunrud, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.