

The Board of County Commissioners of Fillmore County, Minnesota met in special session this 17th day of January, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners' Board Room, Fillmore County Courthouse, in the City of Preston.

The following members were present: Thomas Kaase, Randy Dahl, Chuck Amunrud, Duane Bakke and Marc Prestby. 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.

Tina Peters, Public Health Nurse, Lead; Jon Martin, Solid Waste Administrator; Gail Bunge, Social Services Manager; David Kiehne, Recorder; Jason Marquardt, Veteran Services Officer; Cynthia Blagsvedt, Assessor; Christopher Graves, Zoning Administrator; and Donna Rasmussen, Soil and Water Conservation Administrator, were present.

Representative Greg Davids; Representative Jeanne Poppe; Senator Jeremy Miller and Senator Dan Sparks were present.

On motion by Prestby and seconded by Dahl, the amended agenda was unanimously approved.

Representatives Davids and Poppe and Senators Miller and Sparks thanked the Commissioners for the invitation to participate in this legislative session and for all their work on the Veterans' Cemetery project.

Legislative priorities presented by the County included the following:

- Passage of the Association of MN Counties' MN Accountable Government Innovation and Collaboration (MAGIC) Act to allow counties the flexibility to deliver services and request local waivers to better serve the public within current State law.
- Request rule simplification and less reliance on cost shifts. The current Social Services model is not sustainable as citizens are requiring more services and there are less available resources. Health care costs continue to grow. Concern expressed about the significant cost shift to counties for civilly committed sex offenders.
- Consideration of report from Property Tax Working group when it is finalized.
- Allow flexibility to remove obstacles that now require legislative action and utilize technology on a regional basis as being proposed in the SE MN Department of Human Services redesign initiative.
- Appreciate the legislative efforts on Maintenance of Effort regarding libraries, but the current model is too dependent on local government and actually inhibits library support due to the creation of future obligations unless there is a significant economic downturn. The State needs to be more involved.
- Support funding to maintain local public health infrastructure and family home visiting. Very important to continue our services locally. There was discussion on the negative impact of temporary funding that is no longer available such as the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP) fund.
- Support bridge bonding request from Fillmore County as sixty (60) bridges are on the priority list. This impacts local agriculture and tourism in the county. Consideration of alternative lower cost solutions that have a positive cost benefit ratio and protect the safety of the public was requested.
- Request funding for the Lanesboro dam project due to risk of life in the event of a failure.
- Request requirement that current year taxes be paid for the whole parcel in cases of split parcels. Currently the County is sending out about 500 letters a year to notify tax payers who are confused when they get notices on property that was sold.
- Request comparable worth reporting change from three (3) to five (5) year cycles as the county

monitors for comparable worth compliance and recognizes the need for equal pay for equal work.

- Support change in budget transparency laws to allow more flexibility in communicating the budget and levy information to the public.
- Require that all Solid Waste tax dollars be used for solid waste purposes to result in more recycling instead of funding the State's general fund.
- Changes are needed in MN statutes to assure a more cost effective E-Waste recycling program and to simplify the reporting procedures.
- Restore financial support for local water management plans.
- Reinstate funding for Wetland Preservation Act programming as Fillmore County lies in an area of the state that has less than 50% of pre-settlement wetlands remaining which will be further reduced due to lack of preservation incentives.
- The Association of MN Counties platform document was presented and support requested.
- Currently there are no big public safety legislative issues but the Sheriff will be in touch with any emerging items.
- Restore authority to counties on issues such as rules for septic systems that are not appropriate for rural churches.
- Request consideration of relief for small business for the first \$100,000 of income for the statewide commercial business tax.
- MN Association of County Officers request that provisional ballots be not supported.
- MN Association of County Officers request that the constitutional amendment for voter identification not be supported, since this would be a cost to counties.

Representatives Davids and Poppe and Senators Miller and Sparks again thanked the Board for their work on their request to site a national veterans' cemetery in the County. There was discussion that levy limits are being considered and that redistricting may change state representation in the County.

Shirl Boelter, Auditor/Treasurer, presented information about a subordination agreement. This is a past practice when the County retains its position on the loan and the borrower gets better terms on their loan.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Amunrud, the Board unanimously approved the changes to the subordination agreement with Wells Fargo and approved the new subordination agreement as long as Fillmore County retains a position and contingent on approval by the County Attorney.

Auditor/Treasurer Boelter asked that the Finance Committee meet to consider a process for future subordination requests.

The following committee reports and announcements were given: Prestby and Kaase – Jail Committee. Kaase – sand meeting in Winona and Soil and Water Conservation District. Kaase will attend Multi-County Housing meeting in Wabasha regarding Section 8.

On motion by Bakke and seconded by Dahl, the Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.