

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARTIN COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2004
@ 9:00 A.M.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman, Jack Potter at 9:00 a.m. with the following Commissioners present: Commissioner Steve Donnelly, Commissioner Steve Pierce, Commissioner Dan Schmidtke, and Commissioner Gerald Boler. Also present were Jim Forshee, Auditor/Treasurer, Terry Viesselman, County Attorney, Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Kevin Peyman, County Engineer, Christine Rupp, Fairmont Sentinel, and members of the Public.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve the Agenda with following additions: (1) Set date for Board of Equalization (2) Consider Finalizing "Zoning Official" Job Description. Carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2004 Board of Commissioners Proceedings. Carried unanimously.

Judy Beckman, representing the Red Cross Association of Martin County, was present and reported information to the Board regarding the Proclamation "March as Red Cross Month".

PROCLAMATION

Proclamation of March as Red Cross Month

Throughout our history, Americans have been committed to helping the suffering, the disadvantaged and those in need. The American Red Cross represents the compassion of our Nation in action. During American Red Cross Month, we honor this remarkable organization and recognize its proud heritage of service. Countless people across our country turn to the American Red Cross every day for blood and blood products, disaster assistance and other vital community services.

Since 1917, the Martin County Red Cross has upheld its mission: to provide relief to victims of disasters while helping people prevent, prepare for and respond to emergencies. The many volunteers in the Martin County Red Cross offer emergency services to the men and women of county in the Armed Forces; provide services to victims of disaster such as single family fires and other emergencies; and train citizens in lifesaving skills, such as first aid, CPR, defibrillator use and water safety.

Close to 2000 voluntary blood donors have given the gift of life, through the Martin County Red Cross in the past year.

We are grateful for this essential and inspiring organization and we celebrate its legacy of help, hope and healing for those in need.

Therefore, be it proclaimed that the, Martin County Board of Commissioners, of Fairmont, MN, in Martin County do hereby declare March 2004 as American Red Cross Month. As we celebrate this month, I call upon all citizens to become partners in preparedness with the Martin County Red Cross and become active participants in advancing the noble mission of the American Red Cross.

On motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, said Proclamation is duly adopted this 2nd day of March 2004.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONER
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Jack Potter, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator

Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke to approve the Proclamation “March as Red Cross Month” effective this 2nd day of March 2004. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Boler commended Beckman for her dedication to the Park Board and community organizations such as Red Cross for helping the citizens of Martin County.

Terry Viesselman, County Attorney, was present and reported on the status of attorneys drafting the agreement on Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) matter. After discussion,

Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Settlement Agreement and Release with the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) as presented. Carried unanimously.

The Board thanked Viesselman for his report.

Kevin Peyman, County Engineer, was present and requested approval to organize “Road Side Pickup” at \$10.00 a mile for non-profit groups. After discussion, Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Boler to go ahead with the “Road Side Pick-up Project” and to approve the \$10 a mile for non-profit groups for the pickup and to prioritize working the high volume black top roads on this project. Carried unanimously.

Captain Brad Hady, Sheriffs Department, was present to report to the Board on the activities of the Sheriffs Department. Sheriff Brad Gerhardt was attending the Governor’s Conference for Emergency Management.

Hady stated that the Department was called to a bomb threat at Martin County West High School. The case is still under investigation. A hard drive was taken out of the computer where the threat was originated and we feel that once the forensic retrieval is complete we should have a suspect.

Captain Hady further reported on the following:

- “Meth. Bill” Bill is being introduced in Congress by Colin Peterson of Minnesota.
- Oral Boards for the Corrections Officer position have been completed.
- Department of Correction’s (DOC) Jail Inspection will be held on 3rd of March
- MIMS training is complete. Hady stated that all went well and when disaster strikes, it will affect us all. This will go a long ways towards creating continuity with the Emergency Services Community.
- Upgrading needed weapons for Deputies (rifles).

Captain Hady further stated that the Sheriff’s Department has requested purchase of three (3) replacement rifles. Currently the Department uses Viet Nam War era issue weapons that now are nearly forty years old. Some of the rifles have required repairs due to age and use. Repair parts are nearly non-existent. In addition, from an officer standpoint the age and reliability of these weapons potentially a liability for the County. Total cost for three rifles with added accessories \$2,976.90, less trade-in \$800.00 (7 shotguns) = \$2,176.90.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly, to approve the purchase of three Bushmaster Law Enforcement rifles from Ray O’Herron Company, Stacy, MN, with the necessary added accessories in the amount of \$2,976.90, less trade-in of \$800 for total cost of \$2,176.90. Carried unanimously.

Sheriff Gerhardt is recommending hiring Corey Ballard as part-time Deputy for the Sheriff’s Department. Mr. Ballard is a full time licensed peace officer. The position would be on an as needed basis. The hourly wage would be \$14.56/hour. There would

be additional cost for uniform. Hady stated that Mr. Ballard would replace Josh Gripentrog who is resigning.

Motion was made by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Boler to approve the resignation of Josh Gripentrog, part-time Deputy Sheriff effective April 10, 2004. Carried unanimously.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly, to approve the hiring of Cory Ballard as part-time Deputy for the Martin County Sheriff's Department on an as needed basis, \$14.56/hour, effective immediately. Carried unanimously. Captain Hady reported to the Board on Semi-Truck traffic on County Road #130 to Cenex Harvest States being a problem, with trucks waiting to unload and parking along the roadside. Hady stated that the Harvest States facility has many trucks hauling loads into their site. The staging area has been filled and trucks are parking along C.R. 130. Landowners in the area have been calling the Sheriff with complaints.

After discussion, the Coordinator responded that communication between the Sheriff, the County and Harvest States should resolve the problem and conditions should improve soon.

Chairman Potter thanked Captain Hady for his report.

Deb Mosloski, Drainage Specialist, was on hand to request approval from the Board to Appoint Joint Ditch Authority on J.D. #11 (M& J). After discussion,

Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Boler Be It Resolved, that the Martin County Board of Commissioners as the Drainage Authority for Martin County hereby appoint Commissioners Schmidtke and Potter as Martin County representatives to serve on the Joint Ditch Authority Board for JD #11 Branches M & J and set meeting date for March 16, 2004 at 2:00 P.M. in Jackson, MN. Carried unanimously.

Chairman Potter introduced Proclamation "Agricultural Safety Awareness Program (ASAP)" and requested approval. March 1-7 has been designated as ASAP Week.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke,

P R O C L A M A T I O N

Agricultural Safety Awareness Program Week

Whereas the people who work in America's agricultural sector make a vital contribution to our nation's well-being by providing high quality food, fiber and fuel at reasonable costs, and

Whereas, the men and women who work on farms and ranches have committed long hours of demanding physical labor and have met the challenges of their profession with determination and pride, and

Whereas nearly half of agricultural fatalities come from tractor overturns without rollover protection structures (ROPS), and

Whereas increased awareness of the hazards of the occupation and dedication to safe practices within the farm and ranch community will promote a safer workplace, and

Whereas the planting and cultivating season is an excellent time to express concern about agricultural safety and to renew support for programs to protect the health and safety of farmers and ranchers.

NOW THEREFORE, the Martin County Board of Commissioners, do hereby declare and proclaim the week of March 1-7, 2004 as **AGRICULTURAL SAFETY AWARENESS PROGRAM (ASAP) WEEK in Martin County**. We urge all citizens

engaged in farming and ranching or its related industries to strive to instill a respect for and commitment to safe practices, especially in tractor operations, thus setting an example for all those who might be influenced by their example.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this 2nd day of March 2004.

Jack Potter, Chairman of Martin
County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator

All voting AYE. Carried unanimously.

The Martin County Extension Committee is recommending that the county hire a summer intern from July 5, 2004- August 27, 2004, to assist the County 4-H Program for preparatory and follow up work of entries for the County Fair to be held in August. The recommendation is not to exceed \$2,500. The hourly wage is \$7.50/hour. After discussion,

Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke to approve and authorize funding and recruitment and hire of a temporary position (summer intern) for Extension to assist with the County 4-H Program at a salary of \$7.50/hour not to exceed \$2,500 for the period July 5, 2004-August 27, 2004. All votes in Favor. Motion carried.

There were three quotes requested and received to provide architectural, mechanical, electrical, structural and civil design and project management for the construction of the Martin County Express Transit Facility. Quotes were received from:

- I & S Engineers and Architects, Mankato, MN \$9,900 (total fees)
- Wold Architects and Engineers, St. Paul, MN \$15,000 plus reimbursable
- KOH (formerly KSA), Mankato, MN 10% of the construction costs

After discussion,

Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, to approve and authorize the Chair to sign the necessary documents for architectural and engineering service with I & S and Architects, Mankato, MN in the amount of \$9,900 to provide all the necessary design, plan production, bidding documents and project administration for the construction of the transit facility for Martin County. All votes in favor. Motion carried.

Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, presented the Letter of Agreement between Martin County and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME) Local 1204 Courthouse. After discussion,

Motion was made by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved, that the Martin County Board of Commissioners approve and authorize the Chair to sign the Letter of Agreement between Martin County and the AFSCME Local 1204 Courthouse Union; whereas, the intent and purpose of the agreement settles any issues concerning feedlots, watersheds/wetland work being done by the SWCD. All votes in favor. Motion carried.

Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, requested approval from the Board to set the date for the County Board of Appeal and Equalization for Monday, June 14, 2004 at 9:00am. To be held in the Board Room.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to approve and set date for County Board of Appeal and Equalization for Monday, June 14, 2004 at 9:00 a.m., in the Boardroom. All votes in favor. Motion carried.

Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, requested approval to authorize the County Personnel Committee to review and finalize the job description of Pamela Flitter from Environmental Technologist to Zoning Official.

Motion was made by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Pierce to approve and authorize the Personnel Committee to review and finalize the reclassification and job description for Pamela Flitter from Environmental Technologist to Zoning Official. All voting in favor. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed their calendars of previous and upcoming meetings and activities.

The next regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioner will be March 16, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. in the Martin County Board of Commissioners Room.

With no further business to wit,

Motion was made by Commissioner Boler, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly to adjourn. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Jack Potter, Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator