

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MARTIN
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MARCH 18, 2008
@ 9:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 8:57 a.m. by Chairman Pierce.

Those present were Commissioners Boler, Potter, Donnelly, and Schmidtke. Also present were Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, Kevin Peyman, Martin County Highway Engineer, Jennifer Brookens, Sentinel Newspaper, Julie Walters, Administrative Assistant, Rod Halvorsen, KSUM/KFMC Radio, and members of staff.

Motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the agenda with the following additions: Consider Citizen Appointment to MRCI board; Discussion Pertaining to Industrial Valuation – Assessor’s Office; and Discuss Dog Control Outside of City Limits. Carried unanimously.

Angie Scheff, representing the Greater Plaza Area Council, presented Martin County with the “Favorite Hole” award for the 2007 Holiday Delights Plaza Ridge Golf tournament.

Motion by Commissioner Boler, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the minutes of the March 4, 2008 regular Board of Commissioners meeting as presented. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize renewal of Consumption & Display Permit (Set-up License) and Liquor, Wine, Club or 3.2% Liquor Licenses for Fox Lake Golf Club; contingent upon receiving proper documentation. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize renewal of Consumption & Display Permit (Set-up License) for David Mosley, d/b/a D&D’s Redneck Place; contingent upon receiving proper documentation. Carried unanimously.

Kevin Peyman, Martin County Highway Engineer, presented his recommendation for membership renewal with the Trunk Highway 15 Coalition. Peyman stated that ultimately the Coalition’s efforts will result in safety and mobility improvements along the length of the State Trunk Highway 15 corridor from St. Cloud to Fairmont.

Motion by Commissioner Boler, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize membership dues payment for CY2008 for membership to the Trunk Highway 15 Coalition in the amount of \$200. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Pierce asked about the possibility of having the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN/DOT) upgrade the shoulders of Highway 15 from Fairmont south to the Iowa border for use as bike paths.

Peyman stated that while he has had no response from a prior email request, he recommends drafting a formal letter in support of upgrading the shoulders of Highway 15 in Martin County for use as a bike path.

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the Martin County Highway Engineer to draft a resolution in support of upgrading the shoulders of Trunk Highway 15 from the City of Fairmont south to the Iowa border for use as bike paths; and to present said resolution for consideration at the April 1, 2008 regular Board of Commissioners meeting. Carried unanimously.

Peyman next opened discussion on a newsletter article in which the Highway 14 Environmental Impact Statement proposes that Trunk Highway 15 through the City of New Ulm may be relocated east of town for those seeking a more direct route to cities beyond such as St. Cloud and Brainerd.

Peyman requested the need to appoint a new At Large member to the Parks & Trails Committee to replace Dan Quinn; and wanted the Board to be aware in case they know of someone that is interested or someone they think would be good for the committee.

Peyman went on to state that at a recent meeting, the Parks and Trails Committee discussed staffing needs and that the Park and Trails Committee's long term goal of hiring a full-time Parks & Trails person instead of a seasonal, six month employee. Peyman stated the person who has filled the seasonal position for the last couple of years has indicated he will not be coming back this year to work for the county and will be advertising for that position. Peyman also stated the live-in caretaker at Perch Lake has been notified that his services are no longer needed. Peyman continued with the addition of Cedar and Bright Lake Parks, the seasonal position will now be more of a full-time mowing job. Peyman noted the Committee believes this would be an ideal position for a couple of semi-retired or retired ("snowbirds") people who come back to the area during the summer months, to stay at the parks to watch for vandals and oversee fee collection, and the county will be advertising for this position as well. However, Peyman noted, the Committee's thoughts are for the long term, the position should be a full-time year round position to develop and maintain the parks and trails systems in the county, write grants to benefit the development and maintenance, and aid with 911 addressing during the off season. After discussion,

Consensus of the Board is to advertise and hire a seasonal six months caretaker position for 2008 in addition to recruiting to help with campers at the parks, and to discuss a full time year round position to be discussed during the CY2009 budgeting process.

Peyman concluded that as of April 1st, 2008 Martin County will officially take over maintaining a two mile stretch of Trunk Highway 262 from Interstate 90 north to County State Aid Highway 34 in Granada, MN.

James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, stated the All Season Wheelers Club – Elm Creek ATV Trail (on behalf of the County) has been approved to receive \$20,000 for maintenance of the ATV Trails for FY2008.

Motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Minnesota Trails Assistance Program Off Highway Vehicles – FY2008 Traditional Grant Agreement for the All Seasons Wheelers Club – Elm Creek Trail; and to approve and authorize the Board Chair (or designee) and/or the Martin County Auditor/Treasurer to sign other required documents as necessary. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated the Department Directors recommend the new Supervisor performance evaluation which is similar in format with the newly adopted employee evaluation form with the same three rating standards of N, M, and E and includes two new General Performance Standards of: “J” Personal Appearance and “K” Perform all Job Duties as Defined.

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and accept the Department Director’s recommended Martin County Supervisor Performance Evaluation form as presented with three rating standards as follows: N – Needs Improvement (needs to show improvement; barely meets minimum requirements of job), M – Meets Expectations (consistently meets job requirements in a successful manner), and E – Exceeds Requirements (frequently exceeds job requirements; and also includes two additional General Performance Standards as follows: J – Personal Appearance, and K – Perform all Job Duties as Defined. Carried unanimously.

Higgins presented bids for replacement of the 1998 Ford Taurus county car that has approximately 150,000 miles. Bids were received from Fairmont Ford, Mel Carlson Chevrolet, Inc., Militello Motors, and Denny Hecker’s Auto Mall (State Contract Bid). Higgins stated of the bids received, the Building and Purchasing Committee recommends the low bid purchase of a new 2008 Chevrolet Impala LS 4-door, Flex-fuel vehicle at the State Contract Bid price including sales tax of \$16,726.02 from Denny Hecker’s Auto Mall in Pine City, MN. After discussion,

Vendor Name	Year/Make/Model	Flex Fuel	Delivered Price	Delivery
Fairmont Ford	'08 Ford Fusion, 4-door	N	\$17,737.58	8-10 Weeks
Fairmont Ford	'08 Ford Taurus, 4-door	N	\$20,283.99	8-10 Weeks
Mel Carlson Chevrolet	'08 Chev Impala, 4-door	Y	\$19,084.80	On lot – Immediate

Militello Motors	'08 Dodge Gr. Caravan	Y	\$21,821.00	8 Weeks
Denny Hecker (State Contract Bid)	'08 Chev Impala, 4-door	Y	\$16,726.02	Unknown
Denny Hecker (State Contract Bid)	'08 Chev Uplander Van	Y	\$19,110.76	Unknown
Current Fleet	Year	Mileage		
	1990 Dodge Van	97,989		
	1997 Ford Taurus	119,550		
	1998 Ford Taurus	147,553		
	1999 Ford Taurus	158,285		
	2006 Chev Impala	31,422		

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the purchase of a new 2008 Chevrolet Impala LS 4-door, Flex-fuel vehicle from Denny Hecker's Pine City Auto Mall in Pine City, MN at the State Contract Bid price including sales tax in the amount of \$16,726.02. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated there has been previous discussion for the need to improve the county's fair booth display and other public events the county may be part of. Higgins went on to state the Building and Purchasing Committee recommends the purchase of an 8 foot curved display at a cost of \$1,199 which includes hardware bag, 2 double halogen lights, dual fabric carry case/podium, and display hard storage case with wheels. Higgins noted this display will be used for the county fair booth, Employee Recognition Day, EDA trade shows, general display use in the courthouse, and other programs. Higgins also noted our local office supply companies do not offer this type of display unit.

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the purchase of one 8 foot curved "Show 'N Rise" Pop-up Display Unit in the amount of \$1,199 (not including shipping and sales tax) to be expended from the General Fund; and to ask the Martin County Economic Development Authority Commission to share in the costs. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated a letter was received at Human Services from MRCI stating that Martha Potter's term as Martin County's representative on MRCI's Board of Directors will expire concurrent with their 2008 Annual Meeting to be held on Friday, April 25, 2008. The letter further states that MRCI is requesting the Board provide the name of a person Martin County wishes as a representative to the Board of Directors for the next four year term and that Ms. Potter is eligible for re-appointment.

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the re-appointment of Martha Potter as Martin County's representative on MRCI's Board of Directors for an additional four year term. Carried unanimously.

Dan Whitman, Martin County Assessor, was present and stated the Assessor's Office will be mailing valuation notices on Friday, March 21st, to all Ag properties in Martin County; and that public meetings are scheduled in the upcoming weeks and are open to anyone that would like to talk about the valuation of their property. Whitman noted that Ag land saw an average increase of about 15% based on values from 18 months ago.

Whitman continued that Martin County will soon be the leading ethanol producer in the state with two ethanol plants located in the county. Whitman stated the Assessor's Office is in the process of valuing the plants and is looking closely at the law and talking with the Department of Revenue to get some of their input concerning valuation based on Commercial Industrial land, Agricultural land, improvements made to that land, and JOBZ tax benefits. Whitman noted both plants qualified for the JOBZ program which means tax exemptions for the buildings for 10 years.

Commissioner Boler stated he had a concerned citizen ask if Martin County had the right or authority to place pictures of all homes in the county on the computer's web site, available to the public.

Whitman stated this information process is industry standard and that their office has completed the data entry from City of Fairmont and small cities in the county, and has 25-25% of all townships completed as well. Whitman went on to state that the information obtained by the pictures enables their office to tell if anything has changed over the years such as the addition of permanent siding, window replacement, and room or deck additions. Whitman noted that the Assessor's Office is only looking at the house and it is their policy to take pictures of the structure only and to stay away from inclusion of anything that would indicate the presence of children.

Deb Mosloski, Drainage Administration, presented a Petition for set-off of certain lands from future levies and assessments on JD #8 in Rutland Township. Mosloski stated that waters from the land of the petitioners has been diverted from the drainage system and their property no longer utilizes or affects the drainage system and that the setting of Petitioners' lands off from the drainage system will not prejudice the owners of the lands and properties remaining on the system. Mosloski noted this Petition will be part of the JD #8 hearing for Re-determination on April 8th, 2008. After discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, acting as Drainage Authority for Martin County, hereby accept the Petition in the matter of the application for set-off of certain lands owned by Larry & Linda Becker, and Roland and Shirley Unke, in Rutland Township, from future levies and assessments on JD #8 in Martin County, MN. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Boler opened discussion on the County's role in controlling dogs outside of the city limits. Boler continued stating he has had several recent complaints about pit bulls that are running loose in the county and that it seems the responsibilities of dog owners outside of city limits is unclear. Boler continued that he has contacted our Sheriff

and County Attorney to see what the dog owner's and county's responsibilities are and what needs to be done before something serious happens. The complaints he has received about the loose pit bulls include homeowners not being able to walk to their mailbox, not being able to let their kids play in the yard, unable to work in their gardens, and a separate complaint states citizens are unable to go for walks on the county roads because of loose dogs. Boler again stressed the importance of addressing and enforcing what the dog owner's and county's responsibility is.

Commissioner Donnelly stated the City and County used to work together for animal control and perhaps the City will help again; and all Commissioners agree that something needs to be done regarding dog control in the country.

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the payment of claims for the month of March, 2008 as presented, with the exception that Blue Earth County will be paid principal only on the shared ditch expenses; and includes the Martin County Highway Department claims as presented. Carried unanimously.

Warrants received and paid March 18, 2008 are registered on file in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows:

Revenue Fund – Warrants Approved March 18, 2008	\$108,642.25
Enhanced 9-1-1 Fund	\$ 8.55
Recreation and Safety Fund	\$ 19.80
Economic Development	\$ 2,778.08
Solid Waste Management Fund	\$ 19.20
Law Library	\$ 852.14
Martin County Transit Fund	\$ 39,966.54
Ind. Sewage Treatment Sys. Loan FD (ISTS)	\$ 6,627.25
Bank Building	\$ 1,944.80
Grand Total	\$160,858.61
 Martin County Ditch Fund – Warrants Totaled	 \$ 34,389.74
Road and Bridge Funds Totaled	\$ 56,943.34

The Board gave their reports and reviewed their calendars of upcoming meetings and activities.

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize per diems and expenses for Commissioners to attend the Area VI Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Districts Quarterly Meeting to be held on Wednesday, April 2, 2008 beginning at 2:00 p.m. at the Lafayette Community Center in Lafayette, MN. Carried unanimously.

With no further business to wit, Board Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Steve Pierce, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator