

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2008  
@ 9:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:04 a.m. by Chairman Pierce.

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

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the agenda with one addition: Consider Hire of Full-Time Replacement Corrections Officer – Sheriff’s Office. Carried unanimously.

Kevin Peyman, Martin County Highway Engineer, presented his recommendation for step increase for James Kain who has reached his anniversary date, and moves to a Maintenance Worker II after completing six years of Maintenance Worker I per the union contract. Peyman stated that the step increase for Kain was approved at the regular Board of Commissioners meeting held on September 2, 2008; however, the movement from Maintenance Worker I to Maintenance Worker II was not part of the original action for approval.

Motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, upon the recommendation of County Highway Engineer, hereby approve and authorize step increase according to union contract for James Kain, Maintenance Worker II, from Grade 10 Step 6 at \$16.27/hour to Grade 11 Step 5 at \$17.10/hour, effective September 3, 2008. Carried unanimously.

Peyman continued with an update on the new salt storage shed; and first District Screening Board meeting that was held where preliminary numbers for 2009 are presented for state aid needs.

Jerry Voyles, Independent Feedlot Inspection Contractor for Martin County, was present to review the revised contract for services for the inspections to be performed; stating that it covers a four year calendar period of 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012 instead of the previous three year period; and an increased service fee from \$240 per inspection to \$250 per inspection for the four year calendar period unless a review of compensation is requested by either Voyles or Martin County for 2010, 2011, or 2012. After discussion,

Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize Board Chair to sign service agreement between Martin County and Jerry Voyles as an Independent Contractor to perform Annual Feedlot Inspections for Martin County, effective the calendar years of 2009, 2010, 2011, and 2012; and includes a \$10 per site inspection increase from \$240 to \$250 per site inspection; and is contingent upon review every two years or as requested. Carried unanimously.

Steve McDonald, MIS Director, presented quotes received and recommended purchasing the required new server in the Law Enforcement Center at a cost of \$5,073.10 from Venture Computer Systems. McDonald stated the current server was purchased in early 2002 and has been running 24/7 for close to eight years and no longer meets the current needs of the users. McDonald continued the agreement between the Martin County Sheriff's Office and Fairmont Police Department is to split the cost for the shared server. McDonald noted he will order and pay the vendor for the server out of his Data Processing budget and then bill the Fairmont Police Department will be billed for their share of the cost in 2009. McDonald stated he has funds available in his 2008 budget to cover the cost. After discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize MIS Director to purchase replacement file server for the Law Enforcement Center from Venture Computer Systems in the amount of \$5,073.10; that the cost will be shared with the City of Fairmont Police Department; to be expended from the 2008 Data Processing budget. Carried unanimously.

Discussion ensued regarding the Manatron and ACS (Affiliated Computer Services) tax software.

Steve McDonald, MIS Director gave an update on the Manatron Tax system being developed. McDonald stated that there is a vote coming up with the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative (MCCC) to determine the need for continued contract with ACS since the development of the Manatron Tax system is behind schedule.

Forshee concurred that due to the delay, that there may be a need for a at least twelve month extension with ACS to make sure the county has a system in place if the Manatron system is not developed on time or does not work.

Whitman stated that in 2006-2007 the Assessor's Office began searching for a new CAMA (Computer Aided Mass Appraisal) system and began negotiations with Manatron for the development of a PC based CAMA system to go hand in hand with our new Manatron tax system. The development of this new CAMA system slowed down and eventually stopped completely as our new tax system development and implementation went farther and farther behind and severely over budget. Whitman went on to state the Assessor's Office continues to desire to move towards a new CAMA system and more advanced tools to make our system better, more usable, and easier to understand. Whitman continued he has been aware of the development of new software that would

help our current system work more efficiently and at the same time give us better sketches and has viewed demos of the product at least 3 times over the past 4 years. Whitman noted the developer of this software has asked Martin County to assist testing of this product at no cost or risk to the county and have also stated they will give us a discount in the event we purchase the product following testing. Whitman went on to note that our current vendor, ACS, has announced it will be developing a CAMA system comparable to Manatron CAMA over the next 3 years and they are asking for counties to commit by partnering in the development phase of this project and are offering a \$50,000 incentive to do this. Whitman concluded that at this time, he is recommending to closely consider the ACS CAMA product as an alternative to the Manatron CAMA product if it appears to meet our expectations and would like to consider joining this development project. Whitman stated following the successful testing of the RTVision remote data gathering system, he will recommend the purchase of this software to the Board at that time. After discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize Martin County Assessor's Office to join in the testing of the LMRS (ACS) CAMA System and testing of the RT Vision Remote Data Collection software, at no charge to the county. Carried unanimously.

Boler inquired what other counties were using for their tax systems.

Pierce stated that every county is faced with the same issue. This is something the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) should be dealing with and pushing for a statewide system to be used by all counties.

Higgins presented an article written by Dan Whitman entitled "Equal Eyes" that will be featured in the Minnesota Association of Assessing Officers Winter 2008 magazine. The article features the Buffalo Lake Energy and VeraSun Ethanol plants in Martin County.

Whitman concluded that he is proposing an assessing rate increase of 10% to be passed on to townships within Martin County beginning in 2009 (The dollar amount charged for assessment of property by the Assessor's Office for rural Ag. will increase from \$7.00 per parcel to \$7.70/parcel; for small cities \$8.00/parcel to \$8.80/parcel). Whitman stated he will bring his formal request before the Board at a future meeting.

Deb Mosloski, Drainage Administration, stated at the regular Board of Commissioners meeting held on September 16, 2008, to have CD #3 redetermined; however, viewers were not appointed as part of that motion.

Motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, acting as the Drainage Authority for Martin County, has the authority to redetermine benefits for county drainage systems and hereby appoints Ron Ringquist, Charles Bowers, and Jerry Rollings as Ditch Viewers in

the redetermination of the original construction and subsequent improvements to be assessed for CD #3. Carried unanimously.

Mosloski next recommended increasing the interest rate on assessments that are levied for more than one year from 5% to 6%. Mosloski stated that if the Board makes a decision to increase the rate, she will have numerous notification letters to mail out before year end.

Commissioner Pierce asked if there is a timeline set as this recommendation was not part of the official agenda for today's Board of Commissioners meeting.

Forshee stated if the interest rate is increased by 1% to 6%, Martin County will be in line with neighboring counties. After discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize an increase to the interest rate that will be charged on ditches that are levied for more than one year from the current rate of 5% to 6% effective January 1, 2009. Carried unanimously. Chairman Pierce left the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

Pierce left meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Chief Brolsma, Julie Grunewald, Senior Probation Agent, and Autumn Larsen, Youth Intervention and Prevention Coordinator, were present on behalf of the Fairmont Healthy Youth Committee, to present a report about the SPARK summit that was held recently in Fairmont and thanked the Board for their leadership. Brolsma presented a review of the Developmental Assets: A Profile of Your Youth that provides external and internal assets for assessing the health and well-being of middle and high school age youth; and a research and policy report on Positive Youth Development: State Strategies that shows that kids who feel safe, valued and connected to caring adults are more likely to be positive about life, engaged in school and emotionally healthy; they also are less likely to participate in destructive or delinquent behavior.

Julie Grunewald and Autumn Larsen presented a review of the SPARK (Supporting and Promoting Assets to Reach Kids) summit that was held on September 17, 2008 at the Christian Church of Fairmont. The event was co-sponsored by Health Youth and Martin County Youth Intervention and Prevention. There were over one hundred participants at the event with youth ranging in age from grades 7 to 12. The adults represented law enforcement, criminal justice, education, health, mental health, business, youth organization leaders, early childhood development, ministerial, recreation, city council, school board members, county commissioners, and legislative officials. The summit featured local SPARK Success Speakers and the keynote address was given by Nancy Tellet-Royce of the Search Institute who spoke about the 40 Developmental Assets and the importance of finding your spark. Several Asset Champions from the Healthy Youth Committee and other caring adults acted as facilitators during three key break-out sessions. The facilitators guided discussions focusing on areas of concern, related to each

of the America's Promises: Caring Adults, Effective Education, Safe Places, Opportunities to Serve, and Healthy Start. Fantastic ideas generated by youth and adults during the break-out sessions were then posted for review by the entire group. Each participant was then asked to vote for the two ideas that they thought should be the highest priority and the top vote getters were: 1. host a multicultural event to be held in the community; 2. students returning to elementary schools to act as positive role models; 3. YMCA or youth center in the community; 4. more media coverage of students activities not involving sports; and 5. student retreats for grades 9-12. Grunewald concluded the youth were asking to have this type of a summit format again because they felt their voices were heard on an equal level with the adults who are in the community.

Commissioners thanked Broolsma, Grunewald, and Larsen for their report and encouraged having another SPARK summit that is offered to students throughout Martin County.

Commissioner Pierce returned to the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

The Board recessed at 10:31 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:36 a.m.

Nancy Sather, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Div. of Ecological Resources, presented information on the Minnesota County Biological Survey that began in 1987 as a systematic survey of rare biological features. The goal of the Survey is to identify significant natural areas and to collect and interpret data on the distribution and ecology of rare plants, rare animals, and native plant communities.

Captain Brad Hady was present to recommend promoting Ben Johnson from part-time corrections officer to full-time corrections officer to fill a vacancy due to the resignation of Dave Worden. Hady stated this department is short staffed right now with a lot of overtime going in and current staff is starting to burn out. Johnson is the longest term part-time person in the department, and it is our recommendation to promote him from part-time to an entry level corrections officer.

Much discussion ensued as to whether this full-time replacement corrections officer was warranted. After further discussions,

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the promotion of Ben Johnson from part-time to full-time corrections officer for the Martin County Sheriff's Office at a rate of \$18.07/hour effective November 1, 2008; and is eligible for full benefits per LELS Local No. 115 Union Contract. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the payment of claims for the month of October, 2008 as presented; and includes the Martin County Highway Department claims as presented. Carried unanimously.

Warrants received and paid October 21, 2008 are registered on file in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows:

Revenue Fund – Warrants Approved October 21, 2008	\$343,396.13
Enhanced 9-1-1 Fund	\$ 13,452.00
Recreation and Safety Fund	\$ 259.73
Martin County Economic Development Authority	\$ 453.18
Solid Waste Management Fund	\$ 67,421.85
Law Library Fund	\$ 1,147.97
Martin County Transit Fund	\$104,575.78
Ind. Sewage Treatment Sys. Loan FD (ISTS)	\$ 60,669.96
Bank Building Fund	\$ 3,450.32
Forfeited Tax Fund	\$ 500.00
Grand Total	\$595,326.92
Martin County Ditch Fund – Warrants Totaled	\$ 47,397.03
Road and Bridge Funds Totaled	\$ 29,815.52

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

Consensus of the Board is to set the date of Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2008 immediately following the regular Board of Commissioners meeting for holding a CY2009 Budget Workshop.

With no further business to wit, Board Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

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Steve Pierce, Chair

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator