

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
MARTIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2009
@ 9:00 A.M.

The regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairman Donnelly.

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

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the agenda with the following addition: 8.8 Consider Letter of Support for a Cellulose Ethanol Refinery Project by Rex Oberhelman. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the minutes of the April 7, 2009 and April 21, 2009 regular Board of Commissioners meetings as presented. Carried unanimously.

Terry Viesselman, Martin County Attorney, stated his office has received new tax appeals in addition to the three pending tax appeals from 2008 which are scheduled for trial on June 8, 2009; and his office is now in receipt of the abstract for property being purchased by the county, located at 121 Main Street in Fairmont and will draw up a title opinion and set a closing date.

Carmen Reckard, Community Health Services Director of Faribault/Martin Counties, presented an update on the H1N1 Novel Virus that included Public Protection, Community Protection, Mexico Travel, Pork, and Seasonal Flu; as well as information according to CDC guidelines covering what the H1N1 Novel Influenza is, signs and symptoms of H1N1 Novel Influenza, the infectious period, how it is spread, prevention, and antiviral treatment. Reckard stated that Martin County is fortunate to have our local partners in Emergency Management (Dulcimer Medical Center, Smart Clinic, Braaten Medical Clinic, Center for Specialty Care, and Fairmont Medical Center-Mayo Health System) and have been planning for emergency situations since 2003 and are in really good shape.

Roman Johnson, new Trail Administrator of the Blizzard Snowmobile Club, was present to give an update and also to request Board approval for the grant application to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) – Minnesota Snowmobile Trails Assistance Program. Johnson stated this is a performance based, preliminary application

and once the DNR has reviewed and awarded a grant dollar amount, it will be brought before the Board for acceptance and final approval.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Potter,

R-#27/'09

RESOLUTION

Application from the Blizzard Snowmobile Club for Maintenance Funding for the Existing GIA Trail System:

WHEREAS, Martin County, Minnesota desires to apply for maintenance funding for an existing GIA Trail System and,

WHEREAS, by Law of 1975, Chapter 204, Sections 51 and 95, there was appropriated to the Commissioner of Natural Resources, as a grants-in-aid to Local units of government, funds for said purposes, and

WHEREAS, said Martin County will contract with the Blizzard Snowmobile Club, Inc. to apply for this funding to maintain said GIA Trail System.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Martin County Board of Commissioners approve of the application for maintenance funding for the existing GIA Trail, and that the Chairperson and/or the County Auditor/Treasurer be authorized to sign all documents relating to the program year.

Motion was made by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Potter, and carried this 5th day of May, 2009.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Steve Donnelly, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator

Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Boler, Potter, Pierce, and Donnelly. NAYS: None. Resolution duly passed and adopted this 5th day of May, 2009.

Kevin Peyman, Martin County Highway Engineer, presented his recommendation for step increase for Gary Anderson, based on his performance evaluation and having reached his anniversary date.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, 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 based on his performance evaluation and according to AFSCME Highway Union Contract for: Gary Anderson, Motorgrader Operator, from Grade 12 Step 7 at \$20.08/hour to Grade 12 Step 8 at \$20.56/hour, effective May 20, 2009. Carried unanimously.

Peyman gave an update on the installation of rumble strips on county roads. Peyman stated that all roads that are to have in-lane rumble strips, as outlined in the county's Stop Sign Advance Warning/Rumble Strip Policy, should all be in place by end of summer, 2009.

Peyman next presented an item for discussion stating that there is an approximate balance of the General Obligation Road Reconstruction bonding money in the amount of \$700,000. Peyman went on to state that part of the County's 5-Year Road Reconstruction Plan included a three mile overlay on CSAH 50 and a six mile overlay on CSAH 39, both by the City of Truman. Peyman continued that while it is his understanding that this bonding money may only be used for road improvement, the bonding language is not real specific. Peyman noted that theoretically this money could be held on to and perhaps used to pay for sealcoat oil in 2010 as opposed to spending money out of the Highway budget. Peyman went on to note the total cost of the overlay will be approximately \$1.5 Million; half coming from State Aid monies and using up the balance of the bonding money. Peyman stated the County has not received a clear answer as to an expiration date or a date that the bonding money has to be spent and suggests contacting Bill Fahey of Northland Securities, Inc. (Financial Consultant for the County) for a timeframe on when the money needs to be spent. Peyman requested guidance from the Board on if the County should proceed spending the bonding money on construction as outlined in our initial plan, or hold on to the money to use in case of budget emergencies.

Pierce suggested that it may be better to keep the bonding money for future economic development projects.

Potter stated his concurrence with Commissioner Pierce, but also stated that the county should not get behind on needed road improvement projects.

Boler inquired if the county's road state aid would be affected.

Peyman responded that it would not jeopardize the amount of state aid the county receives for road projects.

Boler inquired whether any of the county road projects qualified for the federal stimulus money. Peyman responded that it was possible that CR #36 may be eligible. Otherwise, there were no projects at this time.

Peyman will contact Bill Fahey of Northland Securities for an answer as to the timeframe the bonding money has to be spent, and will include discussion at the next regular Board of Commissioners meeting.

Brad Gerhardt, Martin County Sheriff, presented the Sheriff's Office Update which included: the MN Dept. of Corrections conducted its annual inspection of the Martin County Jail on April 22nd; jail is full and is back to housing 5-10 inmates out of county on a daily basis; thanks to Bev Snow for completing the grant application for the Jail Operations & Program Enhancement Project. We are now waiting word from the Bureau of Justice Assistance; completing a major upgrade in our CIS Records Management System and in the following months will be upgrading the Mobile Package as well as adding Version #14; Blue Earth County Justice Center Open House on May 15th; upgrading the suspension system of the Communication trucks; and the Skywarn training at SMEC Campus on May 5th at 7:00 p.m.

Kay Wrucke, Martin County Recorder, was present to request approval for out-of-state travel to Rock Island, Illinois May 12th through the 14th, 2009 to attend the Fidler Technologies annual education conference. Wrucke stated travel expenses are paid for except hotel for two nights lodging and meals estimated at \$220.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the out-of-state travel request for Kay Wrucke, Martin County Recorder, to attend the Fidler Technologies annual education conference to be held May 12-14, 2009 in Rock Island, IL. Carried unanimously.

Doug Landsteiner, County Veterans Service Officer, was present to request approval for out-of-state travel to San Diego, California June 6-13, 2009 to attend the National County Veterans Service Office Conference to maintain his National Accreditation. Landsteiner stated the estimated cost of the trip including registration, hotel, meals, and travel expenses is \$2,679 and was included in the CY2009 Veterans Service Office budget.

Motion by Commissioner Boler, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the out-of-state travel request for Doug Landsteiner, County Veterans Service Officer, to attend the National County Veterans Service Office Conference to be held June 6-13, 2009 in San Diego, CA. Carried unanimously.

Don Reffer, B&W Control Specialists of Algona, IA presented an update of maximum costs for continued tree and brush maintenance of various county drainage ditch systems in 2009. After discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners acting as the Drainage Authority for Martin County, hereby approve the B&W Control Specialists, Inc. quote for tree and brush

control along the listed open drainage ditches in Martin County for 2009; the quotes being a total maximum as follows:

<u>Ditch No.</u>	<u>Maximum Cost</u>
J.D. #2	\$ 8,500.00
C.D. #69	\$ 1,000.00
J.D. #14	\$ 1,500.00
J.D. #14/204 Imp/Hugoson Br	\$ 3,500.00
J.D. #7	\$ 2,500.00
J.C.D. #202	\$ 1,000.00
C.D. #26	\$ 2,500.00
J.D. #4/J.C.D. #301	\$ 2,500.00
J.D. #39	\$ 2,000.00
J.D. #60 (Owens No Spray-see map)	\$ 3,500.00
C.D. #3	\$ 1,500.00
C.D. #52	\$ 2,500.00
C.D. #72	\$ 3,500.00
C.D. #30	\$ 1,000.00
J.D. #10	\$ 3,500.00
C.D. #42 (Hanson No Spray-see map)	\$ 1,500.00
J.D. #367	\$ 3,500.00
J.D. #15	\$ 3,500.00 (Includes Jackson County portion)
C.D. #63	\$ 2,500.00
Total Maximum	\$51,500.00

Carried unanimously.

Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, stated that Rex Oberhelman of the Blue Ribbon Foundation (Fairmont) has requested a letter of support for their cellulose project in order to obtain a U.S. Department of Agriculture grant. Higgins noted last month, the Martin County Economic Development Authority approved a letter of support for the project, which is aimed at growing genetically engineered alfalfa that can be broken down into cellulose and ethanol. After discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Boler, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, due to recent issues with the proposed project, deny letter of support for the proposed cellulose ethanol refinery project as proposed by Rex Oberhelman and the Blue Ribbon Foundation. Carried unanimously.

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

With no further business to wit, Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Boler, to adjourn the meeting. Carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Steve Donnelly, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator