

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
MARTIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2010  
@ 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 Schmidtke.

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

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the agenda as presented. 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 September 7, 2010 and September 21, 2010 regular Board of Commissioners meetings. Carried unanimously.

Terry Viesselman, Martin County Attorney, presented an update regarding the KSTP-TV Absentee Voter Litigation (US Senate Elections in 2008); and pending Human Rights discrimination case for the county.

Kevin Peyman, Martin County Highway Engineer, presented a slideshow of some of the roads in Martin County that were affected by the September, 2010 flooding. Peyman stated the Highway Department has hauled over 3,500 tons of material to various areas in the county including those areas shown in the presentation. Peyman went on to state there was quite a bit of damage to Cedar-Hanson Park including a road wash out and damage to the camp grounds. Also there were some culvert wash outs, debris cleaning, and road ditch cleaning throughout the county. Peyman noted we've been focused on getting the road surfaces repaired from the damage caused by the flooding, and all things considered we've got most of the roads in decent condition in only a week or so. Peyman went on to note that the Highway Department will keep monitoring the various bridges throughout the county as the water keeps going down; but so far everything looks okay. Peyman added there was some current around a few of the Elm Creek bridges that caused some damage; but we hope to place additional riprap that in part may be paid with FEMA money. Peyman noted one good thing is we didn't have any major bridges damaged or that that we had to close for repair, which was one of the positive things to come out of the flooding.

Brad Gerhardt, Martin County Sheriff, presented a copy of the October 1, 2010 letter that Governor Pawlenty sent to Obama Administration requesting a Presidential Declaration as a result of severe storms and flooding of September 23, 2010. Martin County is included in everything from the Individual Assistance to Government Assistance to Small Business Administration Low Interest Loans for individuals. It is now in Obama Administration's hands to do what they need to do to get financial assistance for damages as result of the flooding in the county. Gerhardt advised for the various county departments and municipalities, and individual property owners to continue to keep good records including your time and effort for anyone that is dealing with issues and damage as a result of the recent flooding in the county.

Gerhardt next presented the Sheriff's Office Update including: an update on a recent fatal accident in Martin County; Sheriff Gerhardt and Sergeant Mike Anderson attended the recent Emergency Management Conference. Sergeant Mike Anderson is now a certified emergency manager; and thanked Captain Markquart, LuAnn Akers, and JoAnn Schulze-Russenberger, Karen Bleess, and Diane Obray, who really stepped up to help during the flood disaster. Gerhardt also mentioned that 19 of the 20 township declarations have been signed and turn in.

The Sheriff's Office is recommending the hire of Teresa Boltjes as full time Communications Officer (replacing retiree, Susan Austin). Boltjes brings nearly four years of part time communications officer experience and recommends the starting salary range at the current two year step of \$19.86/hour.

Motion by Commissioner Boler, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the hire of Teresa Boltjes as full time Communications Officer for the Martin County Sheriff's Office at \$19.86/hour, effective October 5, 2010; and is eligible for full benefits per LELS Local No. 115 Union Contract. Carried unanimously.

Dan Whitman, Martin County Assessor, updated the Board on the Homestead Disaster Credit Program. Whitman stated if there are 25 buildings that have sustained at least \$5,000 in damage; the program will automatically take effect. Staff will be out reassessing in Trimont, Truman, and Northrop. Once we have gathered all our data, we'll determine if the jurisdiction qualifies for the program. If it does then we'll work with the jurisdiction in completing a paper application, get it to the state, and then there is a council at the State level that meets to determine all monies that are reimbursed to the County; so there's no loss to the County, School, City, or Township. Whitman went on to state the tax break next year is based on the damage realized on what you were paying taxes on and will automatically come as a rebate on their tax bill.

Commissioner Boler asked if this program will cover hail and flood.

Whitman noted that since it was only listed as a flood disaster more so than a hail disaster, his office will initially analyze and reassess the flood and will include hail damage also. Whitman also stated that the Assessor's Office is willing help in any way

they can as well as answer any questions that anyone has with regard to the Homestead Disaster Credit Program.

Billeye Rabbe, Solid Waste Coordinator for Faribault and Martin Counties, introduced John Schons and Sue Eisenmenger with Step, Inc. Rabbe stated they were present to propose establishing a recycling center in Martin County, working on a variety of recycling programs in conjunction with the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM). The programs include: "Recycle Your Holidays" – collecting and recycling of Christmas lights; "It's in the Bag" – collection and recycling of plastic bags; and "Message in a Bottle" – collecting and recycling plastic bottles and cans. RAM furnishes the recycling bottles for Step, Inc. and will then market the recyclables for them. The program isn't in competition with our regular recycling program because it is private venture. Rabbe went on to state she has talked with officials from Waste Management about the proposed program and they appear not to have a problem with this proposal. Rabbe continued that last Christmas this program was started in Blue Earth County and as a result, I have received many calls from people asking what they should do with their old Christmas lights. This program definitely is a new resource for us and I'm excited that Step, Inc. came to us with this project. Rabbe stated that STEP is requesting \$40,000 for start up costs for the project and could be expended from the County's Solid Waste Program budget. It was suggested that if the board would consider any financial assistance for the proposed recycling program for Step, Inc that is be on a reimbursement basis only for the project's start up costs; and that is a one time only offer. Rabbe stated that this recycling program would help achieve Martin County's recycling goals; and that the proposed recycling program would play into SCORE money that comes into the County also.

Commissioners voiced their concerns about the program start up costs. While in agreement with the "Recycle Your Holidays" program, they expressed their reservations with the availability and volume of shrink wrap from manufacturers in the area as well as plastic garbage bags for the "It's in the Bag" program.

Eisenmenger stated the recycling association will help us identify industrial places to get the leftover shrink wrap. Also, with the seven different agencies that are involved in this program right now, they market as a group so they can get the volume that they need and sell to vendors that come to the facility to pick up the product. There is no shipping involved.

After much discussion, Commissioners recommend starting on a smaller scale as more information and research is gathered on the "It's in the Bag" and "Message in a Bottle" recycling programs. After further discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Boler, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve funding the request from John Schons of Step, Inc. (Fairmont) in the amount of \$10,000 from the Solid Waste Program Fund to be used for start up costs of the "Recycle Your Holidays" program in Martin County, on a reimbursement basis; and to authorize Billeye Rabbe to review the expenses on what is needed for this project; and to find ways to get the equipment needed

for the recycling project at the best price possible. AYES: Pierce, Boler, Potter, Donnelly. NAYES: Schmidtke. Motion carried.

Rebecca Bentele, Victim Witness Coordinator, presented the Continuation Grant and resolution with the Office of Justice Programs. Federal funds for this grant contract are provided under the Ongoing Crime Victim Services for the purpose of providing supplemental funding to aid in the provision of direct services to victims of crime. State funds for this grant contract are provided for the purpose of providing crime victim services to victims of domestic violence, general crime services, and sexual assault services. Bentele stated the contract is effective October 1, 2010 through September 30, 2011 and is in the amount of \$85,291.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize Martin County Coordinator to execute the Office of Justice Program Continuation Grant and amendments as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of Martin County. Carried unanimously.

Bev Snow, FMJ Multi-County Problem Solving Courts Coordinator, stated that Johanna Wright has submitted her resignation as Mental Health Worker for Martin County Jail Inmates, as the Contractor to provide these services effective September 2, 2010.

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby accept the resignation of Johanna Wright, Contractor for the Mental Health Worker for Martin County Jail Inmates, effective September 2, 2010. Carried unanimously.

Snow continued that due to Wright's resignation and no longer the independent contractor for the project, Joy Pousch (current RN, BSN Inmate Nurse for the Martin County Jail) has been chosen to provide mental health services for Martin County Jail Inmates at 16 hours a week, for 832 hours, which equates to \$568 per week (\$35.50/hour) to provide the required mental health services for Martin County jail inmates as part of the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) Enhancing Rural Detention and Jail Operations (ARRA) grant. Snow stated Pousch knows the rules and regulations of the Martin County Jail already and will be compensated through the grant at exactly the same dollar figure as was for the previous contractor.

Commissioners inquired about Pousch's certification for providing mental health services.

Snow stated Pousch will be providing the resources and connections that are already available in the community. These are some things the social worker or nurse can do that they don't have to have a mental health degree, be a psychiatrist, or a psychologist. Snow went on to state that Pousch has those resources and connections; and meets all the requirements of the BJA program.

Commissioner Pierce inquired if the newly mandated medical electronic records systems and E-Prescription services will affect the County's mental health services to inmates.

Snow stated she didn't know how that would affect this particular area because Pousch does not write prescriptions. The Martin County Jailers hand out the medication to the inmates. Snow went on to state that she will gladly research this matter and present information at a later date.

Motion by Commissioner Boler, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Martin County Jail Mental Health Services Contract for BJA Grant Agreement between Martin County, MN and Joy Pousch (Independent Contractor) RN, BSN for 832 hours (16 hours/week) of service at \$35.50/hour, effective September 3, 2010 for the period of the grant, or may be revised at the discretion of the county board. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated House of Hope, Inc. is requesting a conditional use permit from the City of Fairmont for the operation of a residential chemical dependency treatment center for adult men and women. This will be a satellite facility for House of Hope, Inc. which has its primary location in Mankato, MN. Higgins stated the conditional use hearing is scheduled for October 5, 2010 at 5:30 p.m. Higgins stated that a letter of support would be in order for the proposed project and be sent to the City of Fairmont Planning Commission. The established Center is expected is to bring 20 new jobs to the area.

Commissioner Boler inquired about the County's two cells that are located at the proposed facility. Higgins responded that at this time the House of Hope is not looking to use this portion of the facility and that with the County Board's approval would not necessarily hold of the sale of the building if they decide to purchase the building. After further discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign a letter/statement of support for establishing a residential chemical dependency treatment center for adult men and women in the City of Fairmont, to be located at 1100 Indus Street in Fairmont, MN. Carried unanimously.

Higgins introduced a letter from the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Services (NRCS) concerning the program entitled Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) to help respond to emergencies created by natural disasters. Within the program is potential money available for repair of drainage ditches covered at 75% of the costs, possibly 90% depending on your location area. All projects undertaken by the EWP must have a project sponsor which is legal subdivisions of the State (i.e. conservation districts, counties, cities). Requests made for assistance under the EWP program must be received within 60 days of the disaster. As a result of damage due to natural disaster (i.e. flooding), the program identifies the structures, property, and other areas and if eligible will provide 75% of construction costs for repair of damage, sponsors are responsible for

25% of cost. The 25% can be cash or in-kind. Examples of EWP projects that may be applicable is sediment removal from drainage ditches and other public flood prevention structures, stream bank erosion, and storm debris removal. Higgins recommends sponsorship of this program for individuals to tap into if additional funding is needed.

Deb Mosloski, Martin County Drainage Administration, stressed the importance for landowners to check for damage to tiles as result of the recent flooding, along with caves, etc., due to the short window for the FEMA application process; and not to wait until the crops are out before surveying for damages.

Motion by Commissioner Potter, seconded by Commissioner Boler, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby engage the NRCS in the implementation of the Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) due to the recent flooding in the County; and to approve Martin County as the Sponsor (or Martin County SWCD) for the EWP Program and to provide the required match of 25% for eligible projects for the EWP Program; and that such required match may be provided by the County and/or project receiving the assistance; and to authorize the Board Chair and the appropriate staff to sign the required documents for the EWP Program. Carried unanimously.

Mosloski asked the Board to set a public hearing date to hear the final Viewers Report for the redetermination of JD #6 and CD #59.

Motion by Commissioner Boler, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, acting as the Drainage Authority for the County of Martin, hereby sets the date of Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. to hear the final Viewers Report for the redetermination of JD #6 and CD #59. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated the County has received a quote for voluntary employee Vision Coverage plan with Avesis, through Integrity Employee Benefits (Jim Ochs). Avesis coverage includes lenses, frames, contact lenses, and LASIK Surgery benefits and would be offered on a voluntary basis only.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Potter, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, after careful review of the bid quote for voluntary employee Vision Insurance plan coverage, hereby approve and accept the bid received from Avesis; and authorize the Board Chair and/or its designee to sign all necessary documents with Avesis effective January 1, 2011; and to offer to all eligible employees. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated six bid request letters were sent out for the demolition of the building located at 201 Main Street in Fairmont. Bids received range from \$9,800 up to \$30,000. Higgins went on to state that he contacted Taplin Construction LLC to verify the bid received and that all is in order.

Bid Results  
Martin County, Minnesota

Building Demolition at 201 Main Street – Fairmont, MN

Bid request letters were sent to six area contractors for demolition of a building located at 201 Main Street in Fairmont, MN. Bids were due in the Coordinator’s Office by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 1, 2010. A total of four bids were received:

Taplin Construction LLC – Fairmont, MN	\$ 9,850.50
S & J Excavating, Inc. – Fairmont, MN	\$16,500.00
Beemer Companies – Fairmont, MN	\$25,850.00
Dulas Excavating, Inc. – Wells, MN	\$30,000.00

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, after careful review of bids received, hereby award the bid for demolition of the building located at 201 Main Street in Fairmont, MN to Taplin Construction LLC of Fairmont, MN in the amount of \$9,850.50 plus applicable permit fees. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated bids were requested and received for installation of a cement apron at the Martin County Transit Facility located at 1023 North Dewey Street in Fairmont, MN. Bids were to include all labor and materials for installation of a 25’ x 150’ or an alternate bid of a 50’ x 150’ cement apron. Higgins went on to state the apparent low bidder is Bach Construction; and recommends approval of up to \$30,000 in order to complete as much of the area for parking as possible. Higgins noted Mn/DOT will reimburse 85% of costs for this project. After discussion,

Bid Results  
Martin County, Minnesota

Installation of Concrete Parking Apron at 1023 N. Dewey Street in Fairmont, MN  
(Martin County Transit Facility)

Bids were requested and received for installation of a cement parking apron for the Martin County Transit Facility at 1023 N. Dewey Street in Fairmont, MN. Bids were to include all labor and materials on a 25’ x 150’ or an alternate bid of a 50’ x 150’ cement apron. A total of two bids were received:

	<u>25’ x 150’ area</u>	<u>50’ x 150’ area</u>
Bach Construction – Fairmont, MN	\$14,964.20	\$29,928.40

