

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2013
@ 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 Elliot Belgard.

Commissioners present were Dan Schmidtke, Elliot Belgard, Steve Pierce, Steve Donnelly, and Steve Flohrs. 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 Pierce, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the agenda for the July 16, 2013 regular Board of Commissioners meeting with the following additions: 8.5 Approve Non-exempt Job Classification for Building Maintenance Supervisor Position; 8.6 Consider Step Increase for Cory Ballard – Martin County Sheriff’s Office; and 8.7 Discuss Grace Lutheran Church Community Service Project. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Flohrs, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the minutes of the July 2, 2013 regular Board of Commissioners meeting. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Pierce, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners serving as the members of the County Board of Equalization, along with James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, hereby approve the minutes of the June 18, 2013 Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting. Carried unanimously.

Terry Viesselman, Martin County Attorney, presented and reviewed the proposed lease agreement between Martin County and the Department of Corrections (DOC) for office space at 117 North Main in Fairmont, stating that the DOC, and other appropriate signers, will sign and send the signature page to the county for signatures as well.

Billee Rabbe, Solid Waste Coordinator for Faribault & Martin Counties, presented the application request from Troy and Julie Olson, d/b/a Many Hands for a Recycling Collection and Transportation license in Martin County and noted the Olson’s have met the requirements for licensure in Martin County.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize Board Chair and County Auditor/Treasurer to sign the Recycling Collection and Transportation License for the Year 2013 for Troy and Julie Olson, d/b/a Many Hands of Trimont, MN. Carried unanimously.

Higgins stated the Board has discussed mandatory direct deposit of all employee payroll checks and had also discussed the potential of going with “paperless” check stubs; however there is a cost for direct deposit software. Higgins went on to state staff estimated that the cost to provide payroll checks and check stubs, including the time involved handling the checks, at approximately \$974.00 for the year (2012). Higgins requests the Board determine whether or not to establish and require direct deposit of employee pay checks. Direct Deposit Software is not part of going mandatory direct deposit.

Pierce stated that it may not be the time to require mandatory deposit, but it is coming

After further discussion,

By consensus of the Board it was determined that mandatory direct deposit of employee pay checks would not be established at this time.

Higgins stated recently the county was deeded the property located at 320 North Dewey Street in Fairmont, Parcel No. 23.121.0030. Higgins went on to state the City of Fairmont and the county shared in the cost to demolish the house on the property in the amount of \$14,750 (county share); and asksthat the Board make a determination of whether the county wants to sell or keep the property for future use.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approves disposal of property located at 320 North Dewey Street in Fairmont, MN, Parcel No. 23.121.0030 through advertising for bids, and the county at its sole discretion reserves the right to reject any and all bids.Carried unanimously.

Kevin Peyman, Martin County Highway Engineer, reviewed the proposed wheelage tax of \$10 per registered vehicle that would be used solely in Martin County to catch up on needed road repairs.

Peyman stated historically the construction projects we do have been 100% funded through our state construction account made up from gas tax money and license tab fees - not spending any local dollars on our construction. The only exception to that has been when the county bonded for the ethanol plants and Wal-Mart. Peyman went on to state that gradually the construction account has fallen behind and over the last few years the board has talked about trying to find a way to supplement that construction account to supplement our overlay program that has fallen behind, and finding a way to gradually pave some of our higher volume gravel roads and paving of road shoulders with rumbles.

Peyman noted the 2013 Legislative Session gave the counties options for funding – the local option sales tax and the wheelage tax option. The local option sales tax would add a half a percent sales tax on all local purchases and would generate close toan estimated One million dollars per year and would be project specific. Peyman went on to note the other option that the counties were given was the wheelage tax option that would add \$10 per vehicle per year as part of the tab renewal process; and will generate an estimated \$200,000 per year to be spent on Martin County roads. Several categories of vehicles are not subject to the wheelage tax

including motorcycles and mopeds, trailers and semitrailers, vehicles not subject to annual registration (i.e. collector vehicles), tax exempt, and state owned vehicles. Peyman stated the estimated \$200,000 per year comes back locally and could be used to add overlay projects, pave some gravel roads, or adding paved shoulders with rumble stripes. With the high cost of paving a gravel road or adding miles of overlay, if the wheelage tax is approved, Peyman stated his focus will be on traffic safety and will steer toward paved shoulders with the rumble stripes.

Richard Koons, Manyaska Township, asked how is this wheelage tax revenue will get split between the counties, cities, and townships; and if the tax will rise.

Chairman Belgard stated the answer to the question on whether or not townships are going to get a check, the answer is No. The other question, are the cities going to get a check? The answer is no. The county is going to remain in control of that money and it will be spent on Martin County roads. The logic is there that the people using the roads are going to pay the wheelage tax. You can't go anywhere in Martin County without using a county road.

Peyman noted the fee option right now is \$10 or nothing. The wheelage tax can be adjusted by 2018 in any whole amount up to \$20 at the discretion of the county board.

John Gibeau, resident of the City of Ceylon, questioned the fairness of the wheelage tax stating there will be vehicles on the roads that are exempt from the tax while farmers who have numerous vehicles and licensed farm equipment will pay the lion's share. Gibeau noted he would be more in favor of a sales tax because then you are including everybody.

Commissioner Flohrs stated bottom line is we're asking the citizens of Martin County to pay for all the damage those trucks make that come in from out of town. I'm on that Welcome road all the time and it is full of semis and they're all coming from the north. I just cannot see it. There should be another way for us to generate the money. Once this tax is put on it will never come off. I think there should be a fee on all the trucks that dump off corn and soybeans.

Commissioner Donnelly suggested that he would like to wait another year to see how this tax affects surrounding counties.

After further discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke,

Martin County Minnesota
Resolution No.3 – 2013

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING IMPOSITION OF WHEELAGE TAX

WHEREAS, Martin County's transportation infrastructure forms the backbone of the county's economy and has a direct impact on future economic development; and

WHEREAS, too many motorists and pedestrians are being killed and injured in traffic crashes; and

WHEREAS, funding for highway systems has remained stagnant and is failing to keep pace with growing demands including increased freight shipments; and

WHEREAS, local governments throughout the state are struggling to maintain local transportation systems while state funding has not kept up with the needs on the State Aid system;

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 163.051, Section 4, provides, in part, that the board of commissioners of each county is authorized to levy a wheelage tax on each motor vehicle which is kept in such county when not in operation and which is subject to annual registration and taxation under Chap. 168 at a rate of \$10 per vehicle through 2017 and up to \$20 per vehicle in 2018 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 163.051 further provides that the board may provide by resolution for collection of the wheelage tax by county officials or it may request that the tax be collected by the state registrar of motor vehicles, and the state registrar of motor vehicles shall collect such tax on behalf of the county if requested; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 163.051, Section 4, Subd. 2, provides, in part, that the wheelage tax levied by any county, if made collectible by the state registrar of motor vehicles, shall be certified by the county auditor to the registrar not later than August 1 in the year before the calendar year or years for which the tax is levied, and the registrar shall collect such tax with the motor vehicle taxes on the affected vehicles for such year or years; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 163.051, Section 4, Subd. 4, provides that the treasurer of each county receiving proceeds from the wheelage tax is to deposit such proceeds in the county road and bridge fund, which moneys shall be used for purposes authorized by law which are highway purposes within the meaning of the Minnesota Constitution, article 14; and

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Commissioners desires to implement such a wheelage tax and have the state registrar of motor vehicles collect the same; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE Martin County Board of Commissioners authorize and impose a wheelage tax as provided for in Minn. Stat. 163.051 of \$10.00 for the year 2014 and each subsequent year thereafter, subject to levy limits and other factors, on each motor vehicle which is kept in Martin County when not in operation and which is subject to taxation and registration under Chapter 168.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the county requests the state registrar of motor vehicles to collect the wheelage tax on behalf of the county.

Motion by Commissioner _____, seconded by Commissioner _____, and unanimously carried, foregoing was duly passed and adopted this 16th day of July, 2013.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Elliot Belgard, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator

I hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution presented to and adopted by the Martin County Board of Commissioners at a duly authorized meeting thereof held on the 16th day of July, 2013 as shown by the minutes of said meeting in my possession.

Scott Higgins, County Coordinator

Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Schmidtke, Pierce, and Belgard. NAYS: Commissioners Donnelly, and Flohrs. Resolution duly passed and adopted this 16th day of July, 2013.

Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff, presented the Sheriff's Office recommendation of step increases based on satisfactory performance evaluations and according to Union Contract(s) for the following Martin County Sheriff's Office personnel: Andrew Boe, Corrections Officer, and Cory Ballard, Deputy Sheriff.

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, upon the recommendation of Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff, hereby approve and authorize step increase(s) based on satisfactory performance evaluations and according to Union Contract(s) for the following Martin County Sheriff's Office personnel: Andrew Boe, Corrections Officer (LELS #115), from 5 Year Step at \$22.63/hour to 6 Year Step at \$23.01/hour effective July 21, 2013; and for Cory Ballard, Deputy Sheriff (LELS #136), from 8 Year Step at \$26.19/hour to 9 Year Step at \$26.58/hour effective July 6, 2013. Carried unanimously.

Dan Whitman, Martin County Assessor, presented a proposal that the county consider having the County Assessor's Office conduct all property assessments within Martin County. Whitman noted he has sent out a letter to all township boards and other local board officials regarding the proposed change, stating as times and procedures continue to change in the assessment field and with the large changes in Assessor Licensure made by the 2013 Minnesota Legislature, I feel we must re-evaluate the best practices for treating all citizens in Martin County equally and economically. In addition in recent years some of the long held assessing procedures, tools and technology have changed which allow offices to assess at a higher quality and more efficiently. Whitman went on to state in 2013 the Minnesota Legislature changed the licensure requirements for all people providing assessment services in Minnesota. This will cost a great deal of money to accomplish for each individual assessor and with budgets continuing to tighten and taxes continuing to rise, most local government jurisdictions have been looking for ways to trim costs.

In addition to that, as we look at the assessment throughout Martin County I continue to be concerned with pockets of inequity which causes me to look for ways to improve. These and other reasons have caused me to have conversations with county leadership and Martin County Board of Commissioners members about the potential of changing Martin County to “True County Assessment”, which is a provision in the law where at the discretion of the County Board of Commissioners, all assessment in the county is performed by the County Assessor’s Office.

Whitman continued the two strongest points in favor of this provision are cost and equity. Since the county would take over the assessment of all property in the county there would no longer be any charge to townships or cities for their individual assessments. Although this may require a slight increase in the Assessor’s Office budget it will be substantially less than the savings local jurisdictions will realize not having to levy to pay their current assessment charges. Secondly having one office perform the assessment throughout the county will help ensure all entities in the county are treated equally and consistently. This is always the primary desire of the County Assessor’s Office, the Minnesota Department of Revenue, the Minnesota State Board of Assessor’s, and the Minnesota State Legislature. Whitman noted if this proposal were adopted the earliest it could take effect is one year after the next assessment date which means the earliest it could take effect would be for the January, 2015 assessment. Whitman went on to note since the local assessing letter has been sent and received by townships he has received quite a bit of responses with some in support of and some against True County Assessing. Whitman stated 27 Minnesota counties are True County and 15 Minnesota counties have the county assess by choice.

Richard Koons, Manyaska Township, Dale Knuth, Lake Fremont Township, and Tom Mahoney, City of Fairmont, were present to note their concerns and reservations with Martin County changing to a True County system.

Commissioner Flohrs stated the township assessors are all using the same forms, the same data that is provided by the county, the same farmland sales, they have to train...how far off can they be?Over the last two weeks I’ve gotten a number of calls and all of them have been negative on this. I’ve been at a few meetings where there have been township people there and I specifically asked them about it and they were all negative on it. I view this as a right, a privilege for the townships...that’s something they do...it’s their right out there.

Mike Humpal, City Administrator-City of Fairmont, was present and noted he is favorable of a consistent one system form of assessing.

Chairman Belgard and Commissioner Schmidtke noted with so much opposition they are not favorable of the True County proposal at this time and would like to have more time for additional research.

After much discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, to approve and authorize Board Chair to sign resolution to approve that all property assessments within Martin County be conducted by the Martin County Assessor’s Office effective January, 2015. Motion died for lack of a second.

By consensus of the Board it was decided to table the proposal for True County Assessments; and to include the Martin County Association of Townships in future discussions.

Higgins presented a letter received from Thomas Eckmann, Mayor – City of Trimont, requesting financial assistance to the City of Trimont for cleanup costs resulting from a significant fire at the El Rodeo Restaurant in Trimont, MN. Higgins noted each commissioner received a copy of the City of Trimont’s request letter and that Trimont officials will present their formal request at the August 6, 2013 regular Board of Commissioners meeting.

Higgins stated the Personnel Committee has met to review the Building Maintenance Supervisor job classification and recommends changing from Exempt to Non-Exempt classification per the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be it Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve changing the Building Maintenance Supervisor job classification from Exempt to Non-Exempt per the Fair Labor Standards Act for the position. Carried unanimously.

Commissioner Schmidtke stated that Grace Lutheran Church of Fairmont, MN will conduct a community service project on September 8, 2013 and has chosen to do projects with the City of Fairmont, Martin County, and School System. Schmidtke asked for suggestions for project ideas and what type of work and labor will be needed.

Commissioners reviewed warrants and Highway and Drainage bills to be paid on July 16, 2013.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve bills to be paid on July 16, 2013 as presented by the Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, and includes approval for the Martin County Highway Department and Drainage Administration bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

Warrants received and paid July 16, 2013 are registered on file in the Auditor/Treasurer’s Office as follows:

Revenue Fund – Warrants Approved July 16, 2013	\$158,984.65
Enhanced 9-1-1 Fund	\$ 1.95
Recreation and Safety Fund	\$ 4,208.74
Martin Co. Economic Development Authority	\$ 7,995.33
Solid Waste Management Fund	\$ 35,037.40
Law Library Fund	\$ 1,575.78
Martin County Transit Fund	\$ 52,923.03
Recorder’s Compliance Fund	\$ 2,115.00
Building – CIP – Fund	\$ 19,355.68
Bank Building Fund	\$ 4,219.68
Refunding Fund	\$ 237.16
Taxes and Penalties Odd Years	\$ 256.00
Miscellaneous Tax Fund	\$ 124.00
Total	\$287,034.40

Road and Bridge Funds Totaled	\$ 51,649.21
Martin County Ditch Funds Totaled	\$ 47,344.17

Mike Forstner, Martin County Ditch Inspector/Technician, and Deb Mosloski, Martin County Drainage Specialist noted the Martin County Drainage Administration Office received a repair request for clean-out and removal of trees on CD #73 located in Pleasant Prairie Township. Forstner stated the cost for tree removal only is estimated at \$97,350.00 (23.6 acres @ \$4,125.00/acre). Landowners at the time did not want to have the trees sprayed and now the trees have gotten out of control. This ditch system has not been redetermined and has a total value of \$141,034.60 with approximately 1,800 acres in the watershed.

After discussion,

By consensus of the Board it was determined to table the repair request for clean-out and removal of trees on CD #73; and for the Martin County Drainage Administration Office to obtain additional quotes for tree removal.

The Martin County Drainage Authority participated in a joint conference call with Jackson, Cottonwood and Watonwan counties to set dates to hear Viewer's and Engineer's reports on various ditches.

AGENDA

JOINT DITCH CONFERENCE CALL MEETING JULY 16, 2013 10:30 A.M.

- I. JCD #350 (Martin(2), Jackson(1), Cottonwood(1) and Watonwan(1) Counties)
 - a.) Elect Chair
 - b.) Set date, place and time for Final Engineer Report
 - c.) Set date, place and time for Viewer's Report
(Watonwan County and Cottonwood County can be excused)
- II. JD #75 (Jackson(3) and Martin(2) Counties)
 - a.) Set date, place and time for Viewer's Report
- III. JD #91 (Martin(3) and Jackson(2) Counties)
 - a.) Set date, place and time for Viewer's Report
(Jackson County can be excused)
- IV. CD #67 (Martin County only)
 - a.) Set date, place and time for Viewer's Report

****() Denotes the number of Commissioners needed in perspective County

Those present for the joint ditch conference call were: Martin County – Commissioners Elliot Belgard and Steve Flohrs; Jackson County – Commissioner Kim Hummel; Cottonwood County – Commissioner Norman Holmen; and Watonwan County – Commissioner Scott Sanders; Deb Mosloski, Martin County Drainage Specialist, and Mike Forstner, Martin County Ditch Inspector/Technician.

Motion by Martin County Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Watonwan County Commissioner Sanders, to elect Martin County Commissioner Steve Flohrs as Chair for the Joint Ditch Conference Call meeting. Motion carries.

Chairman Flohrs asked Mosloski if a certain date, place and time has been determined.

Mosloski stated the joint board of two (2) commissioners from Martin County, one (1) commissioner from Cottonwood County, and one (1) commissioner from Watonwan County will be required and suggests the following dates: August 20, 2013; September 3, 2013; or September 17, 2013; and the meetings will be held at the Triumph Hall located in Trimont, MN.

After discussion,

Motion by Martin County Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Jackson County Commissioner Hummel, to set the date of August 20, 2013 at 3:00 p.m. at the Triumph Hall in Trimont, MN, to hear the Final Engineer's Report and Viewer's Report on JCD #350. Motion carries.

Motion by Martin County Commissioner Belgard to adjourn the joint ditch meeting with Jackson, Cottonwood, and Watonwan counties. Motion carries.

Those present for the joint ditch conference call on JD #75 were Jackson County Commissioners Dave Henkels, William Tusa, and Kim Hummel; and Martin County Commissioners Dan Schmidtke and Steve Flohrs.

Chairman Flohrs asked Mosloski if a certain date, place and time has been determined for JD #75.

Mosloski suggests the same date of August 20, 2013 and location of Triumph Hall in Trimont, MN.

Motion by Martin County Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Jackson County Commissioner Tusa, to set the date of August 20, 2013 at 3:30 p.m. at the Triumph Hall in Trimont, MN, to hear the Viewer's Report on JD #75. Motion carries.

Those present for the joint ditch conference call on JD #91 were Martin County Commissioners Steve Flohrs, Dan Schmidtke, and Elliot Belgard; and Jackson County Commissioners Kim Hummel and Dave Henkels.

Chairman Flohrs asked Mosloski if a certain date, place and time has been determined for JD #91.

Mosloski suggests the same date of August 20, 2013 and location of Triumph Hall in Trimont, MN.

Motion by Jackson County Commissioner Hummel, seconded by Martin County Commissioner Schmidtke, to set the date of August 20, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the Triumph Hall in Trimont, MN, to hear the Viewer's Report on JD #91. Motion carries.

Motion by Martin County Commissioner Schmidtke to adjourn meeting with Jackson County. Motion carries.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, to set the date of August 20, 2013 at 4:30 p.m. at the Triumph Hall in Trimont, MN, to hear the Viewer's Report on CD #67. Motion carries.

Chairman Belgard introduced the formal request letter received from the South Central Volunteer Dive Team for CY2014 budget consideration.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby receive and file the South Central Volunteer Dive Team Request for Budget Allocation for CY2014 budget consideration. Carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed the following reports: 2013 – 2nd Quarter Report for Martin County Transit Expanded Service; Thank You Letter from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) and CY2014 Budget Allocation Request; and Year to Date Monthly Financial Statement as of June, 2013.

Commissioners presented their individual board member reports.

Commissioner Flohrs stated he attended an ITC Power Line Task Force meeting at 7:00 a.m. on July 9th; Department Directors meeting at 8:30 a.m. on July 10th; Prairieland meeting and Drug Court Steering Committee meeting on July 12th; participated in the Trimont, MN parade on July 13th; Minnesota River Board meeting and MVAC annual meeting on July 15th.

Commissioner Schmidtke stated in addition to those already mentioned he attended a Personnel Committee meeting on July 2nd; and Park Board meeting on July 10th.

Commissioner Belgard stated in addition to those already mentioned he attended the Region 9 Development Commission meeting on July 10th.

Commissioner Pierce stated in addition to those already mentioned he attended the MVAC annual meeting on July 15th; and various solid waste issues.

Commissioner Donnelly stated in addition to those already mentioned he attended the Prairieland meeting, and GBERBA meeting in Mankato on July 12th.

Commissioners reviewed their calendars of upcoming meetings and activities: July 16, 2013 – Labor Negotiations at 12:30 p.m., Power Line Community meeting at the KC Hall in Fairmont; July 17 – Human Services Exec Board meeting; July 19 – Rural Minnesota Energy Board meeting in Slayton, MN, and Region 9 meeting in Mankato, MN; July 23, 2013 – Planning & Zoning meeting at 5:30 p.m. (Commissioner Schmidtke will be out of town and unable to attend), and Power Line Task Force meeting in the morning; July 25, 2013 – Minnesota State University Mankato Real World Challenges, Social Work Solution: MSW Student Research Showcase 4-6 p.m.; July 31, 2013 – Human Services Board meeting (Commissioner Schmidtke will be out of town and unable to attend); August 5, 2013 – regular EDA meeting at 5:15 p.m., and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meeting; August 6, 2013 – next regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:00 a.m. in the Commissioners meeting room.

The Board recessed at 10:53 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Chairman Belgard welcomed those present to the public hearing on Engineer's final report for the proposed repairs and improvements to Martin and Blue Earth County Judicial Ditch No. 85. Those present were Martin County Commissioners Belgard, Schmidtke and Flohrs, and Blue Earth County Commissioners Kip Bruender and Will Purvis. Also present were Chuck Brandel, Project Engineer with I&S Engineers, James Forshee, Auditor/Treasurer, Scott Higgins, County Coordinator, Deb Mosloski, Martin County Drainage Specialist, Mike Forstner, Martin County Ditch Inspector/Technician, and several interested landowners.

Chairman Belgard noted Brandel has reviewed this information in two previously held meetings in Truman, MN.

Brandel stated on April 25, 2013, I&S Group and the representatives from the Joint Martin and Blue Earth County Drainage Authority met with landowners to discuss options for repairs and improvements to Martin and Blue Earth County Judicial Ditch No. 85 (JD #85). At that time multiple options were reviewed to repair shallow tile in Section 24 of Westford Township. After discussions with landowners it was decided to review additional repair options to alleviate the immediate problems associated with shallow broken tile. Two options were reviewed and more information on the cost of these options was requested. Since four options were originally shown at the meeting these revised options are called Option 5 and Option 6.

South Tile Reroute Option 5

Brandel stated Reroute Option 5 will reroute the main line tile from station 95+00 to 80+00 and Branch Q around the south side of the basin in Section 24 of Westford Township. The main line reroute will start approximately 1100 feet west of 250th Avenue assuming the pipe is in good shape at this location and will consist of 800 feet of 30-inch tile and 1130 feet of 24-inch tile. The Branch Q reroute will consist of 258 feet of 15-inch tile, 965 feet of 12-inch tile and 40 feet of 8-inch tile. This option will replace the portion of tile that has failed. Private connections will

be extended through the bottom of the basin to the new mainline tile from the north. Also some material will be stripped from the top of a small hill along the property line in this location. This material will be placed over the portion of the 24-inch tile and will provide adequate cover for the new realigned tile.

Brandel noted the repair option will match the existing capacity of the system as close as possible with available tile sizes. It is estimated that the Reroute Tile Option 5 would cost approximately \$158,492.

South Reroute with Open Ditch Option 6

Brandel stated Reroute Option 6 follows the same alignment of Option 5 except for a portion of the 24-inch tile will be constructed with a shallow open ditch along the existing property line. The spoils from the ditch would help to build the side slopes of the drainage way through the shallow portion of the system. The open ditch will require 0.40 acres of land to be acquired and taken out of production. The open ditch will outlet into the new 30-inch tile and thus will have the same outlet capacity of the existing system. The Branch Q reroute will outlet into the proposed open ditch.

Brandel noted the repair option will match the existing capacity of the system as close as possible with available tile sizes. It is estimated that the Reroute Open Ditch Option 6 would cost approximately \$200,904. The open ditch would create a potential future cleaning cost every 10 to 15 years.

Brandel stated that based on price and potential for future maintenance costs of an open ditch, I&S Group recommend Tile Option 5 for this repair. After looking at all options this would be the most effective and shortest route to get from point to point. It is still our opinion that an improvement is a viable alternative, if landowners should desire this option as presented in the meeting. If landowners are acceptable to this repair option, the board should order plans and specifications, and I&S will get the project final designed and ready for bidding.

An unidentified person inquired if the project would be paid for by the landowners through their ditch assessment.

Chairman Belgard stated the repair will be assessed completely to the owners of the property on that system.

Chairman Belgard asked if there was any other public comment. There was none.

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, after having received input from the public concerning the matter, the Martin County Commissioners and Blue Earth County Commissioners, acting as the Drainage Authority for Martin & Blue Earth Counties, hereby close the public portion of the hearing for the Engineer's Final Report for the repair of JD #85. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Martin County Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Blue Earth County Commissioner Purvis, acting as the Drainage Authority for Martin & Blue Earth Counties, hereby accept the Engineer's Final Report for the repair of JD #85 and authorize I&S Group to proceed with plans and specifications for advertisement for bid. Carried unanimously.

With no other business to wit, Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Elliot Belgard, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator