

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 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 Steve Pierce, Steve Donnelly, Steve Flohrs, Dan Schmidtke, and Elliot Belgard. Also present were Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, Terry Viesselman, Martin County Attorney, James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, 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 Donnelly, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the agenda for the September 3, 2013 regular Board of Commissioners meeting with the following additions: 8.9 Consider Martin County Youth Foundation Grant Application – Martin County Mentoring Network; and 8.10 Discuss AFG Grant. Carried unanimously.

Terry Viesselman, Martin County Attorney, was present and stated he had nothing new to report.

Kevin Peyman, Martin County Highway Engineer, presented a department update including September 11, 2013 Park Board Meeting at 4:30 p.m. at Cedar Hanson Park to review final draft plan for shower building plan and design at Cedar Hanson Park in Trimont, MN; status of bituminous, mill and overlay of CSAH 38 noting contractor completion date is now estimated at October 18, 2013 (contract finish date was September 30, 2013); and resignation of Martin County Park/Trails Committee member Charlie Abel, representing Commissioner District 4 and inquired if Commissioner Schmidtke could have a recommendation for a replacement board member since the appointment would come from his district. Schmidtke responded in the affirmative.

Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, stated a tentative agreement has been reached with Law Enforcement Labor Services #115 Corrections/Communications Officers. Higgins went on to state the proposed tentative agreement is for a three year period covering calendar years 2014, 2015 and 2016; and is identical to the tentative agreement with the Martin County Sheriff's Deputies LELS Local #136.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the Law Enforcement Labor Services #115 Corrections/Communications Officers tentative agreement and contract effective January 1, 2014 through December 31, 2016; and to authorize Board Chair to sign the LELS #115 Contract Agreement. Carried unanimously.

No action taken on resolution for Classification, Appraised Value and DNR Approval Request of forfeited land in Martin County (until after the Forfeited Land Tour which takes place immediately following today's regular Board of Commissioners meeting).

Rebecca Bentele, Victim Witness Coordinator, stated the Victim Witness Program has received notification from the Office of Justice Programs Crime Victim Services that Emergency Funds are available in the amount of \$600.00 for the period of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014. Emergency Funds are an additional source of supplemental funding to aid in direct services to victims of crime.

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs,

R-#37/'13

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING EXECUTION
OF EMERGENCY FUND GRANT AGREEMENT**

BE IT RESOLVED that Martin County, Minnesota will enter into a cooperative agreement with the Office of Justice Programs in the Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that funds for this grant contract in the amount of \$600.00 for the period of July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014 are for emergency funds to county and city prosecutors and victims' assistance programs to reimburse crime victims who have emergency needs under MN Stat. 611A.675.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Martin County Board Chair is hereby authorized to execute such agreements and amendments, as are necessary to implement the project on behalf of MartinCounty.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED upon a motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, and seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, and was unanimously carried.

Resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of September, 2013.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTINCOUNTY, MN

Elliot Belgard, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, CountyCoordinator

Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Pierce, Donnelly, Flohrs, Schmidtke, and Belgard. NAYS: None. Resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of September, 2013.

Higgins stated the 2013 Truth in Taxation meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Therefore, it is recommended to change the regular scheduled commissioners meeting date of Tuesday, December 3, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. to Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 4:30 p.m.

No action taken on changing the date of the first regular commissioners meeting in December, 2013.

The Board reviewed the revised CY2014 Preliminary Budget and levy.

James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, reviewed the proposed 2014 levy stating that during the August 20, 2013 budget workshop we had our proposed budget levy at 5.8231% and that after reviewing each department, additional cuts of essentially \$281,423 are being recommended which results in a stated mandated maximum levy of \$11,805,424 which is a 3.1504% increase from CY2013. Forshee stated we can always go lower than the levy limit but we can't go any higher. After much discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Pierce,

R-#38/'13

RESOLUTION

PROPOSING PRELIMINARY TAX LEVY FOR CY2014

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Commissioners met to review the recommended 2014 budget; and

WHEREAS, the 2014 recommended budget and levy was prepared with the participation of the Martin County Department Directors and Elected Officials.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that on September 3, 2013 following discussion by the Martin County Board of Commissioners, the Board set the 2014 proposed levy at \$11,805,424 which equates to a 3.15% increase over CY2013 levy; with proposed expenditures in the amount of \$23,146,661 and revenues in the amount of \$10,985,840.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT BEFORE ADOPTION OF THE FINAL 2014 BUDGET, the Board may reduce the proposed levy but cannot increase the levy from the amount set on this date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Public Hearing for the CY2014 Budget will be held on Thursday, December 5, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room – Room No. 103 – First Floor of Courthouse – Fairmont, MN.

Upon Motion made by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, and

unanimously carried, said resolution was duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of September, 2013.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTINCOUNTY, MN

Elliot Belgard, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator

Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Pierce, Flohrs, Donnelly, Schmidtke, and Belgard. NAYS: None. Resolution duly passed and adopted this 3rd day of September, 2013.

Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff, presented recommendation for step increase based on satisfactory performance evaluation and according to Union Contract for Christopher Vasvick, Deputy Sheriff.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, 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 based on satisfactory performance evaluation and according to Union Contract for Christopher Vasvick, Deputy Sheriff (LELS #136), from 3 Year Step at \$23.82/hour to 4 Year Step at \$24.42/hour, effective September 11, 2013. Carried unanimously.

Higgins requested approval for the Martin County Mentoring Network to submit an application for Martin County Youth Foundation grant funding in the amount of \$800.00. The funding will help to reduce youth risk behaviors by providing supportive mentoring relationships and healthy youth activities for children who may face challenges in their lives. The funding period would be effective September 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize Board Chair to sign Martin County Mentoring Network Program's application for Martin County Youth Foundation grant funding in the amount of \$800.00. Carried unanimously.

The Board opened discussion pertaining to the rejection of Martin County's Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) Grant application for mandated ARMER radio equipment. It was the consensus of the Board that Commissioners Belgard and Pierce follow up on the matter and to draft a letter to the FEMA stating the county's concerns regarding rejection of AFG Grant Application.

Commissioners presented their individual board member reports.

Commissioner Flohrs stated he attended various ditch meetings in the afternoon in Trimont, MN, and Human Services Joint Community Advisory Committee meeting at 5:30 p.m. on August 20th; and Human Services meeting on August 28th.

Commissioner Belgard stated he met with someone regarding JD #7 on August 23rd; bid opening for Repair of JD #85 in Mankato, MN, and attended labor negotiations with the Highway Supervisor's Union on August 27th.

Commissioner Pierce stated he had nothing new to add.

Commissioner Donnelly stated he attended Human Services meetings.

Commissioners reviewed their calendars of upcoming meetings and activities: September 3, 2013 – Annual Road and Forfeited Tax Tour immediately following regular board meeting; September 4, 2013 – Human Services Exec Board Meeting and Wellness Program Year End Weight In (7 am Highway & 8 am Courthouse); September 5, 2013 – Labor Management Committee meeting at 1:30 p.m.; September 9, 2013 – Martin County EDA meeting at 5:15 p.m. and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meeting; September 10, 2013 – Department Directors meeting at 8:30 a.m. and Library Board meeting in the afternoon; September 11, 2013 – Park Board meeting at 4:30 p.m. at Cedar Hanson Park in Trimont, SouthCentral Minnesota Multi-County HRA meeting and Region 9 meeting in Mankato, MN; September 12, 2013 – Soil and Water meeting; September 13, 2013 – Prairieland meeting and GBERBA in Mankato, MN; September 16, 2013 – Insurance Committee meeting at 10:00 a.m., Prairieland (special exec meeting) and MVAC in the afternoon; September 17, 2013 – regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:00 a.m. and Annual Employee Recognition Day Event at 11:30 a.m. at the Transit Facility.

The Board began their annual Martin County Road and Forfeited Land Tax Tour at 9:51am in order to view various road projects and to establish values on tax forfeited properties.

The board returned from tour at 1:30pm. Commissioner Pierce left the meeting.

Commissioner Schmidtke proposed that a number of flag poles be installed along the front of the courthouse lawn. Schmidtke stated that there is a church group that will be conducting community projects throughout Fairmont and would be willing to install the flag poles and do the work to dig the holes and install a good base for each one. Schmidtke stated that he believed most all of the flag poles would be donated. This would create a lane of flags for holidays such as July 4th, Memorial Day, Labor Day etc. It was estimated there would be 12-16 flag pole stations. After discussion, by consensus the board approved the project, along with planting of hastas, painting of parking post in back of courthouse and landscaping the county owned property at 117 North Main Street in Fairmont.

The board was informed that there were three trees on the courthouse lawn that were in need of repair, due to the main trunk on all three trees were splitting and needed to be bound together. A quote was received for the repair of the trees and reviewed by the Board. After discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs to reject the quote received and to cut down the three trees in question, and to replace two of the tree with appropriate trees. Carried unanimously.

With no further business to wit, Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:54 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Elliot Belgard, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, Coordinator