

PROCEEDINGS OF THE  
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2014  
@ 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 Dan Schmidtke.

Commissioners present were Elliot Belgard, Steve Pierce, Steve Donnelly, Steve Flohrs, and Dan Schmidtke. Also present were Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, Julie Walters, Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Brookens, Sentinel Newspaper, Rod Halvorsen, KSUM/KFMC Radio, Dan Whitman, Martin County Assessor, Jenny Trushenski, Martin County Library Director, Kevin Peyman, Martin County Highway Engineer, Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff, and members of staff and public.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, to approve the agenda for the February 4, 2014 regular Board of Commissioners meeting with the following additions: 8.6 Consider Step Increases for Various Employees – Sheriff’s Office; 8.7 Discuss Minnesota’s Department of Revenue Report on Business and Production Property – Assessor’s Office; and 8.8 Reconsider Installation of Bullet Proof Glass – Assessor’s Office. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the minutes of the January 7, 2014 and January 21, 2014 regular Board of Commissioners meetings. Carried unanimously.

Jennifer Trushenski, Martin County Library Director, presented a Library staffing update stating that due to the April 4, 2014 retirement of Deb Swift, full-time Circulation Clerk, Trushenski has had an opportunity to review the current and future staffing structure and will present the Library Board with her recommendation to advertise to recruit a 20 hour per week Circulation Clerk position. Trushenski stated the 20-25 hours per week position will give the needed flexibility with scheduling and staffing of the front desk and ability to cover vacation hours at our branches. Trushenski went on to state this staffing structure is what is going to work best for us going forward.

No action taken for (re)appointments to the Martin County Economic Development Authority Commission, Water Plan Advisory Committee, or Martin County Park/Trails Committee.

Kevin Peyman, Martin County Highway Engineer, reviewed bids and comparisons and requested approval to purchase a budgeted Backhoe Loader for the Highway Department to replace Unit #33 (1998 John Deere 710D with 7,500 hours).

Martin County Highway Department  
Replacement Backhoe Quotes

Replacement Backhoe  
Budgeted amount: \$140,000

Replacing: Unit 33, 1998 John Deere 710D with 7,500 hours.

Ziegler Caterpillar, Marshall, MN

Caterpillar 430F Backhoe Loader with Hydraulic Thumb	\$109,664
<u>Less Trade Unit 33</u>	<u>- \$20,000</u>
Net Price	\$89,664

RDO Equipment Co., North Mankato, MN

John Deere 410K Backhoe Loader with Hydraulic Thumb	\$109,497
<u>Less Trade Unit 33</u>	<u>- \$25,500</u>
Net Price	\$83,997*

Cat 430F: Operational weight: 15,708 lbs, Dig Depth: 15' 4", Net Power: 107 Hp.

J.D. 410K: Operational weight: 16,391, Dig Depth: 15' 10", Net Power: 107 Hp.

Both Equivalent in reach and power to our existing J.D. 710D. A replacement 710G with a hydraulic thumb has a state contract price of \$150,600

Peyman stated we initially budgeted \$140,000 for a same size, equivalent model number backhoe. However, due to improvements over the last sixteen years we found we can downsize a model and still get what we need and be able to add a hydraulic thumb. Peyman recommends purchase of a John Deere 410K Backhoe Loader with Hydraulic Thumb from RDO Equipment Co.

Motion by Commissioner Donnelly, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, upon the recommendation of County Engineer, hereby approve the low bid for the purchase of a budgeted John Deere 410K Backhoe Loader with Hydraulic Thumb from RDO Equipment Co. of North Mankato, MN in the amount of \$109,497.00 less \$25,500.00 for trade-in of Unit #33 for a total purchase price of \$83,997. Carried unanimously.

Peyman reviewed bids and comparisons and requested approval to purchase a budgeted Skip Loader Trailer to replace Unit #71, 1995 Redi-Haul Trailer.

Martin County Highway Department  
Replacement Skip Loader Trailer Quotes

Skip Loader Trailer

Budgeted Amount: \$15,000

Replacing: Unit #71, 1985 Redi-Haul Trailer.

Felling Trailers, Inc., Sauk Centre, MN

22' Deck (16' tilt, 6' stationary), 102' wide	\$8,500.00
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Midsota Manufacturing, Inc., Avon, MN

22' Deck (16' tilt, 6' stationary), 82' wide	\$7,929.00
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Redi-Haul Trailers, Inc., Fairmont, MN

22' Deck (16' tilt, 6' stationary), 102' wide

\$7,887.85\*

Peyman stated we intend to keep the old trailer #71 as a spare/utility trailer; and the new trailer will allow the skip loader and attachments on one trailer. However, we will no longer be able to pull the trailer and attachments with our standard half-ton pickups. Peyman noted a three-quarter ton crew cab pickup is in the 2014 budget and will allow hauling of skip loader and attachments along with work crew and will be able to send one unit instead of two.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, upon the recommendation of County Engineer, hereby approve low bid for the purchase of a budgeted Skip Loader Trailer from Redi-Haul Trailers, Inc., of Fairmont, MN in the amount of \$7,887.85. Carried unanimously.

Peyman updated the Board stating applications for the Maintenance I Worker and Shop Mechanic positions were due the beginning of this week; and that 22 applications were received for the Maintenance I Worker position and 12 applications were received for the Shop Mechanic position. Peyman noted he hopes to schedule interviews by the end of this week and bring a recommendation to the Board at the February 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Commissioner Belgard commented on the recent newspaper article regarding Mn/DOT's scheduling of the Highway 15 overlay and inquired if the overlay will include paved shoulders.

A brief discussion ensued regarding Highway 15 overlay plans and the possibility of inviting Mn/DOT's new district engineer to an upcoming Commissioners meeting to address the design plans.

Chair Schmidtke noted 263's overlay in 2018 should also be addressed as that road today is way past an overlay.

Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff, stated the 2013 Minnesota Legislature modified the statutes governing the creation, duties and powers of regional radio boards. The modifications included providing that regional radio boards may elect to become regional emergency communications boards and assume responsibility for the coordination of regional 911 services. These changes would require the board to develop and maintain a regional plan for the implementation of Next Generation 911 (NG911) service within the region (or sub regions of the region) and establish regional technical and operational standards for the implementation of NG911 service within the region (or within sub regions of the region) that are consistent with technical and operational standards for 911 service adopted on a statewide basis. Markquart went on to state the South Central Minnesota Regional Radio Board has reviewed this issue and has determined that these changes would be in the best interests of the parties to the Agreement. Therefore, the Board recommends adoption of the modifications to the current Joint Powers Agreement governing the Board. Markquart noted his opposition to the name change.

Commissioner Pierce stated there were numerous questions raised about this at the Regional Radio Board meeting and advises proceeding with caution until specific questions are answered.

After further discussion,

Consensus of the Board is to table modifications to the Joint Powers Agreement forming the South Central Minnesota Regional Radio Board.

Markquart presented an update on transports during the month of January, 2014, including during the 19 days of transport in January, we put on 5,804 miles just in transports, over 129 hours of time, we did 12 juvenile transports, 3 medically ill transports, transported 28 times for court, went 5 times for warrant pickups, went to the prison 5 times, went to detox twice, 6 transports out to the hospital for medical issues, and 10 times we turned around and had to take people to Faribault County because the Martin County jail got too full. So again those totals were 5800 miles and 129 plus hours that were spent on the road just three weeks in the month of January.

Markquart stated the Martin County Sheriff's Office is recommending step increases based on satisfactory performance evaluation and according to Union Contract(s) for the following individuals: Clint Cole, Deputy Sheriff, and Amanda Keith, Corrections Officer.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, upon the recommendation of Sheriff Jeff Markquart, hereby approve and authorize step increases based on satisfactory performance evaluations and according to Union Contract(s) for the following Martin County Sheriff's Office personnel: Clint Cole, Deputy Sheriff (LELS #136), from 7 Year Step at \$25.82/hour to 8 Year Step at \$26.19/hour effective February 28, 2014; and for Amanda Keith, Corrections Officer (LELS #115), from 3 Year Step at \$21.76/hour to 4 Year Step at \$22.24/hour effective February 17, 2014. Carried unanimously.

Dan Whitman, Martin County Assessor, stated yesterday I had received a report from the Department of Revenue proposing to make ethanol production tanks tax exempt which could have serious effects in Martin County. With the Departments report recommending exempting production tanks from taxation, this was originally aimed at tanks used for producing beer, wine or dairy products, the report fails to factor ethanol plants operating under the JOBZ program into the equation. The report estimates the property tax base will be reduced by \$30.1 million statewide for biofuels, alcoholic beverages and dairy industries combined. Whitman went on to state once Martin County is done with JOBZ, that's more like \$14.5 million in our county alone and that information wasn't included because of it being in the JOBZ zone. We have two of the biggest ethanol plants in the state and it will affect us the most. Whitman noted part of the appeal of bringing the ethanol plants to Martin County with the JOBZ program was the tax windfall the plants would generate once the program expired. Whitman went on to note we spent money getting them here because we believed we would be recouping those costs through the taxes. Whitman continued there is no bill introduced at this moment but since there was one written last year I'm pretty confident that the same one will come back.

After further discussion,

Consensus of the Board is to draft a letter addressing this subject to legislators and the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC).

Whitman, along with Assessor's Office staff, respectfully requested the Board reconsider installation of bullet proof glass in the Assessor's Office service area as he was unable to attend the commissioners meeting where commissioners voted against having bullet proof glass installed. Whitman stated the Assessor's Office really didn't have a desire to put glass in our office service window; however, for a long time there has been a concern for safety in the office and two things happened recently that caused us to feel like this is the right avenue or the right thing to do.

Whitman stated the first was we went to a security workshop that all employees in the county went to on In Service Day last October and the speaker informed us about our security and the things you need to do to keep yourselves safe because there are some issues out there. We've been trained to be aware of our surroundings always in trying to keep yourselves safe; but this was above and beyond that...we came back from that workshop with some real concerns as staff shared with me. Secondly, we had a very violent fight right outside of our window a few weeks ago and it was scary for staff. We were lucky law enforcement was in the building but it still took two or three minutes for them to arrive. I have staff sitting in front of that window with no place to hide. For me, it's a huge inconvenience for the public not to be able to talk to us face to face over the counter. But because of the safety we thought that it would be appropriate to put in some glass that is going to protect us. We can invite people we know into our office to have that face to face interaction. But if someone is there that we're not sure about or if there's something bad going on and someone seems a bit threatening, we've got that protection. That's why if you can keep six people safe for the amount of difference between glass that's not going to protect us and glass that would is why I ask to reconsider that. If it is not going to provide us the protection that we're most worried about then we don't think it is appropriate to spend \$3,000 to not accomplish it. That to us would be a waste of money. Whitman pointed out the Assessor's Office is next to the waiting area for the Probation Department which presents an issue with our customers at our service window when inmates are escorted past our window on their way up to the courtroom just inches away from our customers.

Discussion ensued regarding the possibility of a new location for the Assessor's Office and that relocation should be addressed at a Building Committee meeting.

After further discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be it Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, upon further review and consideration, hereby approve the purchase and installation of bullet proof glass and service window drop tray in the Martin County Assessor's Office; contingent upon discussion with the Martin County Building/Purchasing Committee regarding possible relocation of the Assessor's Office. Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Flohrs, Belgard, and Schmidtke. NAYS: Commissioners Donnelly and Pierce. Motion carries.

Higgins presented and reviewed a resolution supporting HF1286 and SF1152 legislation related to local governments having the option of using their websites to meet the state mandated publishing requirement including publishing of official notices, proceedings and summaries.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Belgard,

R-#13/'14

RESOLUTION  
SUPPORTING LEGISLATION ALLOWING COUNTIES TO  
DESIGNATE THEIR COUNTY WEBSITE TO PUBLISH PUBLIC NOTICES

WHEREAS, counties are currently required by law to publish public notices in a designated official newspaper for the county (Minn. Stat. § 331A); and

WHEREAS, counties are committed to providing information to citizens and increasing access to information about county operations and business; and

WHEREAS, citizens expect and demand information in an immediate format; and

WHEREAS, counties have limited resources and must utilize tax dollars in the most efficient way possible; and

WHEREAS, counties should have the authority to determine the best and most efficient method of communicating information to citizens based on citizen expectations; and

WHEREAS, counties are continuously improving and investing in technology to reach more citizens in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, utilizing county websites to publish public notices would eliminate the time and costly burden of publishing in newspapers; and

WHEREAS, county websites are increasingly the first place citizens look for information about their counties; and

WHEREAS, the ability of county websites to provide citizens with up-to-date, detailed information exceeds that of print media

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Martin County Board of Commissioners supports HF 1286 and SF 1152, legislation now before the 2014 legislature that would allow counties to publish certain public notices on their websites instead of, or in addition to, in an official newspaper.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, said resolution was duly passed and adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MARTIN COUNTY, MN

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Dan Schmidtke, Board Chair

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

Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Donnelly, Flohrs, Belgard, Pierce, and Schmidtke. NAYS: None. Resolution duly passed and adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2014.

Higgins requested that the Board dispose of surplus office including desks, filing cabinets, desk accessories, and chairs that are no longer usable. Higgins recommends disposal of this surplus property via MN Bid's online auction; however, would like to ask fire and emergency services departments within Martin County if they could use any of the surplus furniture.

Motion by Commissioner Pierce, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the disposal of county surplus furniture; and that surplus furniture be offered to all city and township fire departments and emergency services departments. Carried unanimously.

Commissioners reviewed reports and information including a thank you letter received from the Martin County Historical Society.

Commissioner Belgard opened discussion and shared concerns he has been hearing about the route of the ITC transmission line through Sherburn, MN; and suggests inviting an ITC representative to a future commissioners meeting to receive an update on the transmission line.

Commissioners presented their individual board member reports.

Commissioner Flohrs stated he attended a LEAN 101 training and JD #314 meeting in the afternoon and Agri-Business Committee meeting in the evening on January 21<sup>st</sup>; Human Services meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>; AMC Leadership Development Academy in Alexandria on January 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>; Rural Minnesota Energy Board was cancelled for January 27<sup>th</sup>; Southern Minnesota Drainage Group meeting was cancelled on January 30<sup>th</sup>; Ditch #350 meeting in Trimont, MN and Commissioner Mathison's wife's funeral/visitation in Albert Lea, MN on February 3<sup>rd</sup>; and Corn and Soybean Breakfast at The Ranch Restaurant this morning, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Belgard stated in addition to those already mentioned he attended the South Central Minnesota Multi County HRA in North Mankato, MN on January 29<sup>th</sup>; and regular EDA meeting on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Schmidtke stated in addition to those already mentioned he attended the Livestock Truck Rollover Response Training at the KC Hall in Fairmont on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Pierce stated he attended an EMS meeting; MVAC and Work Force Council were cancelled due to the weather.

Commissioner Donnelly stated he attended the Human Services meeting on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Commissioners reviewed their calendars of upcoming meetings and activities: February 4, 2014 – Personnel Committee meeting immediately following the regular Commissioners meeting, and Labor Management Committee meeting at 1:30 p.m.; February 5, 2014 – Human Services Exec. Board meeting; February 11, 2014 – Audit Entrance Meeting, Extension meeting at 8:00 a.m., and Library Board meeting in the afternoon (Commissioner Flohrs will be unable to attend); February 12, 2014 – Park Board Meeting at 4:00 p.m. at Highway Department; February 13, 2014 – Soil and Water meeting at 9:00 a.m. (Commissioner Flohrs will be unable to attend), CD #29 Informational meeting; February 14, 2014 – Prairieland meeting (Commissioner Flohrs will be unable to attend), and GBERBA meeting in Mankato, MN; February 17, 2014 – President Day Holiday – Courthouse Closed; February 18, 2014 – regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:00 a.m. – Board Room.

Higgins stated MCIT will be providing countywide training on the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act on February 20, 2014 and that more information will be provided in the near future.

Commissioner Donnelly suggested sending a congratulatory letter to John Thompson, Faribault County Auditor.

With no further business to wit, Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

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Dan Schmidtke, Board Chair

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