

PROCEEDINGS OF THE
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2015
@ 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 Steve Flohrs.

Commissioners present were Tom Mahoney, Steve Donnelly, Dan Schmidtke, Elliot Belgard, and Steve Flohrs. Also present were Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, Rod Halvorsen, KSUM/KFMC Radio, Jodelle Greiner, Sentinel Newspaper, Julie Walters, Administrative Assistant, and members of staff and public.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the agenda for the May 19, 2015 regular Board of Commissioners meeting with the following: Add 4.3 Introduction of District Manager - Martin SWCD; and 8.4 Consider District #3 Committee Assignments. Carried unanimously.

Enid Bloedel, Accounting Technician/Office Coordinator for the U of M Extension/Planning & Zoning Office, introduced Emily Wegener, 4-H Summer Program Assistant for the Martin County 4-H Program. Bloedel noted Wegener is in her second week of employment and will work through the Martin County Fair.

Wegener was present and noted she is a Fairmont High School graduate and is currently attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she is majoring in Ag Business with a minor in Animal Science and Agronomy, and was in the Martin County 4-H Program for twelve years.

The Board welcomed Wegener to her new position.

At this time the Board recognized and presented Commissioner Steve Donnelly with a service year plaque and clock inscribed with Donnelly's 24 years of faithful and dedicated service to Martin County as District #3 Commissioner.

Donnelly prepared a written statement that Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, read aloud:

As all of you are aware, I've had my share of illnesses in the past. Everyone has been great in treating me with dignity and respect, and that is appreciated. The past few weeks I've been tested thoroughly in the Rochester, Mankato, and Fairmont Mayo Clinics. The bottom line is that my situation will not improve much. It was highly recommended that I resign my commissioner position in the near future. The decision was certainly not an easy one, but I did have to agree that finishing out my term would be a hardship.

Therefore, with much regret, I have decided to give notice that May 31, 2015 will be my last day in the position of county commissioner. This is my 24th year of serving the citizens of Martin

County and I've thoroughly enjoyed the experiences, good and bad. There were always problems to solve and that's what kept it interesting.

There have been many great people and friendships formed along the way, and the people I've known will be the one think I'll miss the most.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Donnelly

Ashley Brenke, newly hired District Manager for Martin SWCD, was present and introduced herself to the Board. Brenke noted former district manager, Kathy Smith, retired in February, 2015, and Brenke is replacing her in that position. Brenke also noted she has been the acting district manager for the past two and one-half months and with her recent hire as district manager Brenke's past position of district technician will be advertised to be filled.

Brenke presented a brief office update regarding the Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid funding that was awarded to Martin County noting \$45,000 was received in 2014 and approximately \$100,000 will be received in 2015. Brenke went on to note our main focus on use of funds will be education around Aquatic Invasive Species. Brenke also noted she will be attending a meeting with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources on May 28, 2015, to network with other counties on what they will be doing to address Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention.

The Board congratulated Brenke on her new position.

Commissioner Belgard noted Laurie Quinn is interested and willing to serve representing District #1 on the Martin County Parks/Trail Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, Seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the appointment of Laurie Quinn to serve a three-year term on the Martin County Parks/Trail Committee effective January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2017. Carried unanimously.

Kevin Peyman, County Engineer, presented the Martin County Parks/Trail Committee's recommendation to offer seasonal rates for select campsites at Cedar-Hanson and Perch Lake Park. Peyman noted last year the seasonal rate was set at \$600 per month and that a couple people did call about the seasonal rate; but there were no takers. Peyman went on to note that park board members felt \$600 was too high and more in line with what private campgrounds with shower and bath house amenities are charging. Peyman also noted the park board checked rates at other county parks and found that rates ranged from \$360 for electrical only sites to \$495 for sites with electricity, water, and flush toilet building(s). Peyman continued with inquiries coming in from wind turbine and construction workers, the park board recommends setting a seasonal rate at \$450 per month for 3-4 less desirable sites at Cedar-Hanson and 1-2 sites at Perch Lake Park.

Commissioner Schmidtke noted I think that's appropriate for sites that don't get used much.

Commissioner Belgard inquired if we're going to make sure that we always keep spots open for the recreational weekend people which is ultimately what that was set up for.

Peyman noted yes...that is very important to the park board.

Chairman Flohrs noted I have heard one negative comment about seasonal camping sites in our county parks.

After further discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, upon review and recommendation of the Martin County Parks/Trail Committee, hereby approve and set the 2015 County Park Seasonal Camping Site Fee at \$450.00 per month for designated camping sites at Cedar-Hanson Park near Trimont, MN, and Perch Lake Park near Truman, MN. Carried unanimously.

Peyman presented a brief Highway Department update including the purchase of a used pup trailer in the amount of \$17,211 (saving approximately \$28,000 in the Highway Department Equipment Purchase Budget); and construction has begun on CSAH 41 (old Highway 15) with shouldering currently in progress.

Commissioner Mahoney inquired if the paved bike line goes all the way to the state line.

Peyman noted the paved shoulders (bike line) will continue south from Lake Aires Road to where it (CSAH 41) joins Hwy. 15 which is real close to the state line.

Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, noted our current medical examiner, Dr. Dennis Gremel of Mayo Clinic Health System Mankato, MN, was appointed in 2006 for a term ending in 2008; however, we have no record that the medical examiner has been appointed since then. Higgins went to note we want to get the appointment back on track. Records indicate the term would be ending this year (2015).

Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff, noted he has talked with a couple other doctors looking at more local examiners and it is one of those jobs that are hard to get somebody to do. Markquart went on to note we've been happy with Dr. Gremel, he is good to work with, and he has staff to assist if he is not available. Markquart also noted fees have increased since starting with Dr. Gremel in 2006 including the cost of an examiner call increasing from \$15 per call to \$38 per call; surface exam from \$125 to \$186; autopsies performed in Mankato, MN, from \$1,100 to \$1,400 or \$1,500; and that forensic autopsies run from \$2,100 to \$2,300. Markquart noted we are now also charged for exam rooms and equipment, and transportation costs.

Markquart noted by statute the County is responsible to make sure that the medical examiner is paid for all autopsies occurring within the County including cities and towns within the County, and my recommendation to the Board is that we continue with Dr. Gremel's medical examiner services.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Donnelly,

R-#17/'15

RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING
MARTIN COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER
FOR TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2015

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Martin County Board of Commissioners to re-appoint the Medical Examiner as the Martin County Medical Examiner.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Martin, Minnesota, that in accordance with the provisions of Minn. Stat. §390.005, the Martin County Board of Commissioners hereby states its intent to fill the office of Martin County Medical Examiner by appointment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Medical Examiner be, and hereby is, Dr. Dennis Gremel of Mayo Clinic Health Systems Mankato duly appointed to the position of Martin County Medical Examiner for a four year term beginning January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2015.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Steve Flohrs, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator

Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Schmidtke, Mahoney, Donnelly, Belgard, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Resolution duly passed and adopted this 19th day of May, 2015.

Markquart presented a brief Martin County Jail Population update including numbers are down a bit and as of yesterday, May 18, 2015, there were 18 (eighteen) in-house; 12 (twelve) out-of-county; and 5 on Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM).

James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, noted that although the Board has accepted the resignation of Commissioner Donnelly effective May 31, 2015, the county attorney requests a resolution declaring the vacancy in Commissioner District Three be entered into the official record in order to start the process of a special election. Forshee went on to note the filing period for candidates will be from June 16, 2015, through June 30, 2015; if two or more candidates file, the Special Primary Election shall be held September 1, 2015; and the General Election shall be held on December 8, 2015.

Motion by Commissioner Schmidtke, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney,

RESOLUTION
DECLARATION OF VACANCY IN COMMISSIONER DISTRICT THREE

WHEREAS, the Martin County Board of Commissioners are aware that a vacancy has occurred on the Martin County Board of Commissioners due to the resignation of District Three Commissioner Steve Donnelly.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Martin County Board of Commissioners declares a vacancy on the Board of County Commissioners and directs the Martin County Auditor to conduct a special election pursuant to Minnesota Statute 375.101.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the filing period for candidates shall be from June 16, 2015 through June 30, 2015, if two or more candidates file, the Special Primary Election shall be held September 1, 2015, and the General Election shall be held on December 8, 2015.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Steve Flohrs, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator

CERTIFICATION

I, Scott Higgins, County Coordinator within and for the County of Martin, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of the resolution presented to and adopted by the County Board of Commissioners at a duly authorized meeting thereof on the 19th day of May 2015, as shown by the minutes in my possession.

Scott Higgins
Martin County Coordinator

Roll Call AYES: Commissioners Belgard, Donnelly, Mahoney, Schmidtke, and Flohrs. NAYS: None. Resolution duly passed and adopted this 19th day of May, 2015.

Higgins noted with Commissioner Donnelly's resignation effective May 31, 2015, the Board may wish to temporarily reassign his standing committee assignments until after the election in December.

After further review and discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Schmidtke, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, due to the resignation of Commissioner Steve Donnelly, hereby reassign Commissioner Donnelly’s CY2015 standing committee assignments effective June 1, 2015, temporarily, until after the elections and new commissioner is duly sworn in as follows: Commissioner Belgard – Building Committee; Commissioner Schmidtke – County Insurance Committee; Commissioner Flohrs – County Water Plan and Greater Blue Earth River Board Alliance (GBERBA). Carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed warrants to be paid May 19, 2015.

Motion by Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve bills to be paid on May 19, 2015, as presented; and includes the Martin County Highway Department and Drainage bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

Warrants received and paid May 19, 2015, are registered on file in the Auditor/Treasurer’s Office as follows:

Revenue Fund – Warrants Approved May 19, 2015	\$169,984.22
Enhanced 9-1-1 Fund	\$133,637.84
Recreation and Safety	\$ 59.51
Martin Co. Economic Development Authority	\$ 4,039.67
Solid Waste Management Fund	\$ 33,425.60
Law Library Fund	\$ 1,256.11
Martin County Transit Fund	\$ 57,746.77
Recorder’s Compliance Fund	\$ 315.70
Ind. Sewage Treatment Sys. Loans	\$ 20,622.35
Building CIP Fund	\$ 8,700.00
Bank Building Fund	\$ 27,949.84
	Total \$457,737.61
Road and Bridge Funds Totaled	\$242,465.89
Martin County Ditch Funds Totaled	\$ 86,406.88

Commissioners reviewed information received including: CY2016 Preliminary Department Budget Request Packet; Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation – CY2016 Appropriation Request; South Central Service Cooperative Board of Directors Meeting Minutes of May 6, 2015; 2014 Fiscal Year Obligations Report – Martin County Transit; and AMC Spring District Meeting Agenda for May, 27th meeting at the New Ulm Holiday Inn.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby receive and file the CY2016 budget request from Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation (SMIF) in the amount of \$4,000.00. Carried unanimously.

Commissioners presented their individual board member reports.

Commissioner Schmidtke noted he attended a JD #48 Ditch meeting in Jackson County on May 5, 2015; Extension Committee meeting on May 12, 2015; and a City/County Law Enforcement meeting on May 14, 2015.

Commissioner Belgard noted he had nothing new to add.

Commissioner Flohrs noted he attended a Labor Management Committee meeting and Drug Court graduation on May 5, 2015; Martin Soil and Water Conservation District meeting on May 7, 2015; Library Board meeting on May 12, 2015; Department Directors meeting on May 13, 2015; Trimont Town Center groundbreaking in Trimont, MN, Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meeting, and Minnesota Valley Action Council meeting on May 18, 2015.

Commissioner Mahoney noted he attended the Human Services Executive Board meeting on May 6, 2015; Faribault-Martin Joint Transit Board Executive meeting in Blue Earth, MN, on May 8, 2015; Fairmont Substance Abuse Prevention meeting at the Fairmont High School and Minnesota Valley Action Council meeting on May 18, 2015.

Commissioner Donnelly noted he had nothing new to add.

Commissioners reviewed their calendars of upcoming meetings and activities: May 19, 2015 – Public Service Appreciation Lunch beginning at 11:30 a.m., Personnel Committee meeting immediately following regular Board of Commissioners meeting, Martin County Tax Issue with citizen and Assessor’s Office at 2:00 p.m., and AgriBusiness meeting at The Ranch Restaurant at 6:00 p.m.; May 20, 2015 – Human Services Full Board meeting in Fairmont, Faribault-Martin Joint Transit Full Board meeting at 10:30 a.m., and State of Minnesota Audit Exit meeting at 2:00 p.m.; May 21, 2015 – Steve Donnelly Reception 3-4:30 p.m. in the Commissioners Board Room; May 22, 2015 – Prairieland Executive Committee meeting at 8:30 a.m.; May 25, 2015 – Memorial Day Holiday – Courthouse Closed; May 26, 2015 – Planning and Zoning Commission meeting at 5:30 p.m.; May 27, 2015 – AMC District Meeting in New Ulm, MN, South Central Minnesota HRA meeting in North Mankato, Broadband meeting in St. Cloud, MN; May 28, 2015 – Regional Communication meeting at 10:30 a.m. in Mankato, MN, and South Central EMS meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Mankato, MN; May 29, 2015 – Meth meeting at 8:00 a.m. in the Sisseton Conference Room; June 1, 2015 – Martin County EDA meeting at 5:15 p.m., and Beyond the Yellow Ribbon meeting; June 2, 2015 – regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:00 a.m.

With no further business to wit, Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Steve Flohrs, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator

