

BOARD PROCEEDINGS
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2017
@ 4:00 P.M.

The regular meeting of the Martin County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chairman Dan Schmidtke. Commissioners present were Elliot Belgard, Kathy Smith, Dan Schmidtke, Tom Mahoney, and Steve Flohrs. Also present were Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, Rod Halvorsen, KSUM/KFMC Radio, Jason Sorensen, Sentinel Newspaper, Julie Walters, Administrative Assistant, and members of staff and public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the agenda for the May 16, 2017, regular Board of Commissioners meeting with the following additions: 5.2 2017 Martin County Internship Program Update – Vicki Paskey, Family Resource Coordinator-MVAC Martin County; 9.9 Consider 2017 Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitoring (REAM) Grant Amendment – Sheriff’s Office; and 9.10 Consider FY2018-2019 Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitoring (REAM) Grant Agreement – Sheriff’s Office. Carried unanimously.

Jim Miller, Chairman of the Martin County Veterans Memorial Committee, was present to thank the Martin County Commissioners for their support of the Martin County Veterans Memorial and to present them with a commemorative shovel from the Martin County Veterans Memorial Groundbreaking Ceremony held on May 6, 2017.

James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, noted the Auditor/Treasurer’s Office has received an application and other required paperwork from Richard Koons, d/b/a Fox Lake Tack & Trading Co. for renewal of its Liquor, Wine, Club or 3.2% License. Forshee also noted all paperwork is in order.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize renewal of Liquor, Wine, Club or 3.2% License for Richard Koons, d/b/a Fox Lake Tack & Trading Co. located at 8 Main Street in Welcome, Minnesota, effective June 7, 2017 through June 6, 2018. Carried unanimously.

Chase and Betsy Crawford, Dean Tlam, Doug Eisenmenger, Heidi Scott, and Bryon Kittleson were present to open discussion to amend Martin County’s Renewable Energy Ordinance in reference to the minimum setback distance a wind tower must be placed from a non-participating landowner or residents’ property.

Chase Crawford noted due to the increasing interest in wind development we would like to ask the County to adopt a more extensive setback than we currently have. Currently Martin County has 750 foot setback from a residence, same with Jackson County. Goodhue County, Minnesota,

has increased their setback to 10 rotor diameters and for reference a 2 MW (megawatt) wind tower has a 305 foot rotor diameter so their setback from a residence would be over 3,000 feet. Lincoln County, South Dakota, recently increased their setback to half a mile so 2,640 feet. We've had a couple of different meetings about how the citizens feel or residents of a couple of our townships feel about wind development and it is evident that people are very enthusiastically concerned about this extensive wind development.

Crawford went on to note the two companies that I've been following most closely is Tradewind Energy and Terra-Gen. In their footprint they would like to develop a 400 MW project down in the southwest corner of the County (Lake Fremont & Jay Townships). They are proposing 400 MW's so that would be 200 – 2 MW towers so that's a lot and that would drastically alter the landscape down there and people are pretty concerned over the noise that they make, the blinking lights. So this proposed setback would be for nonparticipating landowners so for instance say I wanted the wind towers I could accept wind towers closer to my residence; but for somebody that didn't want them around it would protect them and give them a little more buffer. We did have a petition that we were taking around but due to the busy season we only have approximately 70 signatures on there but I haven't heard of a case where anybody chose not to sign the petition. It was a pretty easy decision for most people.

Chairman Schmidtke inquired how is it going out there with the two companies trying to procure land to put these wind towers on. Has there been a lot of interest in getting towers or is it kind of a 50/50 mix out there.

Crawford answered it's hard to tell and of course they'll say things...they'll say that people are signed up when they aren't and there's a lot of rumors going on...a lot of coffee shop talk. I couldn't even tell you for sure who is signed up. I know the vast majority of people that I have talked to the landowners don't want them. That makes me feel that if I was on the other side trying to develop wind towers I would have a hard job around here. We've had the ability to see what they've done to the landscape in the areas where they have developed them and people draw the line one way or the other. So now these two companies there's not room for both of them I think one of them will eventually win out if any of them are going to. As far as who are in favor of them and signed up for them...I couldn't tell you.

Commissioner Mahoney inquired how soon do they want to do this.

Heidi Scott answered they want you signed up right away.

Dean Tlam noted recruitment has backed off considerably now due to the busy season. But they will come back again.

Commissioner Belgard noted a lot of people sign up for them because it is profitable for them.

Doug Eisenmenger noted also understand that these people's acreages that are close to these they can't sell them anymore so basically the value of their acreage has gone down which would also mean that the taxes from the acreages that they are paying on the farms would be less.

Bryon Kittleson noted thinking about the technology and how quickly it is changing wind energy if you use rotor diameter then as new technology is developed there's ones that are shaped like a pop can that are being developed and they're more efficient, they can be put in a fence line, they're only 30 feet tall, they're less intrusive...those are saying they're 20 feet in diameter. Then 10 times...the setback would only be 200 feet. I think if you use rotor diameter setback as a determination then that would allow future technology that is more efficient and smaller to occupy the area as well so then you wouldn't be restricting future wind development as the technology changes. And another note we're checking right now and waiting for some feedback from the DNR as to whether they have established a setback for wind turbines to either a wildlife refuge or a waterfowl area and just waiting to hear back to see if the DNR has input on it or if they actually have anything in writing or if it is assumed or if there is or is not anything.

Chairman Schmidtke noted in order to change an ordinance this would need to go to the Martin County Planning & Zoning Board. That's where this has to start. I'm glad to hear some input on what people are thinking but the place to start is the Planning & Zoning Board.

Vicki Paskey, Family Resource Coordinator-MVAC Martin County, was present to provide an update on the 2017 Martin County Internship Program. Paskey noted we have 20 applicants for our program and it is going very well and started our first person at 3M on Monday and we have 7 slated to start sometime next week and the rest of our people are going to start either 14 or 15 depending on how the money rolls out because we did pay \$10 per hour this year and some of our students don't return home from school until after Memorial Day so that makes for a later start for some of them. We did have a couple of later starts last year that I wanted to address. One was due to a person discovering that in her undergraduate major she was not able to work where she wanted to so we had to put together a placement that would meet her needs and she was working another job so she started later. And then another person started a little bit later in early July but she was able to get in all of her hours because she worked more than 30 hours per week so we try to refrain from having any of those real late starts just because we want people to get in their full hours and we're very well on track this year with our placement. We have this year two IT applicants which we've never had before; somebody in optometry, somebody in mortuary science, several in engineering, one in pharmaceuticals, and one in occupational therapy, so it is moving along very well and also made a placement yesterday with Project 1590 with a background in marketing management and human resources. So again the Program is moving along very well.

Mahoney inquired how many hours is the internship.

Paskey answered 240. We typically go 8 weeks at 30 hours per week which works well for both the business and the students involved because some of them have additional part time jobs for the summer and other ones just want to focus because they're getting credit for their internships. Last year over half of our interns received college credit for their internship. Last year over half of our interns received college credit for their internship so each student is putting together a portfolio or a PowerPoint or something that summarizes their internship and so the extent of that and how thorough it is depends on whether they're going to be receiving college credit for it. So, we're looking to spread out our students between county, private companies, for profit companies...wherever their majors are. Our procedure is still they turn in an application for us

to process and then they also turn in their resume and typically what I've been doing is sending their resume to the worksite that they're looking to be in and then I get a call back or an email back to set up an interview with that intern right away and then the company makes the hiring decision and then once they've done that I go in and do the orientation, MVAC does the payroll functioning and we have a basic folder with our policies and things regarding conduct and then we do what we call a limited internship agreement so everybody's signature is on that including their job title and the hours that they're going to work and their beginning and their end date and we cover the workers' compensation for our companies and so it has worked out very well so far.

Mahoney inquired did you have people at 3M last year too.

Paskey noted yes, we had three of them at 3M last year and they have a new HR person now. I did have one person start there like I said and I have another person who interviewed there but selected another work site and I am going to be submitting another application to her as well. Paskey went on to note I really appreciate you support and feel another fantastic year coming ahead and so your investment is well appreciated.

Chairman Schmidtke thanked Paskey for the update.

Ashley Brenke, Director Martin SWCD, and Paul Davis, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, were present to provide information regarding the Blue Earth River Watershed. Brenke noted we've talked about watershed and as we've updated the County Water Plan we just wanted to give you an update on where we're at with the Blue Earth River Watershed. We're starting what's called the Assessment Approach so we're looking at the different water quality conditions in the watershed right now that includes doing the biological sampling, the fish sampling, as well as the water condition sampling. This data will be used for future water planning efforts.

Davis noted basically what we're doing is MPCA has done a horrible job of letting people know what we've done in the past and we're trying to do a better job of getting people to understand the processes we're doing and what comes out of them basically. So when we look at doing this approach now we used to do a really intense like with Elm Creek we used to do a really intensive study on one stream and it would take 3 or 4 years and we'd get done and we've had 1 TMDL report done and it was listed as impaired. We changed our approach. Now we're looking at the entire watershed so on the Blue Earth we're basically going to be looking at 85 sites are kind of on these very specified reaches and we're going to go through and do a whole new type of assessment where we look at the biology of the watershed so we're looking at the fish and we're looking at the invertebrates and by invertebrates I mean the bugs...the critters that live in the stream...we do assessments on those and that kind of gives us an idea of what the water quality is like on what's living in the stream. If we see better things living in there the water quality is better...if we see bad things or nothing living in there we know there's some issues going on in the stream. And it goes through this assessment process like Ashley (Brenke) was talking about where we look at it and we compare that to the state's standards and if it is meeting the standards it's okay and if it is not meeting the standards it goes into an impaired list and then we have to do a little more work on trying to figure out why it is impaired and how we kind of do things different to get things looking better down the road.

Commissioner Smith inquired how many sites are you doing or sampling in Martin County. And you're doing the lakes in Fairmont too, right?

Davis noted thirty some and yes they are doing the lakes in Fairmont along with other lakes in Martin County, including Fox Lake. We try and get our local partners as well. We consider basically SWCD and the county staff our local partners so we open opportunity for them to do monitoring for us we call this the source water assessment grant and we open that up to our local partners if they're interested they can help us do a lot of monitoring and it saves us time and we get a chance to give them some funds to kind of get people out there doing a little more talking and just being a little bit more active in the watershed work that we're doing.

Commissioner Smith inquired so after you do all of this study then what happens. What happens with all this data. How do we find out.

Davis noted this is where we've had problems in the past. It takes a long time for this stuff to happen. We go out and we'll do these assessments and in the simplest terms we can go on is they go out and they zap streams with fish shockers. We do studies, we do counts on the community of fish and the numbers of fish and then we compare these to these metrics that tell us whether it's good or bad. Same thing with the bugs and we also do habitat assessments where we look at the banks and we look at the vegetation and look at everything in the surrounding area to see whether it's impaired or not and impaired has always been a bad word. Impairment doesn't mean...getting listed as a TMDL Impaired Water don't consider that the end of the world. It is something that is required that we have to do. We have to go through the whole state and assess all the waters of the state and determine if they're impaired or not and basically that's looking at a standard saying here's where you should be. If you're already doing well let's try and keep it that way so we stay above that impaired water mark. The TMDL's and the impaired waters have gotten bad connotation over time and we're trying to de-emphasize that, like I said it's something that we have to do...we're required by law to do it. The thing we're trying to get better at is doing this civic engagement work, which is something we're working with Ashley (Brenke) and all of the other counties involved to get a better handle on letting people know what we're doing. So we've got a lot of things that are planned where we want to show you what the vile stuff looks like if we can we want to do a field day to take you out...show you what they're doing when they look at an assessment. When we look at the waters of the state if there's water there something should be living in it. When we look at that we're trying to figure out is it meeting that standard. When we compare things around the state not everything is compared the same too...we don't expect the waters down here to look like the waters up north so we have this scale of what things should be and what they should look like and in our area the bar is set pretty low so if we see things that we expect to see in there it's going to pass that test basically.

Commissioner Smith inquired will there be money to address some of our issues down the road.

Brenke noted we hope to use the data to do more targeted efforts and apply for future grants to get more projects on the ground. From a District standpoint you know we're always looking for better places to put conservation in.

Davis noted part of this too, we talked about the One Watershed One Plan...this is kind of the basis of a One Watershed One Plan this is kind of a lot of that background information that a One Watershed One Plan is based off of so it is taking a lot of those things...when we do our work we also do a targeting thing so once again it's another great big Excel spreadsheet that talks about all of the different implementations and things that can be done, where they should probably be done, so we do a real broad scale targeting so we'll look at a bigger watershed scale where when Ashley (Brenke) and you guys start looking at One Watershed One Plan you're going to kind of fine tune that real small scale or even almost field scale so you can start doing some planning on how you want to do some watershed improvement work.

Commissioner Smith inquired we are at the end of the cycle and that this started 10 years ago.

Davis noted we've gone through every watershed in the state and 2018 is the last year of that process for the first step of that process. We'll go through it one more time and hope as we're doing things, we're seeing implementation of things being done, we're seeing improvements, we come back around again and we see how things have changed if they've gotten better, stayed the same, gotten worse, and then we figure out what we need to do the next time around. LeSueur County will start their second round in 2018 and is in the process of being done in Watonwan County, including we've got all the biological work done, a lot of the assessment work is done, we've got a couple other steps that we do after that and then we'll come out with that TMDL Report. So it's really trying to make this stuff more understandable. We're doing what we have to do in the hopes that we get people moving in the right direction so we can improve water quality in the area.

Chairman Schmidtke thanked Brenke and Davis for their report.

Kevin Peyman, County Engineer, presented a Highway Department update including our construction work on Hwy 15 through Fairmont is set to begin in mid to late summer. Our contractor is the same one doing the I-90 work, so depending on the pace of that it will probably be later in the summer. Peyman noted we have to talk to them about coordinating with the Northrop work with harvest so they're not interrupting that, so they'll either do the city first or the city last depending on how that falls in with harvest to try and work around that. Peyman also noted the Highway Department is currently collecting 45 core samples on CSAH 26 to analyze oil and rock. Other than that, it is pretty much business as usual for this time of the year.

Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff, was present to recommend the promotion/hire of Dylan Post as full time Patrol Deputy for the Martin County Sheriff's Office, effective June 4, 2017.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the promotion/hire of Dylan Post as full time Patrol Deputy for the Martin County Sheriff's Office, effective June 4, 2017, at \$24.55/hour; and is eligible for full benefits per LELS Local #136 Union Contract. Carried unanimously.

Markquart next recommended the hire Jared Gray as part time Patrol Deputy for the Martin County Sheriff's Office, effective May 16, 2017.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the hire of Jared Gray as part time Patrol Deputy for the Martin County Sheriff's Office, effective May 16, 2017, at \$24.05/hour; not eligible for benefits. Carried unanimously.

Markquart noted the Martin County Sheriff's Office has accepted the resignation of Lacy McNicol, part time Communications Officer, effective February 5, 2017, and asks the Board to do the same.

Motion by Commissioner Smith, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby accept the resignation of Lacy McNicol as part time Communications Officer for the Martin County Sheriff's Office, effective February 5, 2017. Carried unanimously.

Markquart provided a Martin County Jail Population Update including twenty-two (22) in-house, eleven (11) out of county, and five (5) on Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM).

Corey Klanderud, Chief Deputy-Martin County Sheriff's Office, was present and noted he has been working with the state on an amendment to the 2017 Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitoring (REAM) grant. Klanderud went on to note the State of Minnesota Department of Corrections has reclaimed our entire FY2017 grant funds; and that for the third and fourth quarters, we still have fiscal year 2016 funds available in the amount of \$1,895.29. Klanderud also noted if we run out of our 2016 funds, they'll fill in whatever else we need to make it through the end of 2017.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Smith, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the Board Chair and Martin County Sheriff's Office to sign the State of Minnesota Grant Agreement through its Commissioner of Corrections and Martin County Sheriff's Office Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitoring Amendment for Fiscal Year 2017 in the amount of \$1,895.29 (fiscal year 2016 funds). Carried unanimously.

Klanderud next presented the FY2018-2019 Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitoring (REAM) Grant Agreement in the total grant amount of \$6,000 with an effective date of July 1, 2017 and expires June 30, 2019. Klanderud noted if alcohol offenders are found to be unable to pay the costs associated with the Electronic Home Monitoring program this grant funding designed to help pay those costs. Alcohol offenders that are found to have sufficient funds do not qualify for funds under this program.

Motion by Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Smith, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the Board Chair and Martin County Sheriff's Office to sign the State of Minnesota Grant Agreement through its Commissioner of Corrections and Martin County Sheriff's Office Remote Electronic Alcohol Monitoring Agreement effective July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019, in the amount of \$6,000.00 (\$3,000 Fiscal Year 2018 and \$3,000.00 Fiscal Year 2019). Carried unanimously.

Higgins noted with the conversion to the new Mitel telephone system he recommends disposal of the old Centrex telephones that the County no longer uses and that there are two area companies that have expressed their interest in purchasing the old telephones.

After discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Flohrs, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, due to the installation of a new telephone system (IP) using Mitel telephones, this leaves a non-usable telephone stock (Astra/Nortel) that were used by the Centrex system, the Board hereby approves the disposal of county surplus telephones (Astra/Nortel) models and other miscellaneous phones) via private sale at best price, recycling or online auction. Carried unanimously.

Higgins noted the Maintenance Department and Building Committee are recommending the purchase of an automatic floor scrubber machine that will be used in all county buildings. Staff has looked at two brand models including Clarke and Viper Fang and is recommending the Clarke Model with a 20 inch cleaning pad in the amount of \$6,350.00 per bid quote received from PC Janitorial.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Smith, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the purchase of a Clarke 5361 Automatic Floor Scrubber at the quoted price of \$6,350.00 from PC Janitorial (Fairmont, Minnesota); and is to be expended from the Building Maintenance Fund. Carried unanimously.

The Board reviewed warrants to be paid May 16, 2017.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Smith, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve bills to be paid on May 16, 2017, as presented; and includes the Martin County Highway Department and Drainage bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

Warrants received and paid May 16, 2017, are registered on file in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows:

Revenue Fund – Warrants Approved May 16, 2017	\$107,512.79
Enhanced 9-1-1 Fund	\$ 1,417.20
Martin County Economic Development Authority	\$ 2,316.02
Solid Waste Management Fund	\$ 30,612.84
Ind. Sewage Treatment Sys. Loans	\$ 11,141.60
Building – CIP – Fund	\$ 1,225.17
Bank Building Fund	\$ 4,185.26
Refunding Fund	\$ 2,503.69
Taxes and Penalties Odd Years	\$ 702.00
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Total	\$161,616.57
 Road and Bridge Funds Totaled	 \$ 39,002.24

Martin County Ditch Funds Totaled

\$123,923.11

The Board reviewed the CY2018 Preliminary Department Budget Request Packet; AMC's Spring District Meeting Agenda (Commissioners Smith and Flohrs noted they will be attending); Minutes from the May 3, 2017, South Central Service Cooperative Board of Directors meeting; Set the date of June 6, 2017, at 3:00 p.m. for a joint meeting with the Martin County Historical Society; Ancillary Benefits Participation Review (Integrity Benefits LLC); and Monthly Financial Statement for March 2017.

Commissioners reviewed their calendars of previous and upcoming meetings and activities: May 3, 2017 – Veterans Memorial Committee meeting, Human Services Executive Board meeting, F-M Joint Transit Executive Board meeting, and meeting with Tim Walz staff; May 4, 2017 – Soil and Walter meeting; May 9, 2017 – Library Board meeting, Family Dependency Treatment Court Graduation; May 10, 2017 – Department Director meeting at 8:30 a.m., Park Board meeting at Cedar-Hanson Park, and Bureau 14 meeting; May 12, 2017 – Prairieland meeting; May 15, 2017 – Martin County Substance Abuse Prevention meeting, and Minnesota Valley Action Council meeting; May 16, 2017 – Public Service Week Employee Appreciation Lunch 11:30-1:00 p.m., Board Work Session at 2:00 p.m., and regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 4:00 p.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room – Courthouse; May 17, 2017 – Human Services meeting in Fairmont, Minnesota; May 19, 2017 – Building Committee meeting at 3:30 p.m.; May 23, 2017 – Planning and Zoning meeting at 5:30 p.m.; May 25, 2017 – SHIP meeting in Truman, Minnesota, South Central EMS meeting and South Central Emergency Communications Board meeting in Mankato, Minnesota; May 29, 2017 – Memorial Day Holiday – Courthouse Closed; May 30, 2017 – GBERBA meeting and Commissioner Smith's Birthday; May 31, 2017 – South Central Multi County HRA meeting in Mankato, Minnesota, and AgriBusiness meeting; June 2, 2017 – Drug Court Steering Committee meeting at 11:30 a.m.; June 5, 2017 – Martin County EDA meeting at 5:15 p.m.; June 6, 2017 – Insurance Committee meeting at 11:00 a.m., and regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 4:00 p.m. – Commissioners Meeting Room – Courthouse.

With no further business to wit, Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

Dan Schmidtke, Board Chair

ATTEST: _____
Scott Higgins, County Coordinator