

BOARD PROCEEDINGS  
MARTIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
TUESDAY, JULY 25, 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 Steve Flohrs, Elliot Belgard, Tom Mahoney, and Dan Schmidtke. Commissioner Smith was absent. Also present were Scott Higgins, Martin County Coordinator, Terry Viesselman, County Attorney, James Forshee, Martin County Auditor/Treasurer, Kevin Peyman, County Engineer, Pam Flitter, Zoning Official, Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff, Jason Sorensen, Sentinel Newspaper, Julie Walters, Administrative Assistant, and members of staff and public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the agenda for the July 25, 2017, regular Board of Commissioners meeting with the following: Delete 9.1 Discuss Road and Bridge Bonds; and Add 9.9 Consider Resignation of Part Time Communications Officer and authorize recruitment to fill the position, and 9.10 Establish Justice Center Study Committee. Carried unanimously.

Motion by Commissioner Flohrs, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the minutes of the July 11, 2017, regular Board of Commissioners meeting. Carried unanimously.

Pam Flitter, Zoning Official, presented a Department of Agriculture noxious weed update pertaining to an outbreak of a new weed called Palmer Amaranth; and another noxious weed called Wild Parsnip. Palmer Amaranth is extremely problematic in row crops and can yield losses up to 79% in soybeans and 91% in corn. The main concern with Wild Parsnip is the mix of seeds coming in with road construction and if the sap from the Wild Parsnip comes in contact with your skin, it will bubble up and leave blackish markings on your skin that will never go away.

Commissioner Mahoney inquired if townships are in charge of the noxious weeds.

Flitter answered no. The Zoning Official is the weed inspector and then we work with the townships and have the supervisors help as weed authorities.

Members of Fairmont Area Kinship including Anna Garbers, Director, Katy Gonzalez, Assistant Director, and Greg Brolsma, Associate Director, presented a Kinship Program Update noting that Garbers will be leaving her position with Kinship next year after graduating from grad school and that either Katy Gonzalez or Greg Brolsma will take over the director position when Garbers leaves. Gonzalez noted we are seeking out and building strong partnerships with local businesses and other key people in towns outside of Fairmont; and that 32% of our matches are already outside of the city limits of Fairmont which is great but we want to build that up.

Brolsma noted he is excited to be part of Fairmont Area Kinship and has forever been passionate about mentoring and finds that social connections and relationships are key in connecting caring adults with kids.

Terry Viesselman, County Attorney, was present to update the Board on renewed discussions to contract for court appointed attorneys in lieu of the current fee of \$75 per hour plus mileage. Viesselman noted it is becoming increasingly difficult due to the number of attorneys in the area has dropped making it more difficult for Court Administration to find someone; in addition to increased case load and expenses. Due to the cost increase, we have been exploring the idea of contracting for court appointed attorneys and have had discussions with the county coordinator and court administrator to budget for these proposed expenses in 2018. Viesselman also noted he is sending out feelers to attorneys in the area and will see what kind of interest there is; and once received will bring more detailed information along with a recommendation to the Board at a future meeting.

Jeff Markquart, Martin County Sheriff, was present to recommend authorization to sign and execute the Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative Grant Contract as the paperwork is anticipated to arrive for execution prior to the next scheduled commissioners meeting. Markquart noted Martin County's application for grant funds was in the amount of \$13,940 and grant award is in the amount of \$6,720.

Motion by Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the Martin County Sheriff to execute and sign the Safe and Secure Courthouse Initiative Grant Contract on behalf of Martin County. Carried unanimously.

Markquart presented the Minnesota River Valley Drug Task Force Agreement noting that Martin County has signed in the past; however, the City of Fairmont has been added to the member list therefore a new JPA needs to be signed. Markquart also noted the County Attorney has reviewed the document and approves as to content and form.

Motion by Commissioner Flohrs, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the Martin County Sheriff and Board Chair to sign the Minnesota River Valley Drug Task Force Joint Powers Agreement. Carried unanimously.

Markquart noted the Martin County Sheriff's Office has accepted the resignation of Triston Johnson, part time Corrections Officer for the Martin County Sheriff's Office, effective July 13, 2017, and asks the Board to do the same.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby accept the resignation of Triston Johnson as part time Corrections Officer for the Martin County Sheriff's Office, effective July 13, 2017; and authorize recruitment to fill the position. Carried unanimously.

Markquart noted the Martin County Sheriff's Office has accepted the resignation of Kaylee Sauck, part time Communications Officer for the Martin County Sheriff's Office, effective July 24, 2017, and asks the Board to do the same.

Motion by Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby accept the resignation of Kaylee Sauck as part time Communications Officer for the Martin County Sheriff's Office, effective July 24, 2017; and authorize recruitment to fill the position. Carried unanimously.

Markquart next recommended a step increase based on satisfactory performance evaluation and according to Union Contract for Brooke Kral, Communications Officer with the Martin County Sheriff's Office.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, 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 Brooke Kral, Communications Officer (LELS #115) from 2 Year Step at \$23.15/hour to 3 Year Step at \$23.68/hour, effective August 10, 2017. Carried unanimously.

Markquart concluded with a Martin County Jail population update including twenty-three (23) in-house, and nine (9) out of county.

Kevin Peyman, County Engineer, presented a Highway Department Update including sealcoating is done for the year and that now four of Martin County's crew is over working on Faribault County's sealcoating project; are currently hauling maintenance gravel; construction projects including Northrop and heading east toward Faribault County will get started late August/early September which should still give them plenty of time to be done by the completion date of the third week of October; plans for the 4-way stop at the intersection of State Highway 263 and County Road 26 at Welcome is thought to be done in the third week of August. Peyman noted he is going to try and push them back until after the Martin County Fair and that there will be advertising ahead of time in addition to putting up a big sign and extra markings including Stop Ahead markings, rumble strips and LED stop signs. Peyman went on to note this is going to be a change but will be very well marked; and requested representation from at least one Martin County commissioner to serve on the Minnesota Department of Transportation's (MnDOT) Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) coalition. Meetings are anticipated to be every other month or quarterly.

The Board thanked Peyman for his report.

Higgins noted during the previous meeting the Board approved transfer of the reserves from the Transit Fund to the Faribault-Martin County Joint Transit Board, d/b/a Prairie Lakes Transit, in the amount of \$91,307.27 based on operational revenues. Higgins went on to note that as a result, the Transit account ending balance is a negative \$46,296.19. Therefore, the Board is being asked to transfer the amount of \$46,296.19 from the General Fund to the Transit account and request to close the account.

After discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve the transfer of funds in the amount of \$46,296.19 from the General Fund (01) to the Transit Fund (15); and to close the Transit Account upon the transfer of the aforementioned funds. Carried unanimously.

Higgins noted the Coordinator's Office has been notified that John Hovick's term serving on the South Central Minnesota Multi-County HRA will expire on September 30, 2017, and recommends the re-appointment of Hovick to serve an additional term.

Motion by Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve and authorize the re-appointment of John Hovick to serve on the South Central Minnesota Multi-County HRA Board of Directors with term beginning October 1, 2017. Carried unanimously.

Higgins presented and reviewed the formal request received from Martin Soil and Water Conservation District for CY2018 Budget Allocation.

Motion by Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby receive and file the CY2018 Budget Allocation Request received from the Martin Soil and Water Conservation District in the amount of \$95,000. Carried unanimously.

Michael Forstner, Martin County Drainage Administrator, was present to recommend the date of August 15, 2017, at 10:30 a.m. or 11:00 a.m., to hear the Engineer's Analysis Report for JD #48. Forstner noted the attendance of the full Board is required at this hearing.

After discussion,

Motion by Commissioner Flohrs, seconded by Commissioner Mahoney, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, acting as the Drainage Authority for Martin County, hereby sets the date of August 15, 2017, at 10:30 a.m., in the Commissioners Meeting Room – Martin County Courthouse, to hear the Engineer's Analysis Report for JD #48. Carried unanimously.

Higgins presented recommendation to develop a committee to be part of the study group for the new Martin County Justice Center with Wold Architects and Engineers. Higgins noted the core committee will work through a needs survey along with the architects and will include two commissioners. Higgins also noted the committee will involve the courts, sheriff's office, county attorney's office, and other key departments.

After discussion,

Commissioner Flohrs indicated he is interested in serving on the committee.

After further discussion,

No action taken on establishing a Justice Center Study Committee.

The Board reviewed warrants to be paid July 25, 2017.

Motion by Commissioner Mahoney, seconded by Commissioner Flohrs, Be It Resolved that the Martin County Board of Commissioners, hereby approve bills to be paid on July 25, 2017, as presented; and includes the Martin County Highway Department and Drainage bills as presented. Carried unanimously.

Warrants received and paid July 25, 2017, are registered on file in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office as follows:

Revenue Fund – Warrants Approved July 25, 2017	\$154,488.17
Martin County Economic Development Authority	\$ 648.88
Solid Waste Management Fund	\$ 36,295.79
Martin County Transit Fund	\$ 91,307.21
County Attorney's Forfeiture Fund	\$ 1,682.72
Ind. Sewage Treatment Sys. Loan Fund	\$ 8,025.00
Building – CIP – Fund	\$ 26.64
Bank Building Fund	\$ 2,824.06
Taxes and Penalties Odd Years	\$ 2,832.00
Total	\$298,130.47
Road and Bridge Funds Totaled	\$153,332.17
Martin County Ditch Funds Totaled	\$105,728.02

The Board reviewed Sentencing to Service (STS) Quarterly Report for Second Quarter 2017.

Commissioners reviewed their calendars of previous and upcoming meetings and activities: July 11, 2017 – Building Committee meeting and Personnel Committee meeting; July 12, 2017 – Department Director's meeting at 8:30 a.m., Human Services Executive Board meeting, and F-M Joint Transit Executive Board meeting; July 13, 2017 – Prairieland meeting, Soil and Water meeting, Budget Committee meeting, and Court/Courthouse Security Committee meeting in the afternoon; July 14, 2017 – GBERBA meeting; July 15, 2016 – Welcome Festival Parade; July 17, 2017 – MVAC annual meeting, and special EDA Task Force meeting; July 18, 2017 – Labor Management Committee meeting and Budget Committee meeting; July 19, 2017 – Park Board meeting at 4:30 p.m. at Wolter Park, South Central Minnesota Multi-County HRA meeting in North Mankato, Minnesota; July 20, 2017 – Traverse de Sioux Library meeting in Mankato, Minnesota; July 22, 2017 – Truman Parade; July 24, 2017 – Pork Masters Golf Tournament – Commissioner Flohrs noted he helped with the tournament and there were 250 golfers attending; July 25, 2017 – Human Services staff meeting at Sylvania Park at 10:00 a.m., regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 4:00 p.m., and Planning and Zoning meeting at 5:30 p.m.; July 26, 2017 – Human Services meeting at 9:00 a.m., Buffer Aid Task Force Committee meeting at 1:00 p.m.; July 27, 2017 – Regional Communications Board meeting at 10:30 a.m. in Mankato,

Minnesota, South Central EMS meeting at 1:00 p.m. in Eagle Lake, Minnesota, and MVAC meeting in New Ulm, Minnesota; July 31, 2017 – Rural Minnesota Energy Board tour to eastern South Dakota to look at an Energy Plant; August 1, 2017 – regular Board of Commissioners meeting at 9:00 a.m., and Personnel Committee meeting at 1:30 p.m.

With no further business to wit, Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 5:05 p.m.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MARTIN COUNTY, MN

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Dan Schmidtke, Board Chair

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