

REGULAR MEETING AS POSTED
BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2014 at 8:15 a.m.
LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse

Agenda/Minutes:

1. Meeting was brought to order by Board Chair Okeson. All Commissioners in attendance; County Administrator, Jack Ingstad, and Minute Taker, Cindy Courneya.
2. Pledge of Allegiance.
3. It was moved and seconded to approve the agenda, with a change under Commissioners to add Resolution 02-14-1H under Number 4: Support of Joint Application with Wadena County for Combining Transit Dispatch Departments and under Commissioners, to add Number 6: Discussion on Upcoming Board Retreat. (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.
4. It was moved and seconded to approve the minutes of January 28, 2014, with no changes. (Skarie, Knutson), carried.

Commissioners:

1. Open Forum: There was no one present.
2. Reports and Correspondence: The commissioners reported on the following meetings:
 - a. Commissioner Knutson: Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority (PLMSWA), Environmental Affairs Committee, Recreational Advisory Committee (RAC), Mahube-OTWA, Re-Design Committee.
 - b. A brief discussion was held on options for the jail facility including repair of the facility versus sharing a Regional Jail Facility with Hubbard County. Jack Ingstad, County Administrator reported that State Statute allows for a regional jail facility and if we do proceed, suggested consideration be given to hiring a "jail facilitator". He also reported that at the time of this meeting, he had not received the final report of the jail inspection, however, from the initial report, the most critical issue is the locking mechanisms, noting costs to automate the locking system would be several hundred thousand dollars. In addition, last year the cost for using beds at Hubbard County was approximately \$100,000.
 - c. Nelson: Sunnyside Care Center, Highway Committee and also attended the Lake Park City Council meeting.

- d. Commissioner Skarie: Human Services Committee, SMART (Safe, Multi-Modal, Active, Responsible Transportation) Committee, Becker County Council on Aging, and Partnership4Health meeting. It was noted that there will be a public hearing at the next Board meeting on February 25, 2014, to allow for public input on the adoption of a local sales tax for transportation.
 - e. Commissioner Grimsley: Sunnyside Care Center, Development Achievement Center (DAC), Recreational Advisory Committee (RAC), Human Services Committee, Heartland Trail Multi-Purpose Recreational Trail, and met with Human Services Director and supervisors from Wadena County. He also attended the Detroit Lakes Capital Improvement Planning Meeting and State of the City Address.
 - f. Commissioner Okeson: Public Works Utility meeting with the City of Detroit Lakes, Labor Negotiations (Mediation), Detroit Lakes/Becker County Airport Committee ITV meeting, Highway Committee, SMART Committee, and Re-Design.
 - g. Commissioner Nelson requested that department heads attend the first 1-2 hours of the board meetings moving forward, to be present for discussion on items.
3. Appointments:
- a. It was noted that there is a need for a citizen appointment to the Lake Agassiz Regional Library (LARL) Board. Commissioner Nelson requested notification of any potential candidates be submitted via e-mail to all of the commissioners, in order to eliminate submission of duplicate names of candidates.
 - b. It was moved and seconded to re-appoint Brad Grant, Bob Larson, and Janet Ashmore to the Sunnyside Board. (Nelson, Skarie), carried.
 - c. It was moved and seconded to re-appoint John Lien to the Planning Commission. (Okeson, Knutson), carried.
4. Support of Joint Application with Wadena County for Combining Transit Dispatch:
- a. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-14-1H, to authorize the Transit Department to apply for Transit for the Future funding in a joint effort with Wadena County to develop and implement internet dispatching. (Grimsley, Skarie), carried.
5. Approve Time for Board of Equalization Meeting on June 17, 2014:
- a. It was moved and seconded to approve a start time of 6:00 p.m. for the Board of Equalization meeting to be held on June 17, 2014. (Nelson, Knutson), carried.

6. Discussion on Board Retreat:
 - a. County Administrator, Jack Ingstad, presented a number of agenda items for the next Board Retreat scheduled for Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at the Graystone Building, and suggested that any additional agenda items for inclusion be provided to Chair Okeson or Vice-Chair Grimsley, prior to the retreat.

7. County Attorney, Mike Fritz: Acceptance of Resignation and Appointment of County Attorney:
 - a. County Attorney, Mike Fritz, requested acceptance of his resignation, effective February 18, 2014, due to his recent appointment to the Seventh Judicial District Court Bench by Governor Dayton. He provided an overview of his 20 years at Becker County and thanked the Board, department heads, and employees for their dedication and service over the years.
 - b. The Board congratulated County Attorney Mike Fritz on his recent appointment and expressed their appreciation and sincere thanks for his valuable expertise, professionalism, great working relationship with the Board over the years, and excellent staff.
 - c. A meeting was held with the County Attorney's office and a discussion was held with staff of the County Attorney's office, and there was a unanimous recommendation from the staff to appoint Assistant County Attorney, Gretchen Thilmoney to County Attorney for Becker County. In addition, numerous letters of support have been received on her behalf. Chair Okeson provided a summary of her qualifications and background.
 - d. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-14-1G, to accept the resignation of Becker County Attorney, Mike D. Fritz, effective February 18, 2014, and to appoint Gretchen D. Thilmoney, as the Becker County Attorney for the remainder of the vacated term, to carry out all statutory duties of said position, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 375.08 and Minnesota Statute 3.088; and for the Board Chair, Vice-Chair, and County Administrator to meet with Gretchen D. Thilmoney to discuss the salary for the position, and as outlined in the revised resolution. (Nelson, Knutson), carried.

Auditor-Treasurer: Ryan Tangen presented:

1. Licenses and Permits: There were none.

Finance Committee: Ryan Tangen presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the regular claims, over-90 day claims, and Auditor's Warrants:
 - a. Over-90 Day Claims:

- i. Brushmarks Signs in the amount of \$35.00, billed after account was reviewed.
 - ii. Herness Construction in the amount of \$5,536.00, due to no invoice received.
 - iii. Sanford in the amount of \$994.00, due to medical billing process for Sheriff's Department.
 - b. Auditor's Warrants (Tuesday Bills):
 - i. 01/29/2014 in the amount of \$19,027.30
 - ii. 02/04/2014 in the amount of \$16,400.77
 - iii. 02/16/2014 in the amount of \$20.00
- (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve the seven change orders with Implementation Specialists, as presented, totaling \$32,700 and to add to the list of warrants to be paid. (Grimsley, Skarie), carried. It was noted that the requests were necessary for implementation to our specifications, with the initial costs plus change orders bringing the total program and installation cost to \$99,234.98, with the budget established for new payroll software at \$250,000.
 3. It was moved and seconded to approve the repair of the compactor for Environmental Services and to authorize solicitation of an additional quote and to accept the lowest quote received, with preliminary estimates for the repair at \$25,500. (Knutson, Skarie), carried.

Highway: Jim Olson presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-14-1D, to authorize and direct the Highway Department to purchase one (1) SB Select 108" 3 Point Snow Blower, from RDO Equipment Company, at an amount of \$7,800, and as per the Capital Improvement Request submitted. (Nelson, Knutson), carried. It was noted that this request has been submitted and discussed at Highway Committee and Finance Committee.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-14-1E, to authorize and direct the Highway Department to purchase one (1) Cimline 230 Melter and one (1) Cimline Router, from Midstates Equipment and Supply, at an amount of \$52,695, and as per the Capital Improvement Request submitted. (Nelson, Knutson), carried. It was noted that this request has been submitted and discussed at Highway Committee and Finance Committee.
3. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-14-1F, to authorize the County Engineer to advertise for bids for highway construction projects be placed online in place of the traditional printed media, and to advertise initial advertisements in the Detroit Lakes Tribune stating the intent to utilize internet advertising and that all highway construction advertising for 2014 be placed on the official Becker County web page and on the MnDOT site at www.dot.state.mn.use/stateaid using the EAdvert link. (Knutson, Skarie), carried.

Human Services: County Administrator, Jack Ingstad, John Iwen, and Christy Ramsey from Human Services presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-14-1B, to approve the hiring of one (1) part-time Social Worker, due to a resignation. (Grimsley, Skarie), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 02-14-1A, to approve the hiring of one (1) full-time Social Worker, for the implementation of the MNChoices Program. (Skarie, Grimsley), carried. It was noted that this position is expected to be fully funded by the State, with 30-40 hours of on-line training required.
3. It was moved and seconded to approve the Human Services Claims for Human Services, Community Health, and Transit. (Skarie, Knutson), carried.

Environmental Services: Steve Skoog presented:

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Resolution 2-14-1C, to hereby adopt the 2013 Becker County Solid Waste Plan, as presented, and to submit the plan to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for final approval, pursuant to applicable Minnesota Statutes and Rules. (Knutson, Skarie), carried. Commissioner Grimsley thanked Mr. Skoog for providing the document a few weeks ago, allowing ample time to review. Mr. Skoog also recognized and thanked Sandy Gunderson for her dedication and work on the plan.
2. A request was made for the County Board to tour the new Prairie Lakes Municipal Solid Waste Authority facility and it was recommended to plan on this for an afternoon following Lunch Bunch, however, Commissioner Nelson asked that it not be on a day when the Sunnyside Board is meeting.
4. On February 25, 2014 there will be a Recycling meeting on the Third Floor of the Courthouse at 7 p.m., to update the townships, etc.

It was moved and seconded to close the session for a Closed Meeting Pursuant to MN Statutes 13D.05, Subd. 3(a) to Evaluate the Performance of an Employee Subject to the Board's Authority. (Grimsley, Knutson), carried.

Closed Session:

Closed meeting pursuant to MN Statutes 13D.05, Subd. 3(a) to evaluate the performance of an employee subject to the Board's authority.

It was moved and seconded to open the session. (Skarie, Grimsley), carried.

Open Session:

It was moved and seconded to add to the agenda, the acceptance of the resignation of Nancy Nelson as the Director of Becker County Human Services. (Nelson, Grimsley), carried.

Attorney, Mike Rengel, and Becker County Attorney, Mike Fritz were in attendance.

A motion was made by Commissioner Nelson and seconded by Commissioner Grimsley that the board hereby authorizes its Board Chair to sign on behalf of the full Board a negotiated separation agreement with Nancy Nelson. The terms of the negotiated separation agreement are outlined in the agreement. The separation agreement will be public upon it being fully effective. This agreement resolves any and all claims that have been or may be made by Ms. Nelson to date and into the future relative to her employment with Becker County. In addition, by resolving the differences between the parties, Becker County will alleviate future attorney fees and costs. This negotiated separation agreement will protect Becker County from any future potential claims. In addition, accept the resignation of Nancy Nelson as Director of Human Services. (Nelson, Grimsley), carried. Motion approved by majority.

Board Chair Okeson adjourned the meeting.

Jack Ingstad
County Administrator

John Okeson
Board Chair