

**Yellow Medicine County Board Meeting Minutes
May 10, 2011**

Chairman Dick Wambeke called this regular meeting of the Yellow Medicine County Board to order at 9:00 a.m. with Commissioners Louis Sherlin, Gary Johnson, Greg Renneke, Dick Wambeke and Ron Antony present. Also present were County Administrator Ryan Krosch, County Attorney Keith Helgeson, Granite Falls Advocate Tribune reporter Scott Tedrick and Marshall Independent reporter Steve Browne.

Approve Agenda 5-10-11-01 Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Johnson to approve the agenda with the following changes: add Echo prosecution contract to the consent agenda; add signs for Timm Park, introduction of the new County Drainage Inspector and Farmers Coop Association request for tax abatement to other business; add April investment report and County Commissioner redistricting information to the informational items. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Consent Agenda 5-10-11-02 Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve the consent agenda items as follows: minutes of the April 26, 2011, County Board meeting; gambling premises permit at the Montevideo Country Club for the Lac qui Parle Lake Association; Resolution #11-2011 supporting the MN Valley Regional Railroad 2011 State bonding request; agreement for prosecution services between the Yellow Medicine County Attorney's Office and the City of Echo. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Citizen Comments None

Commissioners' Reports

Commissioner Antony reported on the Pioneerland Library Board, SW Radio Board and 6W Corrections. Commissioner Wambeke reported on the County HRA and Adult Mental Health LAC. Commissioner Renneke reported on the SWCD. Commissioner Johnson reported on 6W Corrections and the RDC. Commissioner Sherlin reported on Area II.

Department Reports/Program Updates

Yellow Medicine River Watershed District Update Cindy Potz, Mike Weckworth, Don Oerter, Corey Hoffman and John Boulton with the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District presented the Watershed District's 2010 financial statement and annual report.

County Assessor's Department Update County Assessor Connie Erickson gave an overview of the 2011 County property assessment. The total taxable market value of the County increased by about \$200 million from 2010 to 2011 to a total value of about \$2.1 billion. There was \$9.1 million in new construction in the 2011 assessment. About 85% of the County's total tax base is classified as agriculture.

Tax Abatement Request: Porter Elevator, Inc. #37-033-3030 5-10-11-03 County Assessor Erickson recommended abatement of \$452.00 for Parcel # 37-033-3030 for the Porter Elevator, Inc. due to a fire that destroyed several structures on the property on March 27, 2011. Motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Sherlin to approve a tax abatement of \$452.00 for Parcel #37-033-3030. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Tax Abatement Request: City of Canby #31-950-0180 5-10-11-04 County Assessor Erickson recommended abatement of \$1,326.00 for Parcel #31-950-0180 for the City of Canby's aircraft hanger at the Canby Airport. The abatement is needed because the Minnesota Department of Revenue distributed an incorrect directive on the taxable status of aircraft hangers owned by municipalities and leased to a private entity. Such structures should be classified as exempt. Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Sherlin to approve a

tax abatement of \$1,326.00 for Parcel #31-950-0180. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Tax Abatement Request: Andrea Bradley, City of Canby #31-413-2309 5-10-11-05 County Assessor Erickson recommended abatement of \$132.00 for Parcel #31-413-2309 for Andrea Bradley due to the property's homestead classification being removed in error. Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Sherlin to approve a tax abatement of \$132.00 for Parcel #31-413-2309. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

The Board recessed for a break at 10:33 a.m.

The Board reconvened at 10:40 a.m.

County Health Surveys Cindy Skulstad and Liz Auch with Countryside Public Health reviewed findings for Yellow Medicine County from the County Health Rankings Survey funded by Robert Wood Johnson and the University of Wisconsin and the 19 County Adult Health Survey funded by the Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP).

Upper MN Valley RDC Update Dawn Hegland with the Upper MN Valley RDC gave an update on the RDC's services.

Other Business

Drainage & Land Use Inspector Position Planning and Zoning Director Randy Jacobson introduced new Drainage & Land Use Inspector Chris Balfany to the County Board. The County drainage program is now a part of the Planning & Zoning Department and is no longer a separate department.

City of Porter Tax Increment Financing Plan for the Porter Elevator 5-10-11-06 John Meyer, Finance Consultant for the City of Porter, presented a tax increment financing (TIF) plan for the development of a feed mill for the Porter Elevator. The previous feed mill was destroyed by fire in March. The City of Porter is requesting Yellow Medicine County waive the 30 day comment period a county is given under State Statute to provide comments on proposed TIF plans. Motion by Commissioner Sherlin and seconded by Commissioner Antony to approve waiving the 30 day comment period for the City of Porter proposed TIF District Number 1-1. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Farmers Coop Association Tax Abatement Request John Meyer also discussed with the Board a tax abatement project he is assisting the Canby Farmers Coop Association with. Farmers Coop is constructing an expansion of their fertilizer storage facility. Farmers Coop is requesting a ten year tax abatement from the City of Canby and County to cover approximately \$110,000 of unexpected expenses they are having with the project due soil issues at the expansion site. No action was taken by the Board. The tax abatement request will be placed on the May 24 agenda.

Signs for Timm Park 5-10-11-07 Administrator Krosch informed the Board that it would cost over \$4,000 to have MnDOT install signs for Timm Park on Highways 274 and 67. The Board discussed that this cost seemed excessive for the installation of just four signs. There is nothing in the 2011 budget to purchase signs for Timm Park. Motion by Commissioner Antony and seconded by Commissioner Renneke to not purchase signs for Timm Park in 2011. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Informational The April investment report was reviewed by the Board. The Board also reviewed results of the 2010 Census that showed population changes for each County Commissioner district in the County. These population figures will be used to determine any needed changes to County Commissioner district boundaries.

Approval of Disbursements/Review of Auditor's Warrants 5-10-11-08 Motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Sherlin to approve the Commissioner warrants for the following amounts: \$63,438.72 Revenue Fund, \$34,694.13 Road and Bridge Fund, \$494.68 Ditch Fund, \$425.00 Bond Fund, \$138,791.67 Human Services Fund; and acknowledge review of the Auditor's warrants. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Review of Upcoming Meetings and Events The Board reviewed upcoming meetings and events.

Adjourn 5-10-11-09 Motion by Commissioner Johnson and seconded by Commissioner Antony to adjourn at 12:15 p.m. Motion carried with all voting in favor.

Witness:

Attest:



Dick Wambeke, Chair



Lois Bonde, Auditor/Treasurer