

**STEVENS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Meeting  
Official Proceedings  
Tuesday, October 16, 2007  
9:00 a.m.**

The regular meeting of the Stevens County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, October 16, 2007, by Chair Paul Watzke. Members in attendance were Watzke, Kloos, Sayre, Hofland and Munsterman.

The minutes of the October 2, 2007, regular meeting and the day's agenda additions were approved on a motion by Kloos, second by Hofland and all members voting aye.

Human Services Director Joanie Murphy presented the monthly agenda for the Human Services Department. On a motion by Sayre, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye, the Board authorized payment of Human Services Warrants for October in the amount of \$65,222.27.

Murphy introduced RSVP Coordinator Karen Alvstad, who presented an overview of the program and the part year's highlights. Liz Hinds, Co-Chair of the Stevens County Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) presented the organization's annual report, highlighting special events such as the new drop-in center in Morris.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye, the Board appointed Deb Stark, Morris, to the LAC Advisory Committee.

On a motion by Hofland, second by Sayre and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the Human Services Director to modify the agency's organizational chart to provide: a) 1.0 FTE Child Support Officer, rather than sharing said position with Pope County; b) promotion of an existing employee to Financial Worker; the actions to be effective January 1, 2008.

Stevens County Economic Improvement Commission Executive Director Michael Haynes presented his agency's quarterly report for the third quarter, 2007.

Stevens Traverse Grant Public Health Nursing Supervisor Lisa Engquist presented for Board consideration several waiver service contracts.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Hofland and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the Chair to execute waiver service contracts for 2007.

Environmental Services Coordinator Bill Kleindl presented for Board approval the Feedlot Work Plan. On a motion by Sayre, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the Chair to sign the 2008 County Feedlot Program Delegation Agreement work plan as required by Minnesota Rules 7020, subject to approval of the MPCA.

At 10:00 a.m. the Chair convened a public hearing on a request for an outlet to County Ditch #1 as petitioned by landowner Mark Rath in Section 26 of Donnelly Township. The County Engineer outlined the essence of the request. The petitioner presented the basis of his request. Comments were offered by some of the 15 citizens who attended the hearing. The consensus of the attendees, neighboring property owners, was to oppose the petition because such action would seem to contradict a previous County Board resolution to suspend acceptance of new lands to ditch systems. The Chair closed the hearing at 10:44 a.m.

Commissioner Kloos moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 071016-34**

WHEREAS the petitioner Mark Rath, as owner, petitioned the Stevens County Board of Commissioners acting as the Drainage Authority for Stevens County Ditch #1, for an outlet for East ½ of the Northwest Quarter (E ½ NW¼) of Section Five (5), Township One Hundred Twenty-six (126) North, Range Forty-three (43) West; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on October 16, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., and

WHEREAS, testimony and information was provided to the Stevens County Board of Commissioners acting as Drainage Authority for Stevens County Ditch #1, and

WHEREAS, it was determined that the NE¼ of the NW¼ of Section 26, Township 126 North, Range 43 West is already land included in County Ditch #1, and

WHEREAS, at that time the Stevens County Board of Commissioners, acting as Drainage Authority for Stevens County Ditch #1, made the following Findings of Fact:

1. Proper notice has been given concerning the public hearing on the outlet into County Ditch #1, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103E.401.
2. That public comment and concerns were raised such that there did not appear to be sufficient evidence that the County Ditch #1 system has the capacity for additional assessed and drainage area.

NOW THEREFORE IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Petition for outlet for the SE¼ of the NW¼ of said Section 26 is hereby denied due to lack of capacity in the County Ditch #1 system.

Commissioner Munsterman seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Munsterman, Kloos, Sayre, Hofland voting aye; Watzke voting nay.

Commissioner Hofland moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 071016-35**

WHEREAS Contract No. 266 has in all things been completed, and the County Board being fully advised in the premises;

NOW, THEN, BE IT RESOLVED, That we do hereby accept said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Stevens and authorize final payment as specified herein.

Commissioner Sayre seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Hofland and all members voting aye, the Board authorized ditch repair on Co. Ditch #25 in Section 35 of Baker Township.

County Auditor-Treasurer Neil Wiese presented several items for Board consideration. Commissioner Sayre moved to authorize payment in the following amounts:

FUND	AMOUNT
Revenue	\$61,514.32
Road & Bridge	\$18,392.25
Ditches	\$1,670.00
Ambulance	<u>\$71,375.62</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$152,952.19</b>

Commissioner Munsterman seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

Wiese presented a report on the financial status of the Revenue Fund at the end of the year's 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter. Wiese also presented a summary of various fund balances at the third quarter's conclusion. Wiese and the County Engineer reviewed with the Board the summary of spread ditch levies for 2007 and proposed 2008.

On a motion by Sayre, second by Kloos and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the Facilities Manager to purchase and install handicap door operators for the STG-PHN Building and the Human Services Building.

SCAS Interim Administrator Nicole Arbach presented information on rental properties to be utilized to house EMT's and Paramedics on 24 hour response shifts. Commissioner Hofland moved to rent apartment space at 303 Atlantic Avenue, Morris, to serve as crew space for SCAS personnel; the temporary FEMA trailer at SCAS will be removed. Commissioner Kloos seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Hofland, Kloos, Sayre, Watzke voting aye; Munsterman absent.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Hofland and all members voting aye, the Board authorized Arbach to purchase a washer and dryer from Cullens, Inc. of Morris in the amount of \$950.00 for installation in the SCAS garage.

Commissioner Kloos moved to authorize payment of 2008 NACo dues in the amount of \$400. Commissioner Hofland seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

County Coordinator Jim Thoreen presented for Board discussion a draft resolution pertaining to discussions with Pope County to build a bi-county justice center.

Commissioner Hofland moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 071016-35**

WHEREAS, Stevens County currently has no jail, in contravention of Minnesota law; has experienced increases in daily inmate census; and experiences increasing logistical and security difficulties in the housing of prisoners elsewhere and their transport to and from court in Stevens County; and

WHEREAS, the Stevens County Board of Commissioners recognizes that Stevens County is in need of a jail or at the least some form of secure prisoner holding facility; and

WHEREAS, the Board previously engaged in discussions with other counties concerning the construction of a joint facility, which discussions ultimately did not bear fruit; and

WHEREAS, the Stevens County Board of Commissioners has in 2007 engaged in a comprehensive study with the Pope County Board of Commissioners regarding the possibility of building a joint justice center facility in or near Cyrus, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the resolution of the question of Stevens County's jail and courthouse-security needs is intertwined with questions regarding the recognized need to remodel and upgrade the existing Stevens County courthouse facility; and

WHEREAS, a joint regional justice center facility with Pope County appears not to be a viable solution to the needs of Stevens County and its residents at this time;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is hereby resolved as follows:

1. That Stevens County shall discontinue further discussions and study with Pope County concerning the possibility of constructing a joint regional justice center with Pope County.
2. That Stevens County will forthwith and without delay proceed to address its jail and courthouse needs within the County.

Commissioner Kloos seconded the motion. The motion passed upon the following vote: Hofland, Kloos and Sayre voting aye; Munsterman and Watzke voting nay.

Several Commissioners offered reports of their committee activities.

The Chair recessed the meeting at 12:09 p.m. in order to tour the DAC facilities at 1:00 p.m.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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James Thoreen, County Coordinator

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Paul Watzke, Chair