

**STEVENS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
Official Proceedings
Tuesday, July 1, 2008
9:00 a.m.**

The regular meeting of the Stevens County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, July 1, 2008, by Chair Neal Hofland. Members present were Kloos, Munsterman, Sayre, Watzke and Hofland.

Commissioner Sayre moved to approved the agenda with one addition along with the minutes of the June 17th, 2008, regular meeting. Commissioner Watzke seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

Environmental Services Coordinator Bill Kleindl presented a draft copy of the Solid Waste Contract between Stevens County and Pope-Douglas Counties. County Attorney Glasrud reviewed his recommended changes to the draft. It was the consensus of the Board to accept Glasrud's changes and the Board will take formal action on the contract once the revisions are accepted by Pope-Douglas.

Kleindl reviewed the County's Feedlot Work Plan Summary with the Board which included feedlot registration, inspections of feedlots and watersheds and compliance strategies. On a motion by Watzke, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye, the 2009 Feedlot Work Plan was adopted.

Human Services Director Joanie Murphy was present to discuss the implications of the loss of Public Defenders services for Children in need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) cases. Murphy and Glasrud provided background information on Public Defender services and explained that while that office still has a legal obligation to represent children, it will no longer have the resources to provide legal representation to parents in CHIPS cases due to recent legislative budget cuts to the Public Defender Office. Glasrud proposed that parents in such cases who meet income guidelines would have an appointed attorney paid for from the Human Services budget. Murphy discussed with the Board the financial difficulties the State has placed on her agency with imposing additional budget cuts and unfunded mandates for services. The Board indicated to Murphy that for now, the funds for appointed attorney services for qualifying parents in CHIPS cases, should be paid for from her budget.

On a motion by Watzke, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye, the Board instructed County Attorney Glasrud to draft a letter to AMC supporting their efforts to fight budget cuts with further imposed unfunded mandates and an additional letter to legislative representatives, expressing the concern of the Board.

County Engineer Brian Giese presented his monthly report to the Board. Giese noted that maintenance of the County's fuel pumping system was needed and presented a number of

options for consideration. Giese also requested the Board consider the possibility of moving toward a Cardtrol system as preparation for the system could be completed simultaneously with the maintenance. After Board consideration, Giese was instructed to install new underground fuel piping and sumps for the fuel station at a cost of \$17,606.00, including tax, and to research fuel costs incurred by the Sheriff's department and gauge the Sheriff's willingness to change to fueling squad cars at the Highway Department. Giese is to bring his findings back to the Board for further discussion.

Giese reviewed the County Ditch report in particular the issues related to County Ditch #15. After discussion, the Board instructed Giese to notify affected landowners inviting them to meet and discuss the issues and options with the Board. A work session was set for September 9th at 11:00 a.m. to Noon.

Administrative Assistant Jan Gomer noted the IRS mileage rate increased to 58.5 cents per mile effective July 1, 2008, through to December 31st, 2008.

The Board reviewed a request for funding from the Red River Basin Commission in the amount of \$50 in 2009. The request was approved on a motion by Kloos, second by Watzke and all members voting aye.

The Board reviewed a request for funding from the Rural Life Outreach of NW Minnesota in the amount of \$500 for 2009. The request was taken under advisement.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Jan Gomer, Administrative Assistant

Neal Hofland, Chair