

**STEVENS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
Official Proceedings
Tuesday, November 18, 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, November 18, 2008, by Chairman Neal Hofland. Members in attendance were Hofland, Sayre, Kloos, Munsterman and Watzke.

The minutes of the November 4, 2008, regular meeting along with the agenda additions were approved on a motion by Watzke, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye.

Human Services Director Joanie Murphy introduced two new social workers: Elisa Ettesvold and Kathy Kaping. Ettesvold is working with special needs and foster and daycare licensing. Kaping is working with developmentally disabled clients.

On a motion by Sayre, second by Kloos and all members voting aye, the Board approved Human Services bills in the amount of \$75,053.32.

Adult Mental Health Local Advisory Council (LAC) Co-Chair Liz Hinds presented the annual report of activities and funding to the Board.

Murphy presented a list of 2009 members of the LAC and requested approval. Commissioner Watzke moved to approve Liz Hinds, Deb Stark, David Thedin, Susan Brooks, Char Hanson, Don Munsterman, Fran Cin, Cynde Grzadzieleski, Colleen Fry and Joanie Murphy to the 2009 LAC Advisory Council. Commissioner Sayre seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

Murphy presented a list of 2009 calendar year contracts for review and input. Murphy noted she will bring back the list for formal approval in December.

Murphy noted the resignation of Senior Coordinator Judy Nord-Johnson and requested authorization to fill the 24 hour per week position with a licensed social worker. Murphy explained the need for expansion of services to seniors for adult protection throughout the county, not just within the City of Morris. The expansion of services requires the correct credentials of Social Worker and Murphy anticipated the position could be housed as it is now, at the Senior Citizens Center in Morris. Commissioner Kloos moved to authorize the part-time, 24 hour per week position to be filled with a licensed social worker. Commissioner Munsterman seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

Murphy informed the Board that her department will receive \$5,390 in bonus money from the Food Support Program. The money will go into the budget to be used to support current Financial Worker staffing. Murphy also noted a sharp increase in the requests for Thanksgiving and Christmas Food Baskets for the upcoming holiday season.

County Assessor Judy Thorstad presented a list of 2009 preliminary assessments payable in 2010 to the Board.

Environmental Services Coordinator Bill Kleindl reviewed two agreements for renewal. The first agreement between Stevens County and Engebretsons for Demolition Debris Landfill and Operation;

Kleindl recommended lowering the tipping fee from \$7 to \$6. Commissioner Munsterman moved to approve the recommendation. Commission Kloos seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

Kleindl then reviewed the agreement between Stevens County, Engebretsons and Riley Brothers for the Tree Pile Composting Disposal and Rental. Kleindl requested questions and comments from the Board. Having no changes on either agreement, Kleindl will request signatures from both parties and will then bring back both agreements to the Board for final approval.

The Board scheduled a work session with Kleindl and Engebretson to discuss a future solid waste disposal location for 8:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 2, 2008.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Sayre and all members voting aye, the Commissioner Warrants were approved in the following amounts:

FUND	AMOUNT
Revenue	\$56,881.29
Road & Bridge	\$55,549.76
Solid Waste	\$342.70
Ditches	\$2,479.74
Ambulance	<u>\$14,013.81</u>
TOTAL	\$129,267.30

Commissioner Kloos moved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 081118-18

The County Board hereby resolves that the Stevens County Auditor-Treasurer Office has the authority and permission to make ACH transfers to and from the Bank of the West of up to \$350,000 effective November 18, 2008.

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

County Auditor-Treasurer Neil Wiese explained to the Board that it had a choice as to whether or not to hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing due to Stevens County's percent increase on the 2009 tax levy being less than the State's requirement. After discussion it was the majority consensus of the Board to hold a Truth in Taxation Hearing on December 4th, 2008, at 7:00 p.m. and Wiese was instructed to proceed as such.

County Coordinator Jim Thoreen updated the Board on the LEC/Courthouse remodel project noting the project was on target for the 2009 time-line: the committee is working on the schematic design; discussions are well underway with the City of Morris for their space needs and budget restraints and a conditional use permit is due for consideration from the City's Planning Commission and City Council. Thoreen also reviewed a recent Jail Operations seminar both he and Commissioner Sayre attended.

Thoreen also discussed the state's projected budget deficit and presented requests for renewal of memberships from WACCO and Lakes Country Services Cooperative. Thoreen noted he had contacted all department heads to review their utilization of both services and had found little interest in either

service. The Board directed Thoreen to approach both organizations to request expansion of services before agreeing to renew memberships.

Thoreen also presented the 2009 Group Dental Rates for approval. Commissioner Sayre moved to approve the rate increases for the employee voluntary dental insurance program. Commissioner Watzke seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

The Board reviewed correspondence from the City of Morris for Assessments for Storm Sewer drainage.

The Board also reviewed with Thoreen suggested language for the Elected Official Benefit Policy as the current language will become obsolete in 2009 due to the County disbanding its group health insurance. Thoreen noted a correction in the language presented, as it should read "2 ½" not "2 ¼". After discussion, Commissioner Sayre moved to approve the amendment to the Elected Official Benefit Policy, Section XL of the Stevens County Personnel Policy. Commissioner Kloos seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

Thoreen noted a letter of resignation from the Stevens County Ambulance Administrator Ron Flannigan and requested Commissioner's Kloos and Sayre along with Doctor Busian, meet on Friday at 3:00 p.m. to discuss an interim management proposal with North Memorial representatives.

Commissioner Watzke moved to accept the letter of resignation with regret. Commissioner Munsterman seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

Flannigan requested authorization to move two part-time Paramedics to full-time to help alleviate the ALS transfer load and also requested authorization to increase rates for ALS runs in 2009. It was the consensus of the Board to take no action on either request at this time, until a new management arrangement for the Service is underway.

Commissioner Sayre presented a request for a delegate and alternate to the Prime West Joint Powers Board. Commissioner Sayre is the current delegate with Commissioner Kloos the alternate. After discussion, Commissioner Watzke moved to authorize Sayre as delegate to the Prime West Joint Powers Board and Commissioner Kloos as alternate. Commissioner Munsterman seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Jim Thoreen, County Coordinator

Neal Hofland, Chair