

**STEVENS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Meeting  
Official Proceedings  
Tuesday, February 17, 2009  
9:00 a.m.**

The regular meeting of the Stevens County Board of Commissioners was called into order at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, February 17, 2009, by Chair Larry Sayre. Members in attendance were: Kloos, Munsterman, Sayre, Watzke and Staples.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Watzke and all members voting aye, the minutes of the February 2, 2009, regular meeting were approved.

On a motion by Watzke, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye, the Board approved the agenda additions to include a resolution by Commissioner Munsterman at the beginning of the meeting and an appearance before the board by MRCC Executive Director Dan Larson at 11:45 a.m.

Commissioner Munsterman offered comments relative to the jail/LEC/Courthouse remodeling project and offered the following draft resolution:

**RESOLUTION  
PERTAINING TO BONDING FOR THE  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Stevens County Board has spent much time and resources identifying studying the County's facilities needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board concluded that the renovation of the Stevens County Courthouse and the provision of a suitable jail should be our top priority; and

WHEREAS, after determining through several years' efforts that a joint justice center or jail with one or more other counties was not feasible at this time; and

WHEREAS, the Board determined to proceed with a project to remodel the courthouse, construct a new law enforcement center and construct a 20-cell jail; and

WHEREAS, significant concerns have been raised by many taxpayers about the wisdom of undertaking such a project in a time of national recession of uncertain scope and duration; and

WHEREAS, despite the efforts of the Board and staff to provide all relevant information about the project, it is evident that many questions remain in people's minds about the wisdom and feasibility of the project; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2009, a “Stevens County Taxpayers Committee” passed a resolution to form a citizens committee to assist the Board with the project;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the sale of bonds for the project, scheduled to take place this date, be and hereby is postponed for 90 days;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a committee be formed comprised of the Board, three (3) representatives of the Taxpayers Committee, and three (3) other community members with the mission to meet, share information, address the public’s questions about the project, more fully evaluate concerns and objections to the project, and submit a report and recommendations not later than (TBD).

Commissioner Watzke seconded the motion.

Following discussion, Commissioner Staples moved to amend the resolution by striking “90 days” and inserting “12 months” in the 8<sup>th</sup> paragraph. Commissioner Kloos seconded the motion. The motion was defeated by the following vote: Staples and Kloos voting aye; Munsterman, Sayre and Watzke voting nay.

Commissioner Watzke moved to the amend the draft resolution to read as follows:

- a) In Paragraph 4, insert “(the Project)” following the word “jail”;
- b) Strike Paragraph 6 in its entirety;
- c) Strike Paragraph 7 in its entirety;
- d) Strike Paragraph 8, the BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER clause in its entirety;

Resolution to thus read as follows:

**RESOLUTION NO. 090217-04**

**RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO BONDING FOR THE  
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Stevens County Board has spent much time and resources identifying and studying the County’s facilities needs; and

WHEREAS, the Board concluded that the renovation of the Stevens County Courthouse and the provision of a suitable jail should be our top priority; and

WHEREAS, after determining through several years’ efforts that a joint justice center or jail with one or more other counties was not feasible as this time; and

WHEREAS, the Board determined to proceed with a project to remodel the courthouse, construct a new law enforcement center and construct a 20-cell jail (the Project); and

WHEREAS, significant concerns have been raised by many about the wisdom of undertaking such a project in a time of national recession of uncertain scope and duration;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the sale of bonds for the project, scheduled to take place this date, be and hereby is postponed for 90 days.

Commissioner Munsterman seconded the resolution and being put to vote was unanimously adopted.

Human Services Director Joanie Murphy presented for Board consideration the monthly business agenda for Human Services. On a motion by Munsterman, second by Kloos and all members voting aye, the Board authorized payment of monthly Human Services warrants in the amount of \$247,528.63.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Watzke, and all members voting aye, the Board authorized an increase from 30 hours per week to 37.5 hours per week in the work schedule of the Senior Services Coordinator's position effective this date.

Duane Klein, representing the West Central Trailblazers Snowmobile Club, requested passage of two resolutions by the Board. One would re-authorize the continuation of Stevens County as the group's sponsor; the second would support an application for funds to replace one of the club's trail groomers.

Commissioner Munsterman moved the following resolutions:

**RESOLUTION NO. 090217-05  
RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CONTINUED  
SPONSORSHIP**

WHEREAS, Stevens County entered into an agreement with the West Central Trailblazers Snowmobile Association, Inc., in April 1996, and

WHEREAS, said agreement was for the public purpose of establishing and maintaining trails as part of the County Public Recreation Program, and

WHEREAS, said agreement includes the sponsorship of the West Central Trailblazers Snowmobile Association, Inc., by Stevens County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Stevens County Board of Commissioners shall continue sponsorship of the West Central Trailblazers Snowmobile Association, Inc. and shall continue to agree to the terms of the agreement dated April 18, 1996.

**RESOLUTION NO. 090217-06**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SPONSORSHIP  
OF EQUIPMENT GRANT**

WHEREAS, the County of Stevens supports the grant applications made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program. The application is to purchase a new groomer.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if the county of Stevens is awarded a grant by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the county of Stevens agrees to accept the grant award, and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project. The county of Stevens will comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements and regulations as stated in the grant agreement, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Commissioners of Stevens County names the fiscal agent for the county of Stevens for this project as: Neil Wiese, Auditor-Treasurer, 400 Colorado Avenue, PO Box 530, Morris MN 56267.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the County of Stevens hereby assures the grooming equipment acquired through this grant will be maintained for no less than twenty (20) years or until such time as appropriate disposition actions are approved by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

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

Sheriff Randy Willis presented a resolution which will indicate that the County has interest in pursuing the ARMER statewide public safety communications system as outlined in the recently-presented public safety communication assessment compiled by GeoComm.

Commission Watzke moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 090217-07**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A PLAN FOR  
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATION WITHIN  
STEVENS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, it is a basic responsibility of the County to provide for the health and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has issued regulations which require the replacement of wideband Land Mobile Radio (LMR) systems operating in the Very High Frequency (VHF) and Ultra High Frequency (UHF) spectrum by 2013; and

WHEREAS, public safety agencies throughout the country, including public safety agencies within Stevens County, have relied upon wideband LMR systems to provide vital public safety communications for law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, public works, disaster response and other vital government services; and

WHEREAS, the County has worked with the Central Minnesota Regional Radio Board (CMRRB), of which it is a participating member, to complete a comprehensive assessment of public safety communication within the County; and

WHEREAS, THE County has been presented with a public safety communication assessment (hereinafter "Assessment") conducted by GeoComm Incorporated, which included as assessment of the alternatives that exist for the County to replace the public safety communication infrastructure within the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Stevens County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the Assessment as an accurate assessment of public safety communication needs within the County and of the alternatives that reasonably exist to replace the public safety communication infrastructure within the County, and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the Stevens County Board of Commissioners adopt the Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER) participation alternative specified in the Assessment as the most appropriate and best option for the County to replace the public safety communication infrastructure within the county, and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the Stevens County Sheriff (hereinafter "Sheriff") is instructed to develop a participation plan (hereinafter "Plan") for the migration of and participation of all county and local governments and public safety agencies located and operating within the County to the ARMER public safety communication system, and be it further;

RESOLVED, that the Plan developed by the Sheriff shall include and provide for a proposed budget for the integration of public safety agencies to the ARMER public safety communication system, for competitive bids documents and proposals for local enhancements or improvements required for county participation and proposed contracts for equipment and services necessary to complete the integration of public safety agencies to the ARMER public safety communication system, and be it further;

RESOLVED, the Assessment providing the basis of this action shall be submitted to the CMRRB with a recommendation that the Assessment be incorporated into the CMRRB regional public safety communication plan and that the Sheriff is authorized to submit the Assessment and the Plan to the CMRRB, to the Minnesota Departments of Transportation and Public Safety and to the Statewide Radio Board, as may be necessary to gain final approval for the County participation in the ARMER public safety communication system as provided for in the Plan.

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

Commissioner Kloos moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 090217-08**

**RESOLUTION CREATING A PROJECT  
STUDY GROUP**

WHEREAS, the Stevens County Board has previously determined to proceed with a project to remodel the courthouse, construct a new law enforcement center and construct a 20-cell jail (the Project); and

WHEREAS, significant concerns have been raised about the wisdom of undertaking such a project in a time of national recession of uncertain scope and duration; and

WHEREAS, despite the efforts of the Board and staff to provide all relevant information about the Project, it is evident that many questions remain in people's minds about the wisdom and feasibility of the Project; and

WHEREAS, on February 12, 2009, a "Stevens County Taxpayers Committee" passed a resolution to form a citizens committee to assist the Board with the Project; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of the above factors the Board has this date postponed the sale of the bonds for the Project for a period of 90 days;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that a committee be formed comprised of the Board, three (3) representatives of the Taxpayers Committee, and three (3) other community members with the mission to meet, share information, address the public's questions about the Project, more fully evaluate concerns and objections to the Project, and submit a report not later than May 15, 2009.

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

The Board heard comments from the Taxpayers Group, which detailed some of the group's concerns regarding the project's development process to-date. The Commissioners discussed the process to determine membership of the study group, particularly emphasizing that three names should come from the Taxpayer's group and that the Board will select three other members in addition to themselves.

Sheriff Willis requested permission to fill a vacancy in one of the jailer/dispatcher position due to a resignation. He also requested permission to create a fifth full-time jailer/dispatcher position in place of one of the part-time positions, which has been working almost the equivalent of a full-time position.

On a motion by Watzke, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the Sheriff to fill a vacancy in the jailer/dispatcher staff and to seek applicants for a fifth full-time jailer/dispatcher position effective this date.

Chairman Sayre appointed Commissioner Staples to the County Safety Committee as the second Board representative.

The County Coordinator reviewed with the Board the need to re-consider and adopt a permanent wind energy conversion system ordinance. The planning Commission will hold a public hearing on said proposal.

On a motion by Watzke, second by Kloos and all members voting aye, the Board authorized payment of the 2009 WACCO dues in the amount of \$1,974.00 and requested that the organization's director meet with the Board in the near future to review the organization's status.

On a motion by Watzke, second by Staples and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the County Attorney's budget to be amended to reflect a flat \$115.00/month allocation of telephone expenses for 2009.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye, the Board authorized payment of Commissioner Warrants in the following amounts:

FUND	AMOUNT
Revenue	\$87,721.78
Road & Bridge	\$39,291.21
Solid Waste	\$1,800.00
Ditches	\$7,374.51
Ambulance	<u>\$20,851.91</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$157,039.41</b>

Auditor-Treasurer Neil Wiese and Deputy Auditor-Treasurer Deb Brunko presented information regarding purchase of a new postage meter; he will bring up-to-date quotations for the next Board meeting. He also distributed a summary of the results of a special audit of sales tax collection or owed to the State of Minnesota. The preliminary estimate indicates the County owes \$19,832.08 in sales tax and interest. He will bring the final audit at a later date.

Environmental Services Coordinator Bill Kleindl presented information regarding a proposed contract for hauling solid waste to the Kandiyohi County facility. He will bring further confirmation regarding that contract and any affects it may have on the Pope-Douglas incinerators contract potential.

Dan Larson, Executive Director of the Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus (MRCC) presented an overview of the group's legislative primary issues at the capitol.

On a motion by Munsterman, second by Staples and all members voting aye, the Board authorized issuance of a letter of support for Commissioner Watzke's application to fill a vacancy on the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust Board of Directors.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Staples and all members voting aye, the Board recessed its meeting at 12:28 p.m.; it will reconvene at 1:00 p.m., Wednesday, February 25, 2009.

The Chairman reconvened the recessed meeting of February 17, 2009. Approximately a dozen citizens were in attendance. The Chairman requested that a spokesperson for the Stevens County Taxpayer's Committee submit the names of three individuals to serve on the Study Committee created by the Board on February 17, 2009. Spokesperson Gordon Lea offered the names of Jack Lampert, Chokio; LuAlan Rohloff, Morris; and Jerry Lesmeister, Morris. The names were accepted as nominated.

The Chairman requested that Commissioners discuss the manner and method which the Board will utilize to choose its three choices to serve on the 11 member committee, which will include the five commissioners. The Coordinator offered to record each name on a flip chart. Commissioner Staples suggested that names be drawn from a hat.

Commissioner Munsterman offered two nominees, which was followed by nominations from Commissioner Kloos, Watzke and Staples. The eleven individuals nominated were Charles Grussing, Morris; Howard Jaeck, Morris; Mark Fitzgerald, Morris; Dick Hagen, Donnelly; Jeanne Ennen, Donnelly; Jim Overland, Morris; Dennis Bye, Hancock; Doug Nelson, Hancock; and Neal Hofland, Chokio.

On a motion by Munsterman, second by Watzke and the following voting, the Board chose Sheldon Giese, Morris as a Board appointee to the study committee. Ayes: Munsterman, Watzke, Sayre. Nay: Kloos, Staples.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Staples and by the following vote, the Board chose Jeanne Ennen, Donnelly as a Board appointee to the study committee. Ayes: Kloos, Staples, Watzke, Sayre. Nay: Munsterman.

On a motion by Staples, second by Kloos and by the following vote the Board chose Neal Hofland, Chokio, as a Board appointee to the study committee. Ayes: Staples, Kloos, Sayre. Nay: Watzke, Munsterman.

The Board discussed the process to manage the study committee's work, time-line and processing of material and/or documents pertinent to the topics.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye, the Board established the initial meeting date for the study committee as Wednesday, March 4, 2009 at noon in the lower level meeting room (EOC) in the courthouse.

At the invitation of the Coordinator, professional meeting facilitator Deb Hengel offered perspectives regarding how the study committee might conduct its meetings.

On a motion by Watzke, second by Kloos and all members voting aye, the Board retained Deb Hengel, Elbow Lake, as the facilitator for the project study committee at the rate of \$125.00 per hour plus mileage and reimbursement of any purchased materials for committee use not

furnished by the county; her professional services will cease when the committee concludes its work, but no later than May 18, 2009.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Staples and all members voting aye, the meeting was adjourned at 2:02 p.m.

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Jim Thoreen, County Coordinator

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Larry Sayre, Chair