

**STEVENS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Regular Meeting
Official Proceedings
Tuesday, June 16, 2009
9:00 a.m.**

The regular meeting of the Stevens County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, June 16, 2009, by Chair Larry Sayre. Members present were Sayre, Munsterman, Kloos, Watzke and Staples.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Watzke and all members voting aye, the Board approved the minutes of the June 2nd Regular Meeting and the Special Meeting of June 9th, 2009, along with the day's agenda.

Human Services Director Joanie Murphy presented the Human Services monthly agenda. On a motion by Munsterman, second by Staples, and all members voting aye, the Board authorized payment of Human Services warrants in the amount of \$65,007.53. Murphy presented and reviewed several contracts for services.

On a motion by Watzke, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the Chair and Human Services Director to execute fiscal year 2010 (7/1/2009 through 6/30/2010) for four professional services; said contracts on file in the Human Services Office.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Munsterman and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the Chair and Human Services Director to execute contract for services with Local Mental Health Initiatives for emergency response to mental health commitment processes.

On a motion by Munsterman, second by Watzke and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the Local Mental Health Initiative ACT Team for delegation of authority to submit necessary legal reports to the courts for commitment proceedings.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Staples and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the Chair and Human Services Director to execute a revised contract for the Children's Mental Health Crisis Grant.

Murphy informed the Board that Big Stone County has inquired of neighboring counties if there is any interest in shared administration/departments and/or shared arrangements. Commissioner's Kloos and Munsterman will serve as a committee to examine issues relevant to pairing or sharing of administrative services.

Stevens County Ambulance Service Acting Administrator Rick Wagner presented issues for Board information.

Commissioner Kloos moved to authorize the Ambulance Administrator to deem as uncollectable a total of \$114,181.28 in unpaid SCAS invoices. Commissioner Watzke seconded the motion.

Commissioner Kloos moved, seconded by Staples, to amend the motion by striking \$114,181.28 and inserting \$98,341.12. The amended motion, upon being put to vote, was unanimously adopted.

The Board received bids for purchase of a new ambulance. The bids were taken under advisement for consideration at a future Board meeting.

Commissioner Staples moved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 090616-25

**RESOLUTION INSTITUTING “NO NET GAIN”
OF LAND BY THE MINNESOTA DNR,
USF&WS OR ANY TAX EXEMPT LAND TRUST**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 97A.145, Subd. 2, provides the authority and prescribes the process for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to acquire lands in the counties of the State of Minnesota, including the provision of non-approval of purchase by a county board; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Interior has a memorandum of agreement with the State of Minnesota providing the authority and prescribing the process for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USF&WS) to acquire lands in the counties of the State of Minnesota, including the provision of non-approval of purchase by a county board; and

WHEREAS, the further acquisition of land by the DNR, USF&WS, and/or a similar agency, potentially erodes the tax base of Stevens County; and

WHEREAS, any action by the State of Minnesota’s plan to freeze gross Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT) funding and the United States Congress’ failure to adequately fund federal revenue sharing will cause a significant loss of PILT revenue to Stevens County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that Stevens County hereby establishes a “No Net Gain Acquisition Policy” for DNR, USF&WS and/or similar agencies.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that no new lands may be acquired in Stevens County by the DNR, USF&WS and/or similar agencies via purchase, environmental land trust, or other method, unless an equal amount of property is sold back to private ownership, unless there is a guarantee that there will be no loss of revenue to the local taxing authorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the DNR and USF&WS do a complete inventory of all lands currently owned in Stevens County and evaluate each parcel for possible sale back to private ownership.

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

Commissioner Munsterman moved the following resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 090616-26

WHEREAS, The Legislature of the State of Minnesota has concluded session for 2009 without a negotiated budget agreement for the biennium of 2010 – 2011 between the Legislature and the Governor of the State of Minnesota, and;

WHEREAS, the Association of Minnesota Counties and the Stevens County Commissioners expressed to the Legislature and the Governor that Stevens County is willing to be a part of the solution, but requested flexibility under State mandates, however the Legislature and Governor approved token but insignificant local government mandate relief, and;

WHEREAS, because of the failure of all parties involved at the State to manage time wisely and reduce the level of political gamesmanship at the Capitol, the Governor has indicated that it is his intention to balance the budget for the biennium through administrative “un-allotments”, and;

WHEREAS, it is likely that the Governor shall “un-allot” County Program Aids which will adversely affect Stevens County by reducing funding for State mandated activities and programs, and;

WHEREAS, Stevens County has been a responsible administrative arm of the State by meeting mandates, maintenance of efforts and matching requirements while maintaining a balanced budget, reasonable property tax rates and reasonable reserves, and;

WHEREAS, Stevens County has contracts with employee bargaining units which do not allow for unilateral freezing of employee wages and Stevens County’s reserves are adequate in the event of an emergency but not as a long term source of revenue, and;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Stevens County Board of Commissioners hereby declares that Stevens County property tax payers should not be saddled with the financial consequences of the neglected responsibilities of the State’s Governor and Legislature, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Stevens County Board of Commissioners will not be forced to raise and expend property tax revenue on behalf of the State for activities and programs which are created and mandated by the State without proper representation for those expenditures at the local level, and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Stevens County Board of Commissioners, which is the governing board most aware of the needs of the residents of Stevens County intends to engage in a strategic process through which it will identify objectives and allocate resources to meet those needs.

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

On a motion by Munsterman, second by Kloos and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the implementation of the position of Property Tax Specialist in the Auditor-Treasurer's Office effective this date; authorization is granted to post notice of the job opportunity; said position is classified at Grade 13 of the AFSCME Courthouse/Human Services Unit.

Commissioner Watzke moved to authorize payment of the Commissioner Warrants in the following amounts:

FUND	AMOUNT
Revenue	\$54,527.58
Road & Bridge	\$26,100.52
Ditches	\$379.23
Ambulance	<u>\$24,231.89</u>
TOTAL	\$105,239.22

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

The Board moved the meeting to the EOC room in order to discuss the county's building project. Present for the meeting were representatives of KMA, Contegrity, Jail Consultant Al Brinkman, and Otter Tail Power representative Bill Klyve, and five citizens. Scott Fettig and Mark Schneider of KMA reviewed the program and aspects of the Option 4 plan. Larry Fillipi of Contegrity Group reviewed the planning schedule.

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:21 p.m.

James Thoreen, County Coordinator

Larry Sayre, Chair