

**STEVENS COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Regular Meeting  
Official Proceedings  
Tuesday, May 04, 2010  
9:00 a.m.**

The regular meeting of the Stevens County Board of Commissioners was called to order at 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 04, 2010, by Chair Don Munsterman. Members in attendance were Kloos, Staples, Munsterman, Sayre and Watzke.

The minutes of the April 20, 2010, regular meeting were approved on a motion by Kloos, second by Watzke and all members voting aye.

The minutes of the April 22, 2010, special meeting were approved on a motion by Watzke, second by Sayre and all members voting aye.

County Coordinator Jim Thoreen provided a brief summary of a partial background check on candidate for the Coordinator position, Michael Brethorst.

Commissioner Sayre moved to accept and name Michael Brethorst as finalist for the position of County Coordinator. Commissioner Kloos seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

On a motion by Watzke, second by Sayre and all members voting aye, the Board authorized Thoreen to offer Brethorst the position at Grade 23, step 8 on the 10 step scale, including benefits and bank of sick leave and vacation.

Hancock City Attorney Neil Simonson represented the City's request to receive at nominal cost a parcel of tax forfeited property in downtown Hancock. He suggested an agreement with the City to hold the county harmless should legal issues arise in the transfer of said property; the City of Hancock will re-develop the land.

On a motion by Staples, second by Watzke and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the transfer to the City of Hancock of a state deed, for \$1.00 and other considerations for the following described tax forfeited property: parcel number 21-0144-000.

On a motion by Watzke, second by Sayre and all members voting aye, the Board authorized payment of warrants in the amount of \$738,663.40 for the building project, including an additional invoice in the amount of \$8,514.77 to KMA.

Commissioner Kloos moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 100504-10  
OPPOSING CHANGES TO THE  
FEDERAL CLEAN WATERS ACT**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Rep. Oberstar has introduced legislation to broaden the definition of the term “navigable waters” which will have the effect of imposing untenable regulations on bodies of water which have never been, or ever will be, considered “navigable” as commonly understood in the 1972 Clean Waters Act; and

WHEREAS the expanded federal jurisdiction on small bodies of water will complicate and aggravate efforts to direct proper focus on “navigable” waters which deserve improvements to water quality and quantity; and

WHEREAS, local units of government are best positioned to determine improvement needs, if any, for commonly recognized “non-navigable” water systems.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Stevens County Board of Commissioners hereby requests Rep. Oberstar to conduct public hearings throughout Minnesota for purposes of informing citizens and providing opportunities for sharing of perspectives; the Board further opposes passage of legislation until such time that “navigable” is more narrowly defined and there is clear understanding of waters which will be subject to oversight by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

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

Commissioner Kloos moved to authorize payment to West Central Initiative in the amount of \$3,000. Commissioner Watzke seconded the motion and all members voting aye, the motion carried.

On a motion by Sayre, second by Watzke and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the Chair to sign a contract with Ehlers and Associates for compliance in disclosure of reporting services.

At 10:00 a.m., the Chair convened a public hearing pursuant to M.S. 103E, Section 805, a petition for partial Abandonment on Portion of County Ditch #43, NW ¼ Section 18, T124N, R42W. Present for the hearing were the applicant, County Engineer Brian Giese; County Consulting Ditch Attorney Kurt Deter, and seven citizens. Giese outlined the proposed abandonment; Mr. Deter reviewed the Board’s legal parameters within which they may act. Doug Wulf, contractor on behalf of the applicant, outlined the plan to construct a new private drainage system on the applicant’s land in the NW ¼ Section 18, T124N, R42W. Mr Deter suggested several options for the Board’s action, and he suggested that the county staff and tiler prepare more specific design information regarding the proposed private tile, and that landowners sign formal documentation of this action should the abandonment be approved.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Staples and all members voting aye, the Board continued the hearing until 10:00 a.m., June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

Giese presented additional county ditch issues, including a request from Dennis Wernsing to drain Gravel Lake into County Ditch #2 in Baker Township.

On a motion by Staples, second by Kloos and all members voting aye, the Board called for a public hearing on petitions for outlets into County Ditch #2 in Section 7, 8, 17 & 18 Baker Township; said hearing to convene at 9:00 a.m., Wednesday June 9, 2010, at the Morris City Council Chambers.

Giese also presented information regarding the status of work project or concerns on Co. Ditch # 5, 13, 15, 16, 17, 21 and 43.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Staples and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the County Engineer to proceed with repairs to ditches in the references brought to the Board this date.

On a motion by Kloos, second by Staples and all members voting aye, the Board authorized the County Engineer to order a 2010 Caterpillar 140M motor grader at the quoted state bid amount of \$51,670.

Several Commissioners offered reports of their respective committee assignments.

Commissioner Watzke moved the following resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 100504-11  
DECLARING MAY 4, 2010  
AS TEACHER RECOGNITION  
DAY IN STEVENS COUNTY**

WHEREAS, the teachers in the school districts which serve the students and citizens of the county, as well as all teachers in this nation, display the finest attributes of a profession which literally holds in their hands the future of our country as they work daily to instruct our children; and

WHEREAS, the daily and weekly tasks and duties for teachers requires extraordinary commitment of time and resources so that the students will be presented the optimal opportunities to learn and to mature;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Stevens County Board of Commissioners hereby declares Tuesday, May 4, 2010 as Teacher Recognition Day in Stevens County as we join hands with local units of government throughout the nation to honor and display our appreciation for the dedication of those women and men who have chosen to respond to the call for public service to our youth.

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

Having no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m. on a motion by Staples, second by Watzke and all members voting aye.

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James Thoreen, County Coordinator

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Don Munsterman, Chair