

REGULAR MEETING

BECKER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

DATE: Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 8:15 a.m.

LOCATION: Board Room, Courthouse All Present

CITY COUNTY SCHOOL CHAMBER QUARTERLY MEETING

LOCATION: City of Detroit Lakes Chamber Offices at 7:00 a.m.

Agenda

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the Agenda with clarification under the Highway Agenda to correct Item 3, to read Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan; and Item 4, to read 2006 Annual Highway Report Discussion (Knutson, Mulari), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve the Minutes of March 27, 2007 (Knutson, Mulari), carried.

Commissioners

1. Open Forum:
 - a. Tim Gordon, County Sheriff, advised the Board that Moorhead is doing a study on the Billboard Issue regarding traffic accidents.
 - b. Hank Ludtke, spoke in support of the North Country Trails Association, and he feels that the trail is in the best interest of Becker County.
2. Reports & Correspondence:

Commissioner Nelson Reports:

- a. Chamber Ag Committee. Met at Don Skarie's facility for growing tomatoes and were given a tour. The County needs to help promote these kinds of businesses.
- b. Sunnyside Board Meeting. Sunnyside is in the process of hiring an Administrator as their's is leaving.
- c. Attended the Human Services Meeting; Human Services Director will be in later on the Agenda.
- d. Planning & Zoning Committee. The Ordinance Committee is working on the Zoning Ordinances.

Commissioner Salminen Reports:

- a. Airport Meeting. The runway project may take some time to complete. The committee is in the process of working on the grant. A form has been developed for pilots input for use of the facility.
- b. AMC Legislative Conference. As a delegate on Natural Resources we discussed: 1) Electronic Waste, 2) No Net Loss wetlands and 3) Water. The plan is to restore wetlands; Western Minnesota is the target.

Commissioner Mulari Reports:

- a. AMC Legislative Conference. The conference was very interesting.
- b. Environmental Services Meeting. Discussed “Test Pickup Sites” located in the County for Household Hazardous Waste, appliance pickup, tires, etc. Steve Skoog is excited about out-reaching in the County for Household Hazardous Waste (HHW). The future of waste handling in the County was discussed.

Commissioner Bellefeuille Reports:

- a. AMC Legislative Conference. Attended the class for Freshmen Commissioners, good communications among Commissioners. Juvenile Detention Center Meeting. Items discussed: They are having some difficulty in having some member counties pay their share. Population is on increase, projected 19 per day, running at 22.

Commissioner Knutson Reports:

- a. Environmental Services Committee. Committee is reviewing needed construction at the landfill. The Committee appreciates the part Steve Skoog has played in improvements at the landfill.

3. Appointments:

- a. It was moved and seconded to approve the following AMC District IV assignments (Salminen, Bellefeuille), carried.
- b. Environmental and Natural Resources – Harry Salminen/Delegate
- c. Public Safety – Barry Nelson/Alternate Delegate
- d. General Government – Karen Mulari/Alternate Delegate
- e. Transportation – Larry Knutson/Alternate Delegate
- f. Health and Human Services – Nancy Nelson/Alternate Delegate
- g. It was moved and seconded to appoint Dr. Brian Riddle M.D., MeritCare to the Sunnyside Care Center Board (Nelson, Salminen), carried.
- h. It was moved and seconded to appoint Eugene Pevelko to the Becker County Board of Adjustments (Salminen, Bellefeuille), carried.

4. It was moved and seconded to approve any Commissioner’s attendance at the AMC Seminar, “Building Foundations Making Solid Land Use Decisions” on April 30, 2007 at the Detroit Lakes Holiday Inn (Salminen, Knutson), carried.

Auditor-Treasurer

1. It was moved and seconded to approve Gambling Permits for Heart of Lakes Bowhunters Club (annual renewal), for operations at their club at 43617 Inlet Beach Road, Pelican Rapids in Erie Township and for the Humane Society of the Lakes for operations at Little Easy on the Green, Lake View Township (Salminen, Bellefeuille), carried.

2. It was moved and seconded to approve a Tubing License Renewal for James & Cathleen Pihlaja, Charlies Otter Tail Tubing, 33503 State Hwy. #34, Detroit Lakes, Erie Township (Knutson, Mulari), carried.
3. It was moved and seconded to approve Renewal Combination On/Off Sale Liquor Licenses (Salminen, Bellefeuille), carried.
 - a. Lance P. Highman, Northern Inn, Toad Lake Township
 - b. Cari Hough, Personal Representative for Richard Curley, Curley's On Cotton Lake, Inc., Erie Township
 - c. Susan L. Kimball, Toad Lake Store, Toad Lake Township
4. It was moved and seconded to approve Renewal On/Sale Liquor Licenses (Salminen, Bellefeuille), carried.
 - a. Ryan Ulrich, Bayview Bar & Grill, Lake View Township
 - b. Kevin Karel, Cormorant Enterprises, Inc., Cormorant Inn & Suites, Cormorant Township
 - c. Robert B. Spizzo, Resort Management Corp., Forest Hills Golf & R.V. Resort, Audubon Township
 - d. Cody Parr, T.F. Boonies, Inc., Lake View Township
 - e. Jeffrey A. Krueger, Horseshoe, Inc., Soo Pass Restaurant & Saloon, Lake View Township
5. It was moved and seconded to approve a Renewal Off/Sale Liquor License for John P. Johnson, Richwood Off/Sale, Inc., Richwood Off/Sale, Richwood Township (Salminen, Bellefeuille), carried.
6. It was moved and seconded to approve a Renewal Wine & Strong Beer License for Beth Schupp, Fair Hills Inc., Wildflower Golf Course, Lake Eunice Township (Bellefeuille, Salminen), carried.
7. It was moved and seconded to approve a Renewal Off/Sale 3.2 Beer License for Cody Parr, T.F. Boonies, Inc., T.F. Boonies, Lake View Township (Bellefeuille, Salminen), carried.
8. It was moved and seconded to approve the Renewal Combination On/Off Sale 3.2 Beer Licenses (Bellefeuille, Salminen), carried.
 - a. Robert W. Miller, Frazee Golf Inc., Frazee Golf Course, Burlington Township
 - b. Jeffrey A. Krueger, Horseshoe Inc., Soo Pass Restaurant & Saloon, Lake View Township
9. It was moved to approve the Renewal of On/Sale Liquor and 3.2 Off/Sale Beer License for Robert E. Beck, Broken Wheel 3, Detroit Township, contingent on receipt of application by Wednesday, April 11 and approval at the April 10,

Township Meeting (Bellefeuille), motion died for lack of a second. It was moved to deny the Renewal of On/Sale Liquor 3.2 Off/Sale Beer License for Robert E. Beck, Broken Wheel 3, Detroit Township due to not having followed procedure and not having a completed application (Salminen). Motion was withdrawn.

Finance Committee Minutes

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the Claims with qualifications: Remove per diem for township meeting for John Bellefeuille; and over 90 day approval for Vivian Anderson reimbursement due to misplaced receipts (Salminen, Knutson), carried.
2. Natural Resource Management. Recommended to approve and will be formally addressed later on the Agenda.
3. IT Requests.
 - a. It was moved and seconded to approve the request for the BTI Bluestone Tech recording software, because it will work with the new digital phone system as well as with the analog system used by the Jail. The purchase price is \$28,314 including installation and can be covered by 911 dedicated funds (Salminen, Bellefeuille), carried.
 - b. It was moved and seconded to approve the request to contract for a year with Keith Kosse for a maintenance agreement for the AS400 at the cost of \$3,900 (Salminen, Mulari), carried.
4. Environmental Affairs Personnel Request. Recommend to continue the process and will be formally addressed later on the Agenda.
5. Building Committee Change Order for Probation Relocation. It was moved and seconded to approve the cost to build temporary offices at the amount of \$980 in the upper meeting room (previously court administration) as construction is underway on the Courthouse Addition and is generating a significant amount of distraction (Salminen, Knutson), carried.
6. Highway Capital Purchase. Recommended to approve and will be formally addressed later on the Agenda.
7. Transit Bus Garage and Office. Recommended to approve and will be formally addressed later on the Agenda.

Assessor

1. It was moved and seconded to approve the following Abatements (Salminen, Mulari), carried.

Parcel No.	Tax District	Request	Amount
R08.0797.504	Detroit	Classification Correction	\$108
R17.0651.111	Lake Eunice	Classification Correction	374
R36.0285.000	White Earth	Classification Correction	36
R49.2512.514	Detroit Lakes	Classification Correction	244
R49.2512.514	Detroit Lakes	Classification Correction	264

2. It was moved and seconded to pass Resolution No. 04-07-1E, approving to hire (2) part-time Transfer Station Operator's, (1) which averages 38 hours/week and receives pro-rated benefits, and (1) averaging 24 hours/week. These positions are a result of two resignations at the Becker County Transfer Station (Salminen, Mulari), carried.

Natural Resources Management

1. It was moved and seconded to add tree seedling purchase to the Agenda (Salminen, Knutson), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to pass Resolution No. 04-07-1B, approving the funding request of \$5,000 to the North Country Trail Association for non-motorized trails through Becker County, which will act as a hard match for a Federal Recreation Trails Grant. Our County Attorney has determined that since the funds will be used to improve "public" lands, the provision of funds would be legal but should be earmarked for public lands within Becker County only (Salminen, Mulari), carried.
3. It was moved and seconded to pass Resolution No. 04-07-1A, which proposes to reclassify the Tax-forfeited land from "conservation" to "non-conservation" allowing for the sale of the land. Eagle View Township will have sixty days to approve the reclassification (Salminen, Knutson), carried.
4. It was moved and seconded to approve the sale of Tax-forfeited land for County Highway right-of-way to purchase a 0.07 acre permanent easement on Tax-forfeited land for a bridge replacement project on County Hwy 42 for the sum of \$105 (Salminen, Knutson), carried.
5. Tree Seedling Purchase. The bid for 89,000 Jack Pine Seedlings from PRT, Canada was approved at the last Board Meeting, but when the order was sent, they were out of the trees. It was moved and seconded to go to the next lowest bid from the MN DNR at a \$4,000 increase in cost (Salminen, Knutson), carried.
6. Chip Lohmeier discussed the 100 Acre Tax-forfeit Parcel, located East of Detroit Lakes, meeting which occurred on April 11. He stated there was good discussion. Commissioner Salminen would like to see a primitive campground discussed.

Human Services

1. It was moved and seconded to add to the Transit Agenda Alternate 1 and 2 to the Transit Building (Mulari, Salminen), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to approve a Purchase of Services Agreement with Blue Sky, Inc. to provide Independent Living Skills, Supportive Employment Services along with some other supportive Services, capped amount is \$650,000 (Salminen, Mulari), carried.
3. It was moved and seconded to accept the Children and Family Services Report (Salminen, Nelson), carried.
4. It was moved and seconded to accept the Adult Services Report (Salminen, Mulari), carried.
5. It was moved and seconded to approve the Human Services Claims (Salminen, Mulari), carried.
6. It was moved and seconded to approve the Community Health Claims (Salminen, Mulari), carried.
7. It was moved and seconded to approve the Transit Claims (Salminen, Knutson), carried.
8. It was moved and seconded to pass Resolution No. 04-07-1I, to approve the request to implement Alternates #1 and #2 to the construction of the Transit Building in the amounts of \$55,069 and \$13,650 respectively; and that Alternates #1 and #2 be added to the base bid of the Transit Building awarded to J.P. Structure (Salminen, Knutson), carried.

Highway

1. It was moved and seconded to pass Resolution No. DOH04-07-1G, approving to authorize the County Engineer to purchase a replacement quick attach fork and bucket system for the fork lift at the 59 Pit for the cost of \$6,145 (Salminen, Bellefeuille), carried.
2. It was moved and seconded to pass Resolution No. 04-07-1F, adopting the 2007 Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Plan developed as a proactive way to address roadside management (Salminen, Bellefeuille), carried.
3. The 2006 Annual Highway Report overview was given by Brad Wentz and Kim Kildal, Becker County Highway Department.

Planning & Zoning

1. Off-Premises Billboard discussion Public Input. Several citizens came to this portion of the meeting. Nine people signed in to speak.
 - 1) Keith Franklin, Franklin Outdoor Advertising. He feels the billboards do a lot of advertising for Detroit Lakes businesses. Placement of billboards is already governed by zoning.
 - 2) Steve Anderson, Franklin Outdoor Advertising. We are heavily regulated. Majority of signs are used by local businesses.
 - 3) Vilas Van Slooten, Franklin Outdoor Advertising. Concerned about local businesses advertising and thinks it is premature to do a moratorium.
 - 4) Gerry Shram. The information presented by Franklin Outdoor Advertising is good information, but the policy should be reviewed.
 - 5) James Varberg. He likes signs and feels billboards help with information for lodging, food, etc. The sign companies already are policed by regulations and feels advertising makes the world work.
 - 6) Sharon Josephson. She states to have no financial interest in billboards. She is in favor of a moratorium to control density. A moratorium would give time for Becker County Planning & Zoning to study the Billboard issue.
 - 7) Del Bergseth. He states to have no financial interest in billboards and feels we need a moratorium to consider the issue. People don't want billboards everywhere, and how far out of town should billboards be located?
 - 8) Patrick Kenney, Attorney. He informed the Board of procedural time lines of Public Hearing. He feels an ordinance committee should review requirements. State and Federal requirements govern placement of billboards and requires proper zoning. Highway 34 is a Scenic By-way and billboards are restricted. He pointed out that moratoriums are for the issue of Public Health, Safety and Welfare.
 - 9) Lyle Anderson – Defers to the County Board discussion.

Commissioners Discussion

- 1) Commissioner Salminen expressed concern of the value of a moratorium; he feels Conditional Use Permits should apply. He thinks a committee from within the county should study the regulations and provide solutions.
- 2) Commissioner Nelson feels the Commercial Zoning requirement works as a control. In his opinion, he doesn't feel a moratorium is necessary. His greatest concern remains with county roads. Electronic signs with scrolling messages were of greater concern.
- 3) Commissioner Knutson feels our current regulations were put in place by reasonable people, and doesn't feel a moratorium is needed.
- 4) Commissioner Bellefeuille feels we don't need a moratorium at this time and likes the idea of having a committee to study the billboard policy.
- 5) Commissioner Mulari likes the idea of forming a committee to study the billboard policy.

2. It was moved and seconded to approve to form a Sub-Committee made up of Becker County citizens to study the Billboard Sign Policy (Salminen, Bellefeuille), carried.
3. It was moved and seconded to appoint Commissioners Salminen and Knutson to the Billboard Sub-Committee (Knutson, Bellefeuille), carried. Patty Johnson has agreed to Chair these meetings and a report will be brought back to the Board.

MCIT Annual Report

Gail Sater and Robin Sykes from Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust presented the 2007 Member Report for Becker County.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ Brian C. Berg
Brian C. Berg
County Administrator

/s/ Barry Nelson
Barry Nelson
Board Chair