

The Wright County Board met in regular session at 9:00 A.M. with Husom, Sawatzke, Daleiden, Potter and Borrell present.

MINUTES

Potter moved to approve the 4-19-16 County Board Minutes, seconded by Husom. The motion carried 5-0.

AGENDA

Petitions were accepted to the Agenda as follows: Item For Consideration, D, "Woodland Township Correspondence" (Borrell). Potter moved to approve the Agenda as amended, seconded by Daleiden, and carried 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

Daleiden moved to approve the Consent Agenda, seconded by Borrell. Potter said a claim to Springsted on Page 28 of the Claims Listing was miscoded and will be corrected to Bond Issuing Expenses. The motion carried 5-0:

- A. ADMINISTRATION
 - 1. Refer Elevator Repairs to 5-11-16 Building Committee Meeting
 - 2. Authorize Signature on Revised MCPP 2016 Agreement
- B. ASSESSOR
 - 1. Approve Abatement PID# 118-800-261400, Clayton Montgomery Prop LLC
- C. ASSESSOR
 - 1. Approve Abatement PID# 114-325-000050, Cascades Homes Homeowners Assoc.
- D. ASSESSOR
 - 1. Approve Abatement PID# 114-500-161303, State of MN - DNR
- E. ASSESSOR
 - 1. Approve Reverse Abatement PID# 118-222-008090, Dawn Saylor
- F. ASSESSOR
 - 1. Approve Abatement PID# 204-100-342300, Charles & Kristin Helwig
- G. ASSESSOR
 - 1. Approve Abatement PID# 208-200-234400, Jim & Lisa Blodgett
- H. ASSESSOR
 - 1. Refer Assessment Contract Rates to 5-11-16 Ways and Means Committee Meeting
- I. AUDITOR/TREASURER
 - 1. Position Replacement:
 - A. Accounting Technician
- J. AUDITOR/TREASURER
 - 1. Approve Claims as Listed in the Abstract, Subject to Audit, for a Total of \$328,669.68 with 169 Vendors and 313 Transactions.
- K. EXTENSION
 - 1. Approve the following adult and youth appointments to the Wright County Extension Committee:
 - A. Adult member: Tammi Dahlman, term January 1, 2016 - December 31, 2018
 - B. Youth member: Joey Hartley, term January 1, 2016 - August 31, 2018
- L. SHERIFF
 - 1. Position Replacement:
 - A. Deputy
- M. SHERIFF
 - 1. Position Replacement:
 - A. Deputy

TIMED AGENDA ITEMS**BOY/GIRL COUNTY DAY - INTRODUCTION OF BOARD & OVERVIEW OF BOARD PROCEEDINGS, QUESTION/ANSWER PERIOD**

Commissioner Sawatzke welcomed students representing the School Districts of Dassel/Cokato, Maple Lake, and Monticello. County Board members introduced themselves and the Districts they represent. Students observed Board proceedings. As part of Boy/Girl County Day, students toured other parts of the Government Center and were served lunch at the American Legion.

DR. QUINN STROBL, MEDICAL EXAMINER

Dr. Strobl is the Chief Medical Examiner with the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office, which serves 19 Minnesota Counties. Dr. Strobl provided the Medical Examiner's Annual Report for Wright County. This was provided as an informational item.

ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**AUTHORIZE ATTENDANCE, WATERSHED DISTRICT DISCUSSION, 5-25-16 AT 3:00 P.M., SAUK CENTRE CITY HALL**

Borrell moved to authorize attendance, seconded by Daleiden. The motion carried unanimously.

WATERSHED DISTRICT TERM LIMITS

Wright County received a letter from Stearns County on 3-15-16 regarding term limits for Watershed District Managers. Stearns County appointees are limited to consecutive terms equaling nine years. The request from Stearns County is that all managers of watershed districts that include Stearns County be appointed under the same guidelines. Wright and Meeker do not have term limits for Watershed District Managers. Husom said the Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) Managers have no issue with different standards for different counties.

After discussion, Husom made a motion directing the Coordinator to send a letter to Stearns County indicating that Wright County will continue with not imposing term limits. If Stearns wants consistency, they can change to have no term limits. The motion was seconded by Potter and carried 5-0.

LETTER TO PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION RE: AURORA PROJECTS (DALEIDEN)

Aurora Projects were discussed at the 4-19-16 County Board Meeting as part of the overall Solar Farm discussion. At that meeting, it was suggested that Wright County may want to send a letter to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC), with a copy to Xcel Energy and Aurora, voicing concern and questioning such things as tree removal, shifting of soil, power lines, and power poles in the right-of-way.

At today's County Board Meeting, the Board again discussed the Aurora Project in Buffalo Township, the lack of communication by the PUC, and Buffalo Township being misled on land use for the project. Husom said that when Geronimo first presented project information at Buffalo Township Meetings, it was conveyed that the project would follow the lay of the land, poles would be placed appropriately (sink poles at different levels), and there would be some sort of privacy berm for neighbors. Geronimo was bought out shortly thereafter. Sawatzke said that the premise for allowing solar farms on agricultural land is that they are harmonious with agricultural land and do not impact surrounding properties. Borrell said the Planning Commission recently approved a solar project in the Monticello area. The land use may return to a gravel pit in the future.

It was the consensus that the Coordinator will draft a letter to the PUC voicing concern with the Aurora Project in Buffalo Township. The Planning & Zoning Administrator and the County Attorney's Office should review the letter. The letter will be presented at the next County Board Meeting for review and approval and should address the following:

- What was proposed and what occurred with regard to land use was very different (amount of gravel hauled to the site for the purpose of roads; location of power poles, lack of permitting, and power lines not being underground; cutting of trees; and the shifting of a tremendous amount of black dirt).
- Interconnection issues between solar companies and Xcel Energy.
- Lack of overall communication.
- A request for the PUC to include more local public input.

- A request for the PUC to be open and transparent about what is occurring in Wright County.

WOODLAND TOWNSHIP CORRESPONDENCE (BORRELL)

Correspondence was received from Woodland Township's Attorney relating to County Ditch 31 and the Fillmore Avenue culvert. The Woodland Township Board is considering culvert replacement as part of road maintenance and is seeking the County's input on the proper size and elevation of the replacement culvert (both on the intake and outtake sides). Action is anticipated soon as the existing culvert is approaching the end of its useful life.

The County Board discussed culvert size. Borrell said the current culvert is 42". A slightly larger culvert size of 48" is more common, may result in a lower cost, and provides for easier maintenance. It is felt the ordinary high water mark may be set too high in that location. It was the consensus that Daleiden will contact the DNR and the Army Corp of Engineers on the culvert replacement.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE / ADVISORY BOARD UPDATES

1. Wright County Community Action (WCCA). Borrell said the WCCA Director is seeking a grant on food safety. Borrell referenced a separate presentation by Public Health to the Board reflecting 17% of people in Wright County feel they will not have enough food in the future. Borrell provided the Director with information on the study by the Department of Health.
2. Central MN Mental Health Center. Sawatzke attended a meeting on 4-25-16. The bylaws are being reviewed by members (Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright Counties) as they are outdated (1965). The bylaws were updated in approximately 1995, but the document was not registered with the Secretary of State's Office and is therefore not applicable. The CMMHC Director came from a similar organization in Willmar which involved 6 counties but was more rural. The bylaws document of that organization may be used as a starting point for the new bylaws of the CMMHC. Once in final form, the bylaws will need to be approved by all four Counties.
3. Bertram Chain of Lakes Park. Sawatzke and Daleiden met with the Parks Director, members of the Bertram Advisory Board, and Monticello City Officials to look at roads, parking areas, and structures. Volunteers are being sought to plant 6,000 tree seedlings at the Bertram Chain of Lakes Regional Park on 4-30-16 from 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M. To sign up, contact Brad Harrington at the Wright County Parks Department, 763-682-7894 or Bradley.harrington@co.wright.mn.us.
4. Historical Society. Sawatzke attended a recent meeting. The Historical Society conveyed appreciation for assistance provided at the Historical Society by staff of the Administration Office.
5. GRRL. Potter attended the GRRL meeting. The GRRL will move to a new method of budgeting which will include presentations on any requested library changes. Three libraries are looking to increase hours minimally. The Associate Director position will be eliminated through reorganization. Duties will be reassigned, with a portion being absorbed by the Executive Director who formerly served as the Associate Director. Potter stated the GRRL has access to Ancestry.com and patrons will be able to utilize that service at branch locations.
6. Crisis Nursery Fundraiser. Husom attended a Fund Raiser on 4-22-16 in Monticello. It was a well-attended and successful Fundraiser.
7. wRight Choice Backpack Buddies Program. Husom said the Journal Press recently published an article about the Program. They are looking for community members to help fill backpacks. Contact Joy Turner at 763-684-2395 to assist or to learn more about donating food for the Program. wRight Choice is an alternative program for students who have been suspended. It requires the students to participate versus staying at home.

The meeting adjourned at 10:03 A.M.