

**LINCOLN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
MEETING MINUTES**

March 15, 2011  
Courthouse Commissioner Room  
Ivanhoe, MN 56142

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Board Chair, Don Evers, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioners present were Adam Gillund, Joan Jagt, Curtis Blumeyer, Larry Hansen, and Don Evers. Also present were Kathy Schreurs, County Auditor and Glen Petersen, County Attorney.

Motion by Gillund, seconded by Jagt, to approve minutes from the March 1, 2011 Commissioner meeting. All voted in favor.

Motion by Blumeyer, seconded by Jagt, to approve agenda items. All voted in favor.

Nancy Verstraete, Western Community Action, requested approval of Resolution authorizing Western Community Action as an entity to be charged with the administration of funds made available through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program in Lincoln County. Motion by Jagt, seconded by Blumeyer, to approve Resolution No. 15-2011 (Resolution Authorizing Application for Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program. All voted in favor.

**Resolution 15-2011  
Authorizing Application for  
Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency  
Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, State of Minnesota, has been authorized to undertake a program to provide funds for Family Homeless Prevention & Assistance Projects; and,

WHEREAS, Western Community Action has developed an application for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program; and

WHEREAS, Western Community Action has demonstrated the ability to perform the required activities of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that Western Community Action is hereby authorized as an entity to be charged with the administration of funds made available through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program in the county of Lincoln, in Minnesota.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

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Don Evers, 2011 Board Chair

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Kathy Schreurs, County Auditor

Al Bakke, Western Community Action, gave an update on programs that are currently offered through Western Community Action. Bakke also gave an update on potential legislative cuts to community based services for education, health care, affordable housing, energy assistance, transportation and other vital community programs. Commissioners were asked to contact state and federal legislators letting them know the importance of these programs to Lincoln County.

Gary Serie, Veteran's Service Officer, reported that there are 480 veterans in Lincoln County and that he had contact with about 125 different veterans throughout 2010. Serie reported that he had talked to a number of veterans and veterans organizations about having an office in Ivanhoe in addition to the office in Lake Benton. Serie stated that most liked the idea on one office in Lake

Benton so the veterans did not have to try to remember which days would be available in each office. Serie also stated that having two offices would add extra expense with regards to phones, internet, faxes and mileage. Serie stated that he had also talked to the Veterans Service Officer in Yellow Medicine who has an office in Canby and Granite Falls who stated that there is also a problem of having the files in the right place at the right time.

Lee Amundson, County Engineer gave the construction/maintenance update.

Motion by Gillund, seconded by Blumeyer, to approve position description language updates/changes for several positions in the Highway Department subject to review and approval by the Personnel Committee. All voted in favor.

Amundson reviewed the current "right-of-way" policy. Amundson asked that the Board consider changes to the policy and gave a report regarding policies in other area counties. Motion by Jagt, seconded by Hansen, to approve Resolution No. 13-2011(Right-of-Way Policy). All voted in favor.

**RESOLUTION No. 13 – 2011**  
**Right-of-Way**

**Whereas**, the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Engineer to acquire right-of-way on various transportation projects from time to time and;

**Whereas**, in order to facilitate and standardize the acquisition process, for fair and equal consideration of the interests and concerns, of all tax payers and property owners in Lincoln County, the Commissioners have established maximum payment rates for certain items which are commonly paid for by Lincoln County as part of the right-of-way acquisition processes;

**Now Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the Lincoln County Board of Commissioners do hereby establish the following rates:

**Permanent Right-of-Way** shall be paid for at not more than 130% of the County Assessor's Estimated Market Value with the intent that offers will be made based upon Comparable Sales Study or any other recognized real estate property acquisition study methodology.

**Temporary Slope Easement** shall be paid for at the rate of 1/3 of the Permanent Right-of-Way rate per acre with a minimum of \$500 per acre.

**Fencing Payment for Landowners Removal** shall be at the rate of \$0.50 per foot for removal: rate applies for barbed wire or woven wire fence. Rate for temporary fence removal is \$0.25 per foot.

**Fencing Payment for Landowners Replacement** shall be at the rate of \$0.25 per foot for temporary fence (one strand), and \$0.75 per foot for barbed, woven wire fence or multi-wire high tensile fence.

**Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved**, that this policy shall apply to all new negotiations for projects commencing after April 1, 2011.

Adopted by Majority Vote on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of **March 2011**.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

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Don Evers, 2011 Board Chair

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Kathy Schreurs, County Auditor

Amundson reported that the Tyler Highway shop should be replaced in the near future and would like to start designating \$75,000.00 per year towards a new shop. No action at this time.

Amundson recommended that the county's tobacco policy be reviewed. The issue will be turned over to the Health and Safety Committee for review and recommendations.

Amundson reported that Topeka Shiners have been downgraded from endangered to threatened, but construction in those areas is still limited to late fall.

The Board reviewed a resolution from Lake Benton Township regarding the replacement of Bridge No. 8367. Amundson will add the bridge to the multi-year plan.

Amundson reported that the lighting in the Road and Bridge building is being assessed for efficiency.

Amundson reported that interviews for a motor grader operator will begin on March 18, 2011.

Vince Robinson, Lincoln County Enterprise Development Facilitator, gave an update on the walking/biking trails in the Lake Benton area. The Lake Benton Area Foundation has spent about \$10,000 toward the application process and grant writing. Robinson requested that the Board approve a resolution of support for a grant application for construction of 1.41 miles of trail at Hole-in-the-Mountain Park. It is a 50% matching grant, up to \$100,000. The application must be in by March 31<sup>st</sup>. Grant funds cannot be used for County staff time/expenses.

Robinson reported that the cost for the engineering excavation and materials for a gravel trail would be approximately \$95,000.00. The additional cost to hard surface the trail with asphalt would be about \$110,000 and concrete would be approximately \$120,000. The concrete one would be preferred because of the horse traffic across the trail and the asphalt may not withstand the horse traffic as well. There would also be the possibility of a boardwalk across the wetlands area at the east end of the trail, but concrete would not be allowed to go through the wetlands. This would connect to a street in Lake Benton just north of the railroad tracks and continue on under the viaduct and to the lake.

Various federal and state grant funding programs were discussed. Robinson stated that there would not be any construction on the proposed trails until 2012, so it is something that could be budgeted for next year. It would have to be completed by July 2013. Robinson asked for a resolution of support from the Board. Motion by Evers, seconded by Hansen, to approve Resolution No. 14- 2011 with a maximum of 50% matching funds up to \$40,000 for the local trails program for just a gravel base. Commissioners Evers, Hansen, and Jagt voted in favor. Commissioners Gillund and Blumeyer voted in opposition. Motion carried by majority vote.

**Resolution No. 14-2011  
Trail Connection Program Grant**

WHEREAS, Lincoln County Supports the grant application made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the Local Trail Connections Program. The application is to construct 1.141 miles of trail within Hole-in-the-Mountain County Park; and,

WHEREAS, Lincoln County recognizes the fifty (50) percent match requirement for the Local Trail Connections Program, and has secured the matching funds;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: If Lincoln County is awarded a grant by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Lincoln County agreed to accept the grant award, and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above-referenced project. Lincoln County will comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements, and regulations as stated in the grant agreement; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: The Board of Commissioners of Lincoln County names the fiscal agent for Lincoln County for this project as:  
Kathy Schreurs, Lincoln County Auditor, 319 N Rebecca Street, P.O. Box 29, Ivanhoe, MN 56142

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Lincoln County hereby assures that the trail to be developed with assistance from the Local Trail Connections Program will be maintained for a period of no less than 20 years.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF LINCOLN COUNTY,  
MINNESOTA, THIS 15<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH, 2011.

ATTEST:

(SEAL)

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Don Evers, 2011 Board Chair

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Kathy Schreurs, County Auditor

Robert Olsen, Environmental Officer, reported that the Board did not officially approve the SCORE report that was presented at the March 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, so asked for Board approval. Motion by Jagt, seconded by Gillund to approve the 2010 SCORE report. All voted in favor.

Olsen reported that the petitioners for JCD16 may withdraw their petition to become part of the County ditch system and viewing is still not completed on JD28.

Olsen reviewed burning permits and what can happen if a person does burn and does not have a burning permit.

An application has been made to DNR to treat the west end of Lake Benton in 2011. When the original application was submitted, it did not include permission of the property owners that would be affected. Becker's Resort sent in their approval, DM&E Railroad did not respond, and Elvin and Lorna Beyers refused to sign. The application must be resubmitted with this information.

Some Verdi residents had questions on the Iler property. Robert stated that the County will go back in April 1<sup>st</sup> to finish the cleanup. There has been no action on the Wagner property although some items have been removed from there (possibly Iler's property). He noted that the taxes for last year have not been paid on the Wagner property.

Daryl Schlapkohl appeared before the Board to explain that the program that allowed him to hire summer help has been eliminated by the State of Minnesota, and he asked the Board if they would allow him to hire back the same two workers from last summer. Schlapkohl stated that it is very hard to keep training someone new each year, so he would prefer to hire the same two workers as the 2010 summer season. Schlapkohl also informed the Board that one of the workers was his son Jonathan. The Board gave informal approval for him to hire Jonathan and one other seasonal worker at the same wage as the 2010 season (\$9.00 per hour) for a 12 week period from June-August.

Bruce Nielsen, County Assessor, gave a presentation on the Pictometry program that he had received from Dean Larson, Pictometry District Manager. Nielsen stated that he had received a proposal from Mr. Larson to provide one foot orthos and two-way obliques of the entire County. The cost to the County would be approximately \$40,000. This quote is good until July. Nielsen stated that the County GIS system does not have the detailed information that is needed by the Assessor's Office. Nielsen will invite Mr. Larson to a future Board meeting to provide additional information.

Glen Petersen, County Attorney presented the Board information on a proposed A/V system for Courtroom A. Petersen stated that his budget could pay for approximately half of the cost of equipment and labor to install the equipment and the remaining costs could be paid through the Technology Account. Petersen stated that he would work with the Auditor's office on the details. Motion by Gillund, seconded by Jagt, to authorize the purchase of A/V equipment and installation for Courtroom A from the County Attorney budget, forfeiture account and the technology account. All voted in favor.

Motion by Gillund, seconded by Jagt to transfer \$924.05 from the County Attorney Forfeiture Account to the General Revenue 091 Account. All voted in favor.

Petersen reported on the Circle Sentence Program. This is a program through Health and Human Services and Probation that takes felony level juvenile offenders and puts them in a program to keep them out of the Court System in a move to cut costs. Glen suggested that Lincoln County consider combining their program with Lyon County because there are so few cases of this nature in Lincoln County. Glen asked for a resolution to support this program as a Lincoln County program for now with the idea of combining with Lyon County in the future. He has talked to Judge Diedrich, but has not heard back from her yet about combining with Lyon County. Motion by Jagt, seconded by Blumeyer to approve support of this program. All voted in favor.

Loretta Lundberg, Lincoln County Recorder, presented an e-mail she had sent to Colin Walle, Minnesota Passport Agency regarding the distribution of duties on the proposed passport changes.

Lundberg gave a report on the new computer updates that will allow her office to e-record documents in the near future. There are still some tests that need to be completed.

Lundberg reported that she will have her Recorder's Checking account closed out by the end of March. She had asked the OSA extra time until the end of the month because of all the changes that have taken place in her office.

Correspondence was reviewed and the following Committee Reports were given:

- Evers – Three Township Annual Meetings
- Gillund – Three Township Annual Meetings
- Jagt – Township Annual Meetings and Tourism
- Blumeyer – Township Annual Meetings, Public Health, Area II, Planning Meeting with the State Auditor's Office
- Hansen – RSVP, SRDC

Auditor Warrants were presented.

Motion by Blumeyer, seconded by Gillund, to approve the following Commissioner Warrants #13195 - 13270 for the following amounts: Revenue – \$51,933.71 and Road & Bridge - \$52,938.86. All voted in favor.

Chuck DeBates, Financial Accountant, reported that he and Barb Dybdahl have completed passport training.

Motion by Gillund, seconded by Jagt to adjourn at 12:53 p.m. All voted in favor.

ATTEST: (SEAL)

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Don Evers, 2011 Board Chair

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Kathy Schreurs, County Auditor