

BENTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – JULY 18, 2017

The Benton County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 18, 2017 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Commissioners Jim McMahon, Spencer Buerkle, Ed Popp, Jake Bauerly and Warren Peschl present. Call to order by Chair Peschl was at 9:00 AM followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag.

Buerkle/Bauerly unanimous to approve the agenda as written.

No one was present to speak under Open Forum.

Popp/McMahon unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 5, 2017 as written; 2) approve the Special Meeting Minutes of July 5, 2017 as written; 3) accept and file Committee of the Whole Minutes of June 27, 2017 as written; 4) adopt Resolution 2017-#29, approving Applications for MN Lawful Gambling for Sauk Rapids Sportsmen's Club to hold a raffle and sell pull-tabs at the Benton County Fairgrounds on August 1-6, 2017, and authorize the Chair to sign; 5) approve revised Master Client Agreement with Stonebrooke Engineering, Inc., and authorize the Chair to sign; and 6) approve Special Road Use Permit to hold a Color Vibe 5K Fun Run on CSAH 3 near the Granite City Speedway on August 5, 2017, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Chris Byrd, County Engineer, explained that the county's gravel lease agreement for the Eisenschenk pit has expired; the county has used this pit for almost ten years to produce good quality gravel for the 105 miles of gravel-surfaced roads—there is enough material remaining in the pit to last nearly 20 years for county use. Byrd outlined the benefits of having a lease agreement in place, stating his belief that it would be prudent to enter into a multi-year agreement with a landowner, while not eliminating the county's options to use material from other sources. He stated that a recent survey of Minnesota counties revealed that many counties either own, or have leases with, pits for their county needs. Byrd presented a map displaying the active and inactive gravel pits in Benton County, along with a map showing the gravel roads that are the county's responsibility—the Eisenschenk pit is within 6 miles of 34% of the county's gravel roads and within 10 miles of 60% of the county's gravel roads; a limitation to the Eisenschenk pit would be the haul distance to the extreme southeast corner of the county (may be wise to look at a pit in that location to address those gravel roads). Bauerly commented "...I have no problem with a long-term lease of a pit...my problem is trucking the gravel that far...I think hauling gravel more than ten miles doesn't make any sense...you are doing a lot of damage to roads getting the product there...if you calculate in the damage to the roads hauling it that far...I don't think we should be hauling gravel south of Highway 23...I think that should be a different location..." McMahon inquired of the cost per yard of material from other pits compared to the Eisenschenk pit. Byrd noted that along with paying the royalties for the Eisenschenk pit, the County is paying the aggregate tax to the Auditor-Treasurer and paying for the crushing (totaling approximately \$5.00 per yard plus hauling); it is difficult to compare costs with other pits without going out for bids. Popp commented "...we need to go out for bids and let other people bid...I think we can get a better deal for gravel from somebody else...I did not realize that we were paying the gravel tax and the crushing...there's different ways that some of these privately-owned pits would crush...I think the owner of the pit should pay the 21½ cents instead of the county..." McMahon stated his agreement with having a lease agreement in place, while looking for a comparative pit in the southeast corner of the county. Bauerly suggested that the county partner

with the townships to leverage better prices. He also asked Byrd to identify those gravel roads which are "blacktop ready" or "shovel ready".

Monty Headley, County Administrator, reported on the following topics: 1) Update on Transition to New Plan Administrator for HSA, VEBA and FSA Accounts (transition from One Digital to Select Account has experienced challenges due to Select Account's long-term arrangement with Matrix, a trustee bank based in Colorado, whose agreement would not be governed by Minnesota law; neither the County Attorney's Office, nor MCIT, are recommending approval of the Matrix agreement; Headley stated his desire to discuss this issue further at a future Committee of the Whole with all interested parties present—this effort started many months ago to try to bring better service to County employees; Bauerly suggested that staff contact other Minnesota counties to see what companies they are utilizing for HSA/VEBA/FSA administration); 2) Self-Funded Employee Health Insurance (per Board approval, Benton County was included in the bid of the Public Sector Collaborative, a group of "self-funded" southwest MN public entities who joined together to select a third-party administrator and a reinsurer; the Benefits Advisory Committee will be reviewing the bids tomorrow, along with our broker, Marsh & McLennan, and making a recommendation whether or not to move forward with self-funded health insurance; although the counties join collectively to bid for administration services, each entity keeps their own separate plan designs and receives their own unique rates based on their own claims; if the Benefits Advisory Committee recommends moving forward with self-funding, the AFSCME bargaining group (as the county's largest bargaining group) will be brought into the process); 3) Solar Subscriber Agreements (about a year ago, the Board agreed to move forward with a subscriber agreement with Geronimo Energy for a community solar garden; the County Attorney's Office had some issues with the initial agreement; thus, a few months ago a revised agreement was received which is currently under County Attorney review; at this time, there is no more subscriber capacity for the site just west of Foley; however, there is capacity left at the site on Golden Spike Road (40%)—Benton County would need to also be subscribers to sites in adjacent counties to fully maximize our potential; about a year ago, Geronimo had estimated about \$18,000/year in energy savings; it is not known at this time how to bring this issue to conclusion); 4) Auditing RFP Results (State law changed to allow counties to contract with private CPA firms for their audits; seven responses were received in response to the County's RFP; a committee reviewed the proposals and will be recommending the firm of Clifton Larson Allen for the 2017-2018 audit at a bid of \$44,000—although they were not the very lowest bid, they have substantial experience in county auditing (the total cost of the State audit in 2016 was \$62,000); 5) LEAN/Continuous Improvement Update (Headley reported that a group of county employees recently attended an AMC LEAN facilitator training; the group also conducted a true LEAN Kaizen event on the topic of tracking and tagging of capital assets; these employees will now work with their department heads to identify opportunities for LEAN events—schedule, organize, conduct and report on those events; Board consensus that each county department conduct at least one LEAN/Continuous Improvement event during the next year and report back to the Board); 6) Recorder Appointment Process (Headley will ask the Board to schedule a Committee of the Whole to further discuss how the Board may wish to reorganize this function; once the Board takes formal action, the appointment would take effect 60 days thereafter; Headley will provide Board members with an AMC survey of how other counties have reorganized the Re-

order function); and 7) Meeting with Palmer Wireless (county staff met with Laura and Albert Kangas from Palmer Wireless who remain interested in installing wireless internet equipment on the tower at Mayhew Lake; the understanding is that Palmer Wireless will do a structural analysis, which includes a "simulation" of the effect of adding this equipment and making a determination on whether or not the tower can support this equipment (Albert Kangas feels it is unlikely the tower will pass the structural analysis); a new tower would require an 80'x80' area; the Department of Development Director will conduct a site visit to see if this site would physically work for a new tower; the Assistant County Attorney will draft a short-term ground lease to cover the structural analysis phase and also a longer-term lease—either Palmer Wireless will lease space on the county's tower or they will build a tower and the county gets space on it for free).

The Regular County Board meeting was recessed at 9:54 AM to conduct a Human Services Board meeting.

The Regular County Board meeting was reconvened at 10:13 AM.

Board members reported on recent meetings they attended on behalf of the county.

Under Commissioner Concerns, Popp reported on a concern by an individual who lives by the Landwehr pit along CR 44; this individual is concerned with the vibrations of the trucks as they travel along CR 44. Chris Byrd, County Engineer, noted that this roadway is shown as a patching project in this year's road program.

Commissioner Popp also stated concerns of several individuals with regard to the closure of the bridge on CR 42 over Mayhew Creek due to the condition of the bridge. Chris Byrd, County Engineer, explained that he has been working with the State (MnDOT) to attempt to secure an advance construction agreement or some other type of funding to allow reconstruction of this bridge as soon as possible. He pointed out that, even if the county were to approve 100% local county funds for this project, a bid opening would be required with 30-day advertising; in addition, contracts would need to be approved and signed—this process places actual construction in late September/early October. Several Board members inquired about at least starting the advertisement for bids. Byrd noted that the County could be at risk of losing the State funding should they move ahead with the advertisement before receiving approval from the State. He stated that, statewide, bridge bonding is not adequate; if the County does not receive bridge bonding for this bridge, there are four other bridges on the priority list for replacement that are eligible for that same funding. Byrd indicated that he will send a follow-up letter to MnDOT to attempt to move this bridge project forward.

Commissioner Popp also relayed several concerns of individuals who were questioning the sealcoating of part of CR 78 prior to completing the rest of the CR 78 project. Popp and Byrd stated the importance of maintaining the investment that the County has already committed to CR 78.

McMahon/Popp unanimous to set Committees of the Whole: July 28, Discussion on 1) Recorder Appointment/Possible Reorganization and 2) Proposed Buffer Enforcement Ordinance; August 3, Tour of Silt Sock Plant in Foley Industrial Park; August 14, 16 & 18, Budget Presentations; and August 21, County-Wide Space Issues.

Buerkle/Popp unanimous to adjourn at 10:40 AM.

Warren J. Peschl, Jr., Chair
Benton County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator

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R-32-1B

PUBLIC NOTICE OF AUCTION (Official Publication) Public Storage, Inc. PS Orangeco, Inc. and/or Shurgad TRS, Inc. will conduct Sales at Public Storage located at Public Storage Self-Storage, Sauk Rapids 25553, 1111 Franklin Ave., Sauk Rapids, MN 56379 NOTICE OF SALE AND DISPOSAL OF PROPERTY

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will sell at public auction on August 30, 2017, personal property including but not limited to furniture, clothing, tools and/or other household items at 9:00 a.m. The name of the person(s) whose personal property is to be sold is as follows

1123 Tracker, Derrick
1328 Wendorff, Kevin
1439 Styles, Joesph
1520 Griffin, Sam
1540 Wendorff, Kevin
1624 Sithamat, Vong
2115 Hoefer, Marie
2622 Ruggles, Mike
3103 Coenen, Krystal
3212 Maher, Coleen
4125 Rasmussen, John
2618 Thomas, Andrea

R-32-2B

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Benton County Planning Commission will conduct public hearings on August 24th, 2017 in the Commissioner's Room, Benton County Government Center, Foley, and beginning at 7:00 p.m. The Planning Commission will hear the following:

1. 7:00 p.m. William and Sandra Stevens requesting a conditional use permit to operate a Bed and Breakfast in the Agricultural District. Pursuant to Sections 7.1.23 and 11.6. The affected property is described as follows: part of the S1/2 NW1/4, Section 34, Gilmanton Twp.

2. 7:10 p.m. Helmin Construction, operator and Roger and Patricia Anderson, landowner, requesting an interim use permit to operate a mining operation in the Agricultural District. Pursuant to Sections 7.1.24A, 9.7 and 11.6.3. The affected property is described as follows: part of the SE1/4 Section, Glendorado Twp.

ANYONE wishing to be heard with reference to the above will be heard at this meeting.

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