

**MINUTES OF THE  
OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
Government Services Center, 500 Fir Ave W.  
Tuesday, November 18, 2003  
9:30 a.m.**

**Call to Order**

The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners convened Tuesday, November 18, 2003, at 9:30 a.m. at the Otter Tail County Government Services Center with Commissioners Malcolm Lee, Chair; Syd Nelson, Vice-Chair; Dennis Mosher, Roger Froemming, and Bob Block present.

**Approval of Agenda**

Motion by Froemming, second by Block, and unanimously carried to approve the County Board agenda of November 18, 2003, as mailed.

**Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Mosher, second by Froemming, and unanimously carried to approve the County Board minutes of November 12, 2003, as mailed.

**Approval to Pay Bills**

Motion by Block, second by Nelson, and unanimously carried to approve payment of County Board bills per Attachment A of the official minutes.

**Fergus Falls Regional Treatment Center Property**

Kent Mattson provided an update regarding the Request for Proposal process to find a viable plan to re-use the buildings located on the Regional Treatment Center grounds. The effort is a collaboration between several entities within the community and the State of Minnesota. Mr. Mattson stated that the RFP has received good attention and, by December 17<sup>th</sup>, those interested in submitting a proposal will send a letter of interest. The goal would be to develop a master plan for the property. Additionally, the Committee is working on new MI and CD facilities. Mr. Mattson will continue to update the Board on the RTC campus issues.

**License Applications**

Motion by Froemming, second by Mosher, and unanimously carried to approve the following applications for license:

Blue Water Restaurant and Sports Bar, Inc. Pelican Rapids, MN 56572	Tobacco
Main Street Gas and Goods Dalton, MN	Tobacco
Otter Supper Club and Motel Ottertail, MN 56571	Tobacco

**State Auditor Visit**

State Auditor, Pat Awada, met with the Board and has been traveling around and meeting with County Boards to listen to concerns of local government units. Ms. Awada discussed budget issues. She spoke optimistically about the economics of the state and the nation and

felt that the state would grow out of the recession. Commissioners and Ms. Awada discussed loss of fine dollars to local units of government, sales tax vs. property tax, new job zones, and the Truth in Taxation process.

### **Recess & Reconvene**

At 10:37 a.m., Chairman Lee declared the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners recessed until 11:00 a.m., when the meeting was reconvened for scheduled agenda items.

### **Planning Commission Recommendations**

#### Preliminary Plat - "Loren Addition"/LuAnn F. Stelter & Loren Hoyhtya:

Motion by Froemming, second by Nelson, and unanimously carried to approve the Preliminary Plat known as "Loren Addition" consisting of 2 lots, 1 of those lots being a backlot, as presented. The property is described as Pt of GL 2 & Outlot D of Leaf Lake Properties, Section 26 of Leaf Lake Township; East Leaf Lake (56-116).

#### Preliminary Plat – "Green's Isle View Addition"/Robert Green and Susan Cordes Green:

Motion by Lee, second by Mosher, to approve the Preliminary Plat known as "Green's Isle View Addition" with conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission. Applicant, Robert Green, spoke to the Board and explained that he had not anticipated the concerns expressed by the Planning Commission regarding Lot 1 and didn't have the information, at the time, to present to the Planning Commission. He requested that this request for approval of the plat be returned to the Planning Commission for further consideration. The applicant agreed to waive the 60 day rule. Motion and second were withdrawn. Motion by Lee, second by Nelson, and unanimously carried to send this Preliminary Plat request back to the Planning Commission. The property is described as Lot 1 South Lida Shores & Pt of GL 4, Section 9 of Maplewood Township, Lake Lida (56-747).

#### Conditional Use Permit – Vacation Land Resort/Lynn & Holly Johnson:

Motion by Mosher, second by Block, and unanimously carried to approve a Conditional Use Permit to add an 18' x 24' family room addition to the home on the resort as presented. The property is described as Pt of GL 2 & Pleasure Beach Resort Lot 3 & 4, Section 2 of Everts Township; Otter Tail Lake (56-242).

#### Conditional Use Permit – Louise A. Nelson (Fay Beighley, Buyer):

Motion by Mosher, second by Froemming, and unanimously carried to approve a Conditional Use Permit for an upholstery shop as presented. The property is described as Lot 1, Blk 2, Glen Haven Addition, Section 33 of Everts Township; Unnamed Lake (56-305).

#### Conditional Use Permit – Olson Properties:

Land & Resource Director, Bill Kalar, reported that the Olson Properties CUP request on Silver Lake was recommended for denial by the Planning Commission. Proposed buyer of the property, Jeff Hohn, requested that this CUP request be sent back to the Planning Commission and waived the 60 day rule. Motion by Mosher, second by Lee, and unanimously carried to refer the Conditional Use Permit request of Olson Properties back to the Planning Commission for additional information. The property is described as Lot 1 Blk 1, Canterbury Sands, Section 28 of Everts Township; Silver Lake (56-302).

Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW)/The Preserve at Echo Bay/Homeland Investment Co. #1:

Mr. Kalar stated that the Preserve at Echo Bay is on Fish Lake (56-768), Unnamed Lake (56-771), and Pelican River (PR-56). He reported the size of the lake from DNR statistics as 280 acres (separate from Pelican Lake). The Planning Commission tabled this CUP request for preparation of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW). He stated that normally, tabled requests are not considered by the County Board; however, an EAW needs to be ordered by the County Board. Motion by Lee, second by Block, to order that an EAW be completed for the proposed project of "The Preserve at Echo Bay" as recommended by the Planning Commission. Discussion followed regarding the reasons two of the Planning Commission members voted against the motion for the preparation of an EAW. Mr. Kalar reported that they had concerns regarding the size of the development and suitability of location for this particular project. Mr. Kalar explained the timelines involved with the EAW and potentially, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Chairman Lee stated that he had received over 200 letters opposing this development, with only two letters in favor. The Chairman called for a vote. Motion carried with Mosher opposed. Commissioner Mosher stated that he is not against the EAW, but was voting in favor of the decision to deny the development based on the recommendation of his Planning Commission appointee.

Modified Calculation Request – Frank's Lodge:

Motion by Lee, second by Nelson, and unanimously carried to uphold the decision of the Planning Commission to deny the request of "Frank's Lodge" on Star Lake to modify the calculations used to determine allowable units.

**Resolution to Authorize Limited Use Permit  
Otter Tail County Resolution No. 2003 - 67**

Commissioner Lee offered the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of Minnesota has made available certain Trunk Highway right-of-way as highlighted on exhibit "A" in the Limited Use Permit, attached hereto (official minutes) and made part thereof, for the purpose of constructing, maintaining, and supervising a snowmobile trail, and

WHEREAS, the County of Otter Tail desires to make available to its citizens and visitors, such an area for the aforementioned purposes, in harmony and keeping with its recreational plan, and,

WHEREAS, the County of Otter Tail is willing to operate, maintain, and safeguard the facility as set forth in the Limited Use Permit, attached hereto, and make a part thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chairperson of the Board of County Commissioners execute the aforesaid Limited Use Permit.

Commissioner Mosher seconded the motion, and upon being put to vote, was unanimously carried.

Adopted this 18<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2003.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Malcolm K. Lee, County Board Chair

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Krohn, Clerk

**Proposed Edwards to Elizabeth to Fergus Falls  
Extension to Grant-In Aid Trail  
Otter Tail County Resolution No. 2003-68**

Commissioner Lee offered the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Otter Tail County has sponsored Grant-In-Aid Systems in the past; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of the Grant-In-Aid System proposed extensions are subject to the review and approval of the County Attorney; and

WHEREAS, if funding from the State of Minnesota becomes available for additional trails into the current Grant-In-Aid System; and

WHEREAS; County sponsorship is required to obtain funding for trail extensions; and

WHEREAS; proposed trail extension is on the ground with all needed permits acquired.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Otter Tail County shall sponsor the proposed Edwards to Elizabeth to Fergus Falls extension to Grant-In-Aid Trail.

Commissioner Mosher seconded the resolution and, upon being put to vote, was unanimously adopted.

Adopted this 18th day of November 2003

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Malcolm K. Lee, County Board Chair

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Krohn, Clerk

**Recess & Reconvene**

At 11:28 a.m., Chairman Lee declared the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners recessed for lunch break. The meeting was reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

**Budget Discussion**

Accountant, Mitzi Pederson, reported that the Budget Committee met last Friday to discuss the County budget shortfall, which is a result of reductions in state aid and levy limits. The maximum tax levy has been preliminarily established and the budget hearing for that is

scheduled on December 4<sup>th</sup> at 5:15 p.m. Following the hearing, the County Board will set the final levy and take final action on department budgets. Ms. Pederson presented ideas generated from the Budget Committee meeting to reduce expenditures. Several Department Heads offered suggestions. The County Board will consider all options to balance the budget.

**Closed to the Public  
Adjournment**

At 2:15 p.m., Chairman Lee declared the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners closed to the public to discuss pending litigation relative to Blue Heron Bay as authorized by attorney-client privilege, Chapter 13D.05 Subd. 3b. Present were Commissioners Lee, Froemming, Nelson, Mosher, and Block, the County Attorney, and Board Secretary.

At 2:20 p.m., upon conclusion of the closed session, Chairman Lee declared the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners adjourned until Tuesday, November 25, 2003.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_ OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Malcolm K. Lee, County Board Chair

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry Krohn, Clerk