

**MINUTES OF THE
OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
Government Services Center, Commissioners' Room
500 W. Fir Avenue, Fergus Falls, MN
Tuesday, March 3, 2009
9:15 a.m.**

Call to Order

The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners convened Tuesday, March 3, 2009, at 9:15 a.m., at the Otter Tail County Government Services Center in Fergus Falls, MN, with Commissioners Everett Erickson, Chair; Roger Froemming, Vice-Chair; John Lindquist, Doug Huebsch and Lee Rogness present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Rogness, second by Froemming, and unanimously carried to approve the Board of Commissioners agenda of March 3, 2009, as mailed.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Froemming, second by Lindquist, and unanimously carried to approve the Board of Commissioners meeting minutes of February 17, 2009, as presented.

Approval to Pay Bills

Motion by Lindquist, second by Huebsch, and unanimously carried to approve payment of the County Board bills per Attachment A of these minutes.

Committee of the Whole Discussion

Commissioner Froemming reported on a recent Township Association meeting. Commissioners Huebsch and Erickson attended a Family Services Collaborative meeting and Commissioner Rogness reported on a Land Use Seminar presented by the Association of Minnesota Counties. County Coordinator, Larry Krohn, handed out several documents including Legislative Update, MRCC Document, and a handout entitled "AMC Talking Points on the Governor's Proposal for 15 Human Service Authorities". Discussion took place regarding how to implement conversations regarding consolidation and reaching out to other entities in the process. Human Services Director, John Dinsmore, reported that the nine-county Region IV human service directors will be reviewing a first draft of an Interagency Governance Compact similar to an earlier Compact by the nine counties and DHS that guided the relocation of RTC services to expanded community based mental health services. He reported that the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA) has developed legislative positions that offer an alternative approach to the Governor's regional proposal. Mr. Dinsmore stated that the delivery of many Human Services programs and needs are already provided in a regional concept. Discussion of related topics also took place: should consideration be given to consolidation of Family Service Collaboratives with other counties; the inclusion of Douglas County into the Lakeland Mental Health Center Joint Powers Board; and a transition period that is needed for changes the Governor is proposing. Commissioner Lindquist requested updates on ARMER funding.

Extension Educator/4-H Update

4-H Coordinator, Janet Malone, reported on the 25th Anniversary of the Emerging Leader Program that her family is involved with and, provided an article from the Journal of Extension. Ms. Malone briefed the Board on how 4-Hers become more connected to their communities, which, in turn provides leaders and contributors to their communities.

Wind Tower Discussion

Aerial Applicator, Bryan Hauschild, expressed concern about the erection of towers within agricultural and ranching areas. His concern is relative to the MET (meteorological) towers used for weather monitoring for possible wind generator sites. Because these towers are less than 200' high and can be constructed in a matter of days, Mr. Hauschild is concerned about the safety of aviation personnel. In Otter Tail County, outside of the shoreland area, there is not a reporting system to identify these towers. Mr. Hauschild wanted the commissioners to be aware of this problem and a method of identifying these towers will continue to be pursued. Commissioners referred Mr. Hauschild to the East & West Otter Tail County Township Officer's Weed meetings on March 19, 2009 to discuss the issue further.

Facilities Project Update

Physical Plant Manager, Rick Sytsma, reported on the negotiation process with Steve Young & Associates (Architect) and subcontractors regarding the 60 Bed CARE Facility. Mr. Sytsma is hopeful that a solution will be forthcoming and will continue to keep the Board updated.

Payment Approvals

Motion by Huebsch, second by Froemming, and unanimously carried to approve payment, in the amount of \$550.00, from the Government Services Center Debt Service Account to U.S. Bank for trustee administration fees for the period of February 1, 2009 through July 31, 2009.

Motion by Rogness, second by Lindquist, and unanimously carried to approve payment, in the amount of \$7,207.00, from the General Revenue Fund to MAXIMUS for preparation of the County 2008 Cost Allocation Plan, which is based on 2007 financial information.

License Applications

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

Koep's Clitherall Corner
21136 County Highway 5
Clitherall, MN 56524

Tobacco

Wee Villa Resort Ltd Ptsp.
Wee Villa Lodge
31126 County Highway 27
Fergus Falls, MN 56537

Renewal of Consumption &
Display Permit

Application for Exempt Permit

Motion by Erickson, second by Lindquist, and unanimously carried, to approve, with no waiting period, the LG220 Application for Exempt Permit as submitted by the Ducks Unlimited Pelican Rapids Chapter for an event scheduled for Friday, April 3, 2009 at the VFW in Pelican Rapids.

Years of Service Awards

Employees' Committee Chair, Karen Cannell and Vice-Chair, Lisa Langston, presented "Years of Service Awards" to recognize County employees who have completed from 5 to 45 years of service with Otter Tail County. The Board thanked employees for their dedicated work.

Recess & Reconvene

At 10:42 a.m., Chairman Erickson declared the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners' recessed for a short break. The meeting was reconvened at 11:00 a.m.

Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission Information

Land & Resource Administrator, Bill Kalar, presented a packet of information and apprised the Board of the differences between the responsibilities of the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment. Mr. Kalar discussed the membership and role of each Board. The Board of Adjustment considers variance and/or administrative appeals based on practical difficulties in a case by case situation whereas the role of the Planning Commission is to consider proposed plats and/or conditional use permits based on environmental suitability. The Planning Commission is an Advisory Board making recommendations to the County Board. The Board of Adjustment has final decision-making powers. An appeal would be heard by District Court.

Joint Application for Family Planning Grant

Public Health Director, Diane Thorson, requested authorization to submit a family planning grant application. The Public Health Department subcontracts family planning services to the Otter Tail/Wadena Community Action Council. Motion by Froemming, second by Lindquist, and unanimously carried to authorize Otter Tail County to submit a joint application for Family Planning Special Project Grant which allows the following:

1. Otter Tail County Public Health may apply for a Family Planning Special Projects grant from the Minnesota Department of Health.
2. Otter Tail County Public Health can enter into a grant contract with Mid-State Community Health Services and the Minnesota Department of Health.
3. Mid-State Community Health Services and the Public Health Director is authorized to execute contracts as required to implement the organization's participation in the Family Planning Special Projects grant program.

Recess

At 11:34 a.m., Chairman Erickson declared the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners recessed for committee meetings and lunch break.

Reconvene in Closed Session

At 1:22 p.m., Chair Erickson declared the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners reconvened and closed to the public for the purpose of evaluating the performance of Solid Waste Director, Mike Hanan, pursuant to M.S. Chapter 13D.05 Subd. 3. All five seated commissioners were present for the evaluation. A summary of performance conclusions will be provided at the next regular County Board meeting.

Recess

At 1:54 p.m., upon conclusion of the Performance Evaluation, Chairman Erickson declared the meeting recessed for a Personnel Committee meeting.

Green Acres Law Discussion

At 2:20 p.m., Chairman Erickson reconvened the meeting and Assessor, Bob Moe, began discussion regarding the Green Acres law. There are a number of bills that have been introduced in the legislature to amend the law. Mr. Moe agreed with much of the Green Acres law that came out of the 2008 legislature with the exception of some provisions such as the seven year payback, CRP eligibility, and transfer issues. Mr. Moe referred to a land sale list that was provided. He reported about \$255 million dollars of value on ag property that is deferred under Green Acres. Total market value of all ag land in the County was reported as about \$2.1 billion; therefore, Green Acres deferral

accounts for approximately 12% of our ag land value. This year, the Green Acres Law added productive, non-tillable land, which could be pasture land or wood land that is being pastured. Estimated Market Value (EMV) on woods is about \$2,400 per acre. If people use the land for productive ag purposes and have an approved application, the value under Green Acres is \$1,000 per acre. Open pasture land is \$1,300 to \$1,400 per acre, which is also valued as \$1,000 per acre if being used productively. The other classes of property are paying the share of property taxes not being paid by property receiving the Green Acres deferral. Discussion continued on the following related topics: lakeshore valuation under Green Acres; how are families able to pass on their land to their son/daughter, non-productive land; homestead classification; special ag homestead; USDA farm program (EQUIP); contradictory programs; forest management program; sustainable forest incentive act; and grandfather/transfer issues.

Retainage Reduction

Motion by Rogness, second by Froemming, and unanimously carried to authorize a reduction in retainage from 5% to 2% for SAP 56-599-56 as requested by the contractor, Lakes Paving and recommended by the Highway Engineer.

Motion by Huebsch, second by Lindquist, and unanimously carried to authorize a reduction in retainage from 5% to 2% for SAP 056-661-006 & 08:132B as requested by the contractor, Lakes Paving and recommended by the Highway Engineer.

Final Payment

Motion by Froemming, second by Rogness, and unanimously carried to approve Final Payment pursuant to Final Estimate No. 13, in the amount of \$95,170.44, payable to Central Specialties, Inc. for completion of S.A.P. 056-667-030.

Adjournment

At 3:25 p.m., Chairman Erickson declared the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners adjourned until Tuesday, March 10, 2009.

Dated: _____

OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Everett P. Erickson, Board of Commissioners Chair

Attest: _____
Larry Krohn, Clerk

WARRANTS APPROVED ON 3/03/2009 FOR PAYMENT 3/03/2009

<u>VENDOR NAME</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
A & S TRAINING	2,015.00
A-1 LOCK & KEY LLC	46.81
A'VIANDS LLC	9,555.77
RICHARD AKERMAN	16.16
AMERICAN INSTITUTIONAL SUPPLY	95.49
AMERICINN	821.54
RYAN ANDERSON	198.15
ARAMARK	32.72
ATSSA	190.00
CITY BATTLE LAKE	35.00
BEYER BODY SHOP INC	111.83
BLUESTONE TECHNOLOGIES INC	19,787.88
BOB'S STANDARD BULK SERVICE	73.80
BRANDBORG LAW OFFICE	356.25
BRANDON COMMUNICATIONS INC	184.77
BRIGGS CORPORATION	250.38
SANDRA BROWN	30.00
KAREN CANNELL	16.08
CELLULAR OUTFITTERS	161.73
CHARTER COMMUNICATIONS	65.56
CHEMSEARCH	599.29
CLAY CO TREASURER	1,283.73
COLLEGE WAY AUTO INC	42.64
CONVERGENT SOLUTIONS GROUP LLC	7,158.41
COOPERS TECHNOLOGY GROUP	247.04
CRANE JOHNSON LUMBER CO	20.01
DACOTAH PAPER COMPANY	701.76
DEX EAST	21.00
DOW ACOUSTICS INC	1,030.00
EAGLES CAFE AND CATERING SERVI	72.00
ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE IN	958.01
ERICKSON ELECTRONICS	28.14
ES PRECISION AUTO GLASS	270.74
FASTENAL COMPANY	2.19
FERGUS ELECTRIC	1,644.48
FERGUS FALLS MEDICAL GROUP	6,503.31
FERGUS FALLS POLICE DEPT	4,143.71
CITY FERGUS FALLS	1,319.17
DAVID FIEDLER	150.00
FLOOR TO CEILING STORE	8,704.15
FOTH & VAN DYKE	5,963.17
JOE FRAKI	150.00
FRONTIER POWERSPORTS	78.76
G & K SERVICES	1,589.06
GALL'S INC	940.45
GODFATHERS EXTERMINATING INC	475.79
JACOB GRABOW	199.99
JARED GREFSRUD	346.88
HANSON'S PLUMBING & HEATING IN	3,247.97
MARK HAUGEN PHD LP	718.75
DAVID HAUSER	129.90
HAWES SEPTIC TANK PUMPING	70.00
HEALTHCARE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVI	58.20
HEWLETT PACKARD COMPANY	602.19
HOTSY EQUIPMENT OF MN	117.52
INNOVATIVE OFFICE SOLUTIONS	211.49
ISSUETRAK INC	750.00

OTC Board of Commissioners' Minutes
March 3, 2009
Attachment A, Page 2

JAMES JARMUSKEWICZ MD	590.00
JOHN'S HEATING & AC INC	414.79
CASSIE JONAS	16.25
KARVONEN & SON FUNERAL HOME	245.00
KELLY SERVICES INC	1,020.30
MARCIE KNUDSEN	55.00
KNUTSON ELECTRIC REBUILDING	370.28
LAB SAFETY SUPPLY INC	46.94
LAKE REGION DENTAL CENTER	1,683.00
LAKE REGION HEALTHCARE CORP	516.02
LAKELAND MENTAL HEALTH CENTER	3,434.25
LAKES AREA PEST CONTROL LLC	79.88
LAKES COUNTRY SERVICE CO OP	71.89
LAKEWAY MARKET LLC	3,797.06
LARRY OTT INC TRUCK SERVICE	1,375.00
WILLIAM LEE	10.00
LITTLE FALLS MACHINE INC	3,036.85
LOCATORS & SUPPLIES INC	194.75
M-R SIGN COMPANY INC.	4,473.53
MARCO	1,628.90
MARCO INC ST LOUIS	225.21
MARTIN'S PAINTING & MORE	1,815.60
MATHISON COMPANY	96.38
MCCC MI 33	207.08
MCMASTER-CARR SUPPLY COMPANY	120.58
MEKALSON HYDRAULICS INC	963.29
STEWART MENSING	123.45
MID-CENTRAL EQUIPMENT INC	92.47
THE MIDWEEK	40.60
MINNKOTA	29.00
MN ASSOC OF CO OFFICERS	265.00
MN CO INSURANCE TRUST	7,060.00
MN DEPT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY	100.00
MOORE MEDICAL LLC	225.32
NATIONAL ASSOC OF COUNTY ENGIN	450.00
NELSON AUTO CENTER	36.81
JOYCE NERDAHL	280.00
NETWORK CENTER COMMUNICATIONS	345.00
NMS LABS	303.00
NORTHERN STATES SUPPLY INC	694.40
NORTHSIDE WELDING	40,434.85
NORTHSTAR TECHNOLOGY GROUP INC	5,247.97
NORTHWEST DIVERS	351.12
OFFICE DEPOT	119.42
OFFICEMAX INCORPORATED	1,347.74
OLSON OIL CO INC	46.58
OTTER TAIL CO EMPLOYEES COMMIT	30.00
OTTER TAIL CO TREASURER	1,404.51
OTTER TAIL POWER COMPANY	20.87
OTTERTAIL TRUCKING INC	10,744.50
PAMIDA INC 008	17.00
PAULSON LAND CO	100.00
PENROSE OIL COMPANY	2,556.85
PEPSIAMERICAS	692.90
PERHAM AREA EMS	330.00
PERHAM CO OP CREAMERY	7,399.27
PERRIN MOBILE MEDICAL	61.03
PERSONNEL EVALUATION INC	20.00
PETE'S AMOCO	177.86

PITNEY BOWES	2,443.00
PRAIRIE IMPLEMENT INC	106.56
PRODUCTIVE ALTERNATIVES INC	85.85
DOUG RAPP	15.41
RDO EQUIPMENT CO FARGO	126.77
RDO TRUCK CENTERS	1,730.20
RECYCLING ASSOCIATION OF MINNE	40.00
REED BUSINESS INFORMATION	221.40
VICKI SCHWANKE	27.76
GARY SENSKE	28.17
SERVICE FOOD SUPER VALU	14.07
SEWER SERVICE	80.00
SIMPLEXGRINNELL LP	644.93
SOLUTIONS BEHAVIORIAL HEALTHCAR	1,500.00
SOUTHTOWN C-STORE	529.80
SRF CONSULTING GROUP INC	50,538.04
STATE OF MINNESOTA	114.00
STEINS INC	3,185.38
STREICHERS	457.75
KELLY THOMAS	115.43
THRIFTY WHITE PHARMACY	17.99
TOOL CRIB OF THE NORTH	118.18
TRI STAR RECYCLING	1,192.32
ULTEIG ENGINEERS	121.00
ULTIMATE OFFICE	99.96
UNIFORMS UNLIMITED	1,796.22
UNIVERSITY OF MN	25.00
VFW POST 612	26.00
VICTORY CORPS	525.85
VIKING COCA-COLA	630.55
WADENA HIDE & FUR COMPANY	168.99
WEST PAYMENT CENTER	618.49
WILKIN CO SHERIFF	1,177.52
EUGENE ZEPPER	150.00
<u>3 D SPECIALTIES INC</u>	<u>296.47</u>
<u>**** FINAL TOTAL.....</u>	<u>\$261,199.23 ****</u>