

Polk County Newsletter

Spring 2014



New 9-1-1 Dispatch Center stations

Polk County's new Dispatch Center now accepts 9-1-1 emergency calls by text and video in addition to the traditional voice method. Also now in use is new state-of-the-art 800 MHz computer-

ized communications equipment that connects the county to all state agencies, while still maintaining the capability to communicate with local agencies that remain on VHF systems.

County to keep 'moving forward' as its goal in 2014

Without the emergence of some unforeseen issues during the year, the focus for Polk County government in 2014 will likely be to keep things on course and moving forward.

New board chair Don Diedrich doesn't see any major issues other than dealing with some problems with a couple of buildings, which he says are in the process of being addressed. "Those building concerns aren't really what you would call a problem, though, because plans are in place to get them done this summer," he says.

"Over the past few years, we've made some major changes in staff and maybe in some of the direction that we are going as far as having individual evaluations and doing some longer range planning. I think that we are going in the right direction and the focus will likely be to stay the course and try to reap the benefits of what we have going."

Change in chair

The commissioner from District 5, Diedrich, rural Warren, succeeded District 1 Craig Bunes, Crookston, as chair when the board re-organized at the first meeting in January. District 2 commissioner Warren Strandell, East Grand Forks, is the new vice chair. The chair and vice chair positions rotate annually among the five county commissioners.

The commissioner from District 3 is Nick Nicholas, Crookston, and the commissioner from District 4 is Warren Affeldt, rural Fosston.

Further re-organization of county government will occur in July when Nicholas is slated to succeed Affeldt as chair of the Polk County Social Services Board. That board, which meets monthly as a separate body, is made up of the five county commissioners and two at-large members, Cathy Gutterud, Fosston, and Paula Waters, Crookston.

See COUNTY FOCUS, Page 2

Ambitious 2-year roadwork schedule begins this summer

A very ambitious road maintenance plan will be carried out on County State Aid Highways (CSAH) in Polk County during the next two summers. That's thanks to the \$6 million in bonds that were sold for that purpose last July.

And, because of the county's passage (also last July) of the \$10 wheelage tax provision that is allowed by the state law, three County Roads are scheduled to get some needed attention, too.

In County Engineer Richard Sanders' construction plan, the bond money along with the county's normal apportionment of the gas tax collections, will fund 12 projects — seven this summer and five more in 2015.

The work on the CSAH roads will include:

2014

- Reconstruction of a half-mile of CSAH 1 from Trunk Highway (TH) 2 to the east city limits of Fosston.
- Overlay of 8.2 miles of CSAH 1 from the east city limits of Fosston to the Clearwater County line.
- Overlay of 5 miles of CSAH 6 from the south county line to TH 2 in Fosston.
- Overlay of 9 miles of CSAH 17 from TH 2 to CSAH 20.
- Overlay of CSAH 30 from Fosston to 4.5 miles north.

See ROADWORK, Page 2

County focus in 2014

Continued from Page 1

Work in 2014, Diedrich says, will include completing the development of the new Dispatch Center in the Law Enforcement Center building.

In the process of the remodeling of the LEC to make use of the former jail space, Dispatch was moved from the adjoining Red River Valley Juvenile Center to the area previously used for the education area of the old jail.

The new Dispatch Center can now receive 9-1-1 calls by text and video in addition to voice. With implementation of this new "next gen" radio equipment along with the dual-band consoles in the Center, dispatchers now have the ability to communicate with all state agencies that are on 800 MHz systems as well as those local police, fire and ambulance service agencies that remain on VHF systems.

Invitation to be made



Don Diedrich

"When we get everything in this new Dispatch Center running without the slightest hitch, we will be making invitations to the cities of Crookston and East Grand Forks to join us in this updated, state of the art operation," Diedrich says.

He also notes that Tri-County Community Corrections, the joint powers agency that runs

the Northwest Regional Corrections Center jail for Norman, Polk and Red Lake counties along with the Probation and Red River Valley Juvenile Center divisions, is on the verge of some significantly improved financial times.

"We weathered the possibility of a withdrawal by Red Lake County before the full impact of leaving TCCC became known," he says. "But once the benefits of being a part of TCCC were fully realized — those that go beyond just the cost of paying for jail beds — that action was quickly ended.

"In the future, I don't think that there is anything that will prevent the TCCC organization from getting better and becoming more financially stable.

Paying guests

"This is due in large part to the per diems that are being paid by the U.S. Marshals Service, by Clay and Mahanomen counties, and by state and other federal

agencies for the prisoners that they are housing in our jail. And we have room for more."

Well into the planning phase is the possible expansion of the waste to energy incinerator plant in Fosston.

Grant being sought

A state grant of \$7.5 million is being sought to pay for half of this \$15 million project. Tip fees collected from existing county partners along other income from operations are to cover the balance of the project.

Other areas of concern in 2014, according to Diedrich, will be staffing concerns in the Sheriff's Department and the County Attorney's Office, along with continuing efforts to control overweight trucks so as to minimize the deterioration of the 950 miles of county roads. There will also be the subject about how to proceed with getting the Professional Building site in Crookston sold, developed and on the tax roles.

Roadwork schedule

Continued from Page 1

- Overlay of 2 miles of CSAH 41 from CSAH 34 to TH 59.

- Widening and overlay of 4.4 miles of CSAH 41 from TH 59 to the west city limits of McIntosh.

2015

- Widening and overlay of 4 miles of CSAH 34 from CSAH 36 to Erskine.

- Overlay of 6 miles of CSAH 2 from CSAH 3 to TH 93 at Gully.

- Overlay of 6.5 miles of CSAH 8 from CSAH 1 to McIntosh.

- Overlay of 10 miles of CSAH 45 from TH 75 to TH 9.

- Widening and overlay of 5 miles of CSAH 15 from TH 220 to Fisher.

The first years of the wheelage tax, which has been added to vehicle registration fees, will finance three County Road (CR) projects that otherwise would not likely have gotten any immediate attention, according to Sanders.

Work scheduled for this year is the crack and overlay of .6 miles of CR 233 west from TH 75 at the American Crystal Sugar Co. plant in Crookston.

Future projects include the overlay of CR 214 from CSAH 45 to TH 2 in Crookston and bituminous surfacing of the remaining 3 mile stretch of CR 210 from CSAH 37 to TH 2, which will will

See Pages 8 & 9 for Maps that Show Work Locations

support traffic to the grain-loading terminal there and to the Rydell National Wildlife Refuge.

The "County Road" system depends totally upon county tax levy dollars to pay for its maintenance. CSAH system roads are constructed and maintained by allocations from the gas tax that is collected as a part of the price of gas at the pump.

County Roads are indicated by three-digit numbers (the 200 series roads), while CSAH roads have two-digit identification numbers.

Wheelage tax

Wheelage tax collections, Sanders says, are expected to bring in \$300,000 a year, based on the 30,400 vehicles in the county that are subject to the tax. Several categories of vehicles are not subject to the tax including motorcycles and mopeds, trailers and semi-trailers, and vehicles that do not require annual registration.

While the County Board acted to approve the wheelage tax, it did not endorse another provision of new state tax law that allows counties to initiate a one-half cent sales tax to provide more

funding for road projects.

The \$6 million in bonds were sold at .9824 percent interest. They will be repaid over five years by directing about \$1.2 million a year for that purpose from the county's annual apportionment (about \$7.4 million) of gas tax collections. As a result, there is no property tax consequence for county residents for bond repayment.

Better bang for buck

The less than one percent interest rate on the bonds compares to highway construction costs that go up annually by from 3 to 4 percent. This favorable difference gives the county more bang for the construction dollar while also be able to improve roads ahead of the regular schedule.

An additional benefit from this work will be that resurfacing will bump up a number of CSAH roads to a 10-ton rating.

"By the time this construction program is completed," Sanders says, "virtually all of the hard-surface CSAH roads will be increased to at least 9-ton ratings and there won't likely be any 7-ton roads remaining in the system."

The practice of selling bonds to speed up highway improvement work has been done at least twice in the past and may have been done three times. The sales done in the late 1990s and most recently in 2006 were both for \$4 million in bonding.

Funding sought for expansion plan

Solid waste infrastructure, partnerships in discussions

Solid waste issues have been at the forefront of many a county board agenda within the region as of late.

County plans, state rule changes, service contracts, infrastructure improvements — all manner of topics have appeared on these board agendas. Polk County has been no exception.

Solid waste plans

Polk County entered into a cooperative venture with the counties of Beltrami, Mahanomen and Norman to update its Solid Waste Plan. The plan is required by Minnesota state law. By participating in this regional cooperative effort, Polk and each of the other counties was able to realize significant financial savings in updating their plans.

Polk County's updated plan was recently completed and approved by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA). The plan describes its current solid waste system, identifies changes that occurred since the last plan, sets its goals for the next 10-year term and addresses other issues which are required by Minnesota state law.

The other counties are in the final stages of completing their SW Plans.

State initiatives

Multiple statewide solid waste initiatives are various stages of implementation, review or creation. One such initiative is related to the management of unused/unwanted paint that was signed into law last legislative session. The intent of that law was to place the burden for the management of unused paint upon the paint manufacturer. To fund the cost of this program, a tax will be placed by the manufacturer of paint on each container of paint sold in Minnesota. The paint manufacturers have formed an organization called PaintCare MN to manage this program. The tax will go into effect on July 1, 2014, and the date of paint collection will be phased in shortly thereafter.

Also occurring last session and spilling over into this current legislative session was a directive to the MPCA to formulate a plan to boost Minnesota's recycling rate. The MPCA was directed to put together a report on how to increase the statewide recycling rate — specifically the implementation of a Bottle Bill.

The MPCA's report on the Bottle Bill was due to the legislature this session for consideration. The Bottle Bill Report outlines the framework for a deposit/refund program on all beverage containers (glass, plastic, aluminum and steel) that would be one of the more aggressive programs in the U.S. This report has generated a lot of debate about how best to boost the recycling rate in Minnesota. However, it does not appear that a Bottle Bill is likely in 2014.

This session there appears to be significant interest in resetting recycling and compost targets in the state. One such bill that continues to receive attention raises the recycling rate in

metro counties and creates a Source Separated Organic Material (SSOM) Compost target.

SSOM is that portion of the waste stream comprised of organic materials (fruits, vegetables, clean/non-recyclable paper products, etc.). Although the targets which are impacted are metro counties, other provisions such as mandatory recycling at sporting events and select commercial locations are being considered.

Service contracts

Within the northwest Minnesota region, all solid waste disposal contracts are set to expire within a 24-month window.

Like Polk County, many of these counties have realized the benefits of cooperative working relationships and regionalization. Likewise, these disposal facilities realize that securing these partnerships is essential to creating long-term viability and sustainability. As such, significant interest in Polk's solid waste infrastructure has been received.

Polk County has been securing contracts with its long-standing partner counties (Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahanomen and Norman Counties).

Contract discussions with these partners has progressed well and the final details of a new contract are being finalized. In addition, the formation of a new partnership opportunity with Hubbard County is also in the final stages of being completed. The contract with these partner counties focuses reliance upon Polk County to manage all of the burnable and non-burnable solid waste, SSOM and recyclable materials generated in those counties.

New opportunities are also being explored as part of this process. Discussions with neighboring cities, counties, tribal entities and private businesses have occurred.

Should certain infrastructure improvements be made — which are dependent upon funding — these discussions will continue and new partnerships formed.

Infrastructure

Significant changes to Polk County's solid waste infrastructure (Landfill, Compost Facility, Incinerator, Transfer Station, etc.) need to occur in order to meet the needs of these new partnership opportunities.

Some of these improvements have been made, or are in the process of being made. Others are dependent upon funding.

Polk County has previously applied to the state for inclusion in the Governor's 2014 Budget for bond funding and is working with our area legislators in the House and Senate to obtain funding in the 2014 Bonding Bill this session.

If successful in obtaining funding this session, some of the key improvements to the infrastructure would include:

- Expansion of the tip floor at the Incinerator

to handle larger volumes of recyclables and waste that would await processing,

- The addition of new processing equipment at the materials recovery facility to enable removal of more materials from the waste stream and faster separation and baling of recyclables from incoming recycling streams,

- The addition of a back-up boiler to allow our steam customers the ability to grow and expand, the upgrade of the compost pad at the Landfill and the addition of equipment for processing compost at the Landfill.

A portion of the bond funding requested is for Beltrami County to construct a new transfer station that would be required to efficiently handle and store larger volumes of waste and recyclables until they can be shipped to Polk County.

Improvements that are recently completed or in the process of being completed include: office improvements and the addition of a full-length truck scale at the Landfill to handle larger volumes of materials, hydrogeologic study and environmental assessment worksheet for the landfills next permit, and the engineering on the compost pad, material recovery facility upgrade and tip floor expansion in anticipation of moving forward with the expansion plans.

Other discussions:

- Contracts for waste hauling from the solid waste facilities and steam contracts with our longstanding steam customers are set to expire at the end of 2014. Once our waste supply agreements are secured, Polk will work to obtain contracts for these services as well.

- There has been significant interest and proposals both nationally and in Minnesota over the last few years in the creation of new programs to require manufacturers of product to be responsible for the cost of managing them at the end of their useful life.

This philosophy is referred to as "product stewardship." This is the framework for the PaintCare program (mentioned earlier) and variations of that program are being proposed for the management of other materials. These materials include: mattresses, batteries, carpet, containers and a general category referred to as 'packaging materials'.

- There is a movement at the state level in revising how annual waste and recycling reports are submitted. Historically, counties have been required to submit these reports to the state each year.

This is the reason why counties request this information from local haulers, recyclers and businesses throughout the state each year.

Although many of these entities comply with these requests, some do not. As the number of non-reporting entities has grown statewide, the state is now looking to change how these reports are compiled.

Continued Next Page

Solid waste

Continued from Page 3

Current proposals have the generator, business or hauler directly reporting these numbers annually to the state. If efforts are successful this session, these changes may be required as early as 2015.

- Significant paving work is anticipated in the sum-

Polk rated high for presence of radon

What is radon? Radon is a colorless, odorless radioactive gas that seeps up from the earth. When inhaled, it gives off radioactive particles that can damage the cells that line the lung.

Long term exposure to radon can lead to lung cancer. In fact, over 21,000 lung cancer deaths in the U.S. each year are from radon, making it a serious health concern for all Minnesotans.

High radon levels exist in every state in the country. In Minnesota, two in five homes have radon levels that pose a significant health risk. Nearly 80 percent of counties, including Polk, are rated high radon zones.

Radon comes from the soil. It is produced from the natural decay of uranium that is found in nearly all soils.

Uranium breaks down to radium. As radium disintegrates it turns into radioactive gas...radon. As a gas, radon moves up through the soil and into the air you breathe.

While radon is present every-

where and there is no known, safe level, your greatest exposure is where it can concentrate-indoors... where you spend most of your time.

Your home can have radon whether it be old or new, well-sealed or drafty and with or without a basement.

Minnesota homes commonly operate under a negative air pressure, especially during the heating season. This means that the air pressure inside your home is typically lower than in the surrounding air and soil, creating a vacuum that pulls soil gases, such as radon, into the home via pathways (such as cracks in concrete slabs, spaces behind brick veneer walls that rest on uncapped hollow-block foundations, pores and cracks in concrete blocks, floor-wall joints or building materials like brick, concrete, rock).

Even if the ground around the house is frozen or soaked by rain, the gravel and ground underneath the house remain warm and per-

meable, attracting radon gas from the surrounding soil.

How dangerous is radon?

Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer in non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer (after tobacco) in smokers.

Since radon is produced from soil, it is present nearly everywhere. Because soil is porous, radon gas is able to move up through the dirt and rocks and into the air we breathe.

If allowed to accumulate, radon becomes a health concern. Thankfully, this risk is preventable through awareness and testing. The Minnesota Department of Health and Polk County Public Health recommend that homes be tested for radon.

Radon test kits cost between \$5-\$25. Polk County Public Health has a limited number of test kits available at no charge. For more information, call Polk County Public Health at 218-281-3385. — Sarah Reese, Public Health director

mer of 2014 at the Transfer Station in Crookston and Landfill near Gentilly. This may cause some disruption in service while this work is in progress. Your patience as we work through those needed repairs will be greatly appreciated. — Jon Steiner, Environmental Services administrator

Tilberg Park upgrades are in the works

Polk County's Tilberg Park will get some significant improvements this summer.

Planned is the construction of a bathhouse along with upgrades to the water and electric systems and the installation of a sewer system. The park is located at Cross Lake northeast of Fosston.

In addition, six more campsites will be developed as a part of the project increasing the total to 36 sites.

When completed, 16 sites will have full hook-ups (electricity, water and sewer). Another 10 will have access to water and electricity, and 10 will be primitive.

The work is to be done by Schmitz Builders, Red Lake Falls, which provided the low bid of \$445,000. Work is to begin in early spring and will continue through the summer in parallel with normal camping activities, according to Richard Sanders, Polk County engineer. The project is expected to be complete by Nov. 1.

Reservations are currently being taken for campsites at both the Maple Lake Park and Tilberg Park. Information on the availability of sites is available by calling the Polk County Highway Department (218) 381-3952.

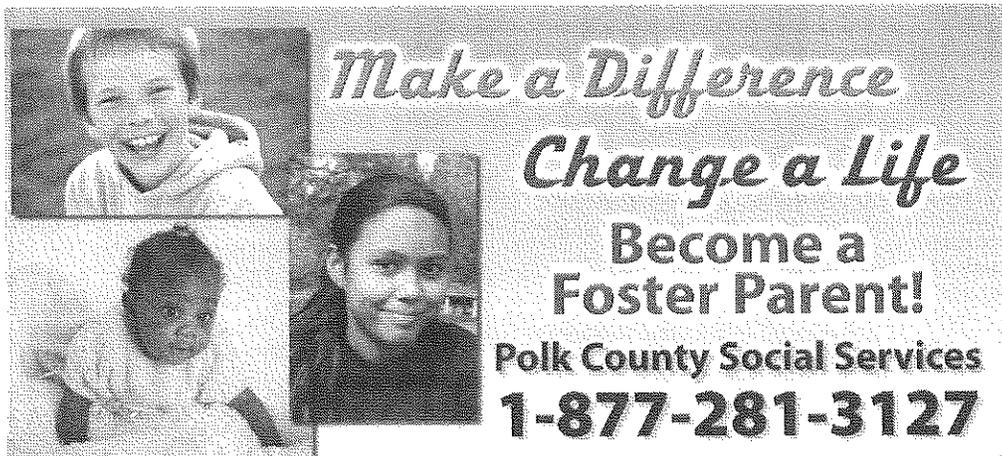
Plat books available at Government Center

The 2013 edition of the Polk County Plat Book is being sold at Taxpayer Service Center in the Government Center in Crookston.

The book features updated township maps showing property owners of all land parcels of 5 acres or more along with ditches, roads, etc. It also has aerial pic-

tures of the townships plus maps of school districts, commissioner districts, and cities.

The price for the 189-page book is \$30. Of the 350 copies that were printed, about one-third remain available for sale.



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Erickson reappointed to Development Board

Jerome "Jerry" Erickson, Fertile, has been reappointed to another three-year term as Polk County's representative on the board of directors of Red River Valley Development Association. The term will expire in March, 2017.

Buildings to be upgraded; LEC work nears end

Two Polk County buildings will get updates this summer to better address how they withstand the elements of winter.

"These are issues that we will correct this summer," Mark Dietz, county superintendent of buildings & grounds, relates concerning problems at the Highway Department and Transfer Station buildings. "We know what needs to be done but we haven't yet determined exactly how they will be done. We hope to have the work mapped out shortly and will stage it from there," Dietz says. "These are just things that need to be done to maintain the buildings and set them up for many more years of use."

At the Highway Department, huge amounts of snow collect on the portion on the roof over the office of the building. This is largely because of an offset in roof heights between the shop and that over the lower level of the single-story office area.

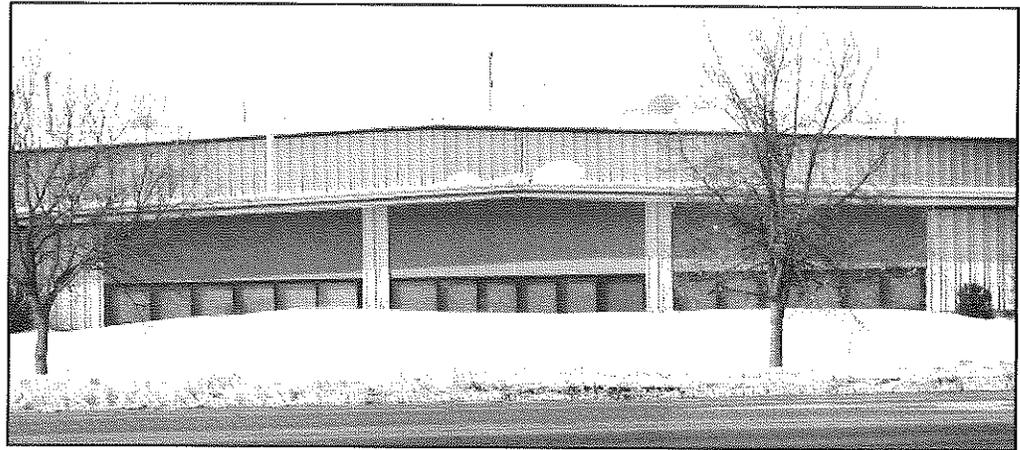
Structural issues

The weight of snow that collects on the office roof has been a problem for a number of years and has resulted in structural issues to the roof and door openings in the building preventing doors from swinging freely. The lack of insulation in the roof has also caused ice to form on the roof, which adds considerable weight to the total roof load.

Several options are on the table to cure those problems including one to raise the roof over the office portion of the building to that over the shop so that the snow is likely to blow off the roof rather than collect there. Depending on which option is taken, the cost of correction could range from the low estimate of \$242,000 up to a top end of \$1.6 million.

At the Transfer Station, weather related problems have also had been ongoing for some time. There, in the first stage of corrections, the decorative, west-facing fascia panel on the roof of the building was removed before winter began.

In the past, this panel had caught and held snow. The snow trapped on the roof along with the lack of insulation has been causing ice dams to form. By



Different roof heights of Highway Building create problems with snow accumulation

preventing the natural flow of water off the roof, the dams have caused the water to flow back up the roof under the sheet metal panels and into the interior of the building.

Because of the roof issue, a section of the exterior wall has also been exposed to water inundation, which has caused the wall's inner members to rot and the exterior rock veneer to become loose.

Other work on buildings this spring and summer will involve the completion of remodeling at the Law Enforcement Center (LEC).

Old jail cells converted

This project involved converting old jail cells into useable space for the Sheriff's Department and included the installation of new roofing along with a major upgrading of the more than 35-year-old heating and cooling system.

Added as the project proceeded was the creation of a new Dispatch Center to accommodate the planned installation of "next gen" 9-1-1 emergency call answering equipment and state-of-the-art computer-based 800 MHz communication equipment. The equipment upgrades were

needed to replace the aging analog VHF system that was at the end of its practical life.

While most of this work was completed by late 2013, code and performance problems with the existing back-up generator and the entire emergency electrical system lingered into 2014. As a result, some re-wiring in the building along with replacement of the generator itself has become necessary.

The new back-up generator will be located at the point where power comes into the LEC. It will serve the entire complex... the Sheriff's Office, the Dispatch Center and the adjoining Red River Valley Juvenile Center, where heat is vital for the juveniles housed there.

IS offices & Server Room

The balance of the project that will get attention this spring and summer involves remodeling of still another part of the former jail to provide workstations for the Information Services (IS) Department and expansion of the server room.

The Server Room, which has taken up space in the building for several years, will be expanded to make room for Polk

County's growing need for data management.

Having both the servers, which are the base of the county's entire computer system, and the Dispatch Center in the LEC makes sense. Constructed as a jail, the building is very secure and virtually impenetrable.

Education room

Other work left to do in the building will involve remodeling of the former Dispatch Center room in the Red River Valley Juvenile Center portion of the building. This space is to be used now for the education program of the Juvenile Center facility. Currently, the education program and the recreation/exercise area share the same tight quarters making neither very adequate.

While costly (just over \$2.4 million), remodeling of the LEC sets the building up for another 50 years of use, according to architect Richard Rude. The LEC was constructed in 1975-76 and the adjoining Juvenile Center was added in 1996.

The cost of remodeling, like that to be done on the Highway Department and Transfer Station buildings, will be paid for from county reserves.

County Board Meeting Times

8:15 a.m. on 1st Tuesday of month
10:30 a.m. on the 3rd Tuesday
8:15 a.m. on the 4th Tuesday

All meetings are open to the public

County Commissioners

Dist. 1 — Craig Bunes
Dist. 2 — Warren Strandell, vice chair
Dist. 3 — Nick Nicholas
Dist. 4 — Warren Affeldt
Dist. 5 — Don Diedrich, chair

Beauchane is combining emergency manager post with ditch inspector

With ditch and drainage issues frozen under an accumulation of snow, the winter months used to be a time for Jody Beauchane to catch up on computer work, drafting and keeping his certifications current in his job as the county's ag and ditch inspector.

In addition to that fulltime position, he's now added the duties of serving as the county's emergency manager.

This will require extensive training — much of it to be done in those slower winter months — to earn state certification.

In the new combined role, Beauchane will adjust his time between the two positions as the season — and, of course, need — dictates. He'll report to County Engineer Richard Sanders on ag and ditch matters and to Sheriff Barb Erdman when in the role of emergency manager.

Maintain 2 offices

His ag and ditch office will remain in the Highway Department building and he will have his emergency management office in the Law Enforcement Center where Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Department are based.

Adding emergency manager duties to those of ag and ditch inspector required working out many details before the County Board approved Beauchane's appointment to the dual role beginning with the start of 2014.

"I'm excited about taking on the job," Beauchane says. "There's a lot of information to learn... a lot more than I thought." Certification, he says, involves 271.5 credit hours of course study on many topics.

Focus on Dispatch

The emergency manager position had become vacant last fall when Nancy Shafer's then dual position of emer-



Jody Beauchane

gency manager and manager of the Dispatch Center was changed to focus totally on the Dispatch Center. Her concentration on dispatch operations had become necessary as "new generation" 9-1-1 equipment was put into use and the Dispatch Center's aging VHF analog system was replaced with the new 800 MHz digital equipment.

The State Patrol, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Transportation, Emergency Management and all other state agencies use the 800 MHz communications equipment, as do most of the state's 87 counties.

Certification demanding

While becoming a certified emergency manager will take some time for Beauchane to earn, he will have great resources going into any emergency situation or disaster. Those resources include Shafer and County Zoning Administrator Josh Holte, who both have certification as emergency managers.

Also, Sheriff Erdman has completed some of the credits needed to become certified as an emergency manager. She is also well on her way toward obtaining the Elected Public Officials Emergency Management certification that is recommended for sheriffs,

who are not serving as the actual emergency manager.

In addition, Jon Steiner, the county's Environmental Services administrator, has very extensive knowledge in the field from his work following the flood of 1997.

Good support

"Actually, we have a lot of people in the county who have been identified as resources," Erdman says. "They would naturally also be involved in emergency management if you had a major incident such as a three-day blizzard or a flood. The job ranges from extensive planning for the possibility of an event to actually dealing with the immediate and urgent concerns of rescue and medical issues should a situation occur. There's a lot training and planning involved in emergency management."

Beauchane had a first introduction to emergency management in late January when Homeland Security called asking how the pipeline explosion and fire in Manitoba was affecting Polk County residents, who depend on natural gas for heating, and how the county was dealing heating its buildings.

Construction background

A 1988 graduate of Lafayette High School in Red Lake Falls, Beauchane studied mechanical drafting at Northwest Minnesota Technical College in Moorhead. He then worked in the construction industry for 11 years. This included seven years as a project superintendent on commercial and public construction projects.

Beauchane joined the Polk County Highway Department as an engineering technician in May 2001 and became ag and ditch inspector in June 2002. He and his wife, Stacy, live near Fertile and have four children: Jozi, 24; Cody, 18; Wyatt, 15, and Alea, 10.

4 reappointed to Planning Commission

Four members of the Polk County Planning Commission have been reappointed to new three-year terms by action of the Polk County Board.

They are:

- **Osmund "Ozzie" Moe**, Fisher, representing the Commissioner Dist. 2.

- **Arlt Phillips**, rural East Grand Forks, representing Polk County Township Officers Association.

- **Rolland Gagner**, Erskine, representing the Union-Lake Sarah Development Association.

- **Dennis Yell**, Mentor, representing the Maple Lake Improvement District.

Other members of the Commission are: Don Wright, Mentor, representing Commissioner Dist. 1; Courtney Pulkrabek, Crookston, Dist. 3; Kerry Winklemann, Fosston, Dist. 4; Robert Franks, rural Warren, District 5; Wayne Melbye, Crookston, as the representative for Crookston Mayor David Genereux; and Mike Powers, East Grand Forks, as the representative for East Grand Forks Mayor Lynn Stauss.

The conclusions of the Planning Commission on matters dealing with the interpretation, application and enforcement of the rules and regulations found within the Polk County Zoning Ordinance and those required by state or federal law are forwarded as recommendations to the County Board, which then makes the final decision.

The Planning Commission members who represent the five commissioner districts (Wright, Moe, Pulkrabek, Winklemann and Franks) also serve on the Board of Adjustment. This board makes the final decision on requests to vary from the county's zoning rules.

Winklemann is chair of both the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment.

Needed revenues go up as jail numbers increase

The Northwest Regional Corrections Center (NWRCC), a division of Tri-County Community Corrections located in Crookston, is a "direct-supervision" jail designed to house convicted criminal offenders and individuals awaiting trial.

The facility is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Corrections to hold up to 200 individuals.

During the year in which the NWRCC opened, 2008, the average daily population of the facility for the year was 115.25. With licensure for 200 inmates, that meant that on average 84.75 beds per day went unused.

Between 2009 and 2012 the annual average daily population of the NWRCC ranged from a low of 119.27 to a high of 123.19. At the highest point in inmate population, 76.35 beds on average went unfilled.

This trend has seen a dramatic change in 2013 and into 2014.

Daily populations are up

Efforts to increase the inmate population in the facility by renting unused beds to other counties, to the state and to federal referral sources has resulted in a rapid increase in average daily population, and subsequently generated revenues to offset financial contributions of the member counties of Norman, Polk and Red Lake.

As these new revenue sources were developed in 2013, the average daily inmate population grew to 142.4.

In January of 2014, the average daily population of the NWRCC was 169. During that month the population reached 170 or above for 15 days, and multiple days exceeded 180 inmates, with the highest daily total of 188 inmates.

- Beds rented to other counties accounted for an average daily population of 23.5 inmates resulting in \$37,804 in revenue.

- Beds rented to federal sources accounted for an average daily population of 18.4 federal inmates, resulting in \$38,061 in revenue.

- Beds rented to the Minnesota Department of Corrections accounted for an average daily population of 5.8 state inmates, resulting in \$9,900 in revenue.

The successful plan to develop revenue sources by utilizing unused vacant jail beds resulted in \$85,765 in revenues during the month of January 2014.

Clay County contract

Counties utilizing the NWRCC consist primarily of Mahnomon and Clay. In fact, Clay County will begin contracting for 12 beds a day starting on June 1. While this won't necessarily mean new revenue for TCCC, it will guarantee a certain amount of income —

\$18,900 — each month. Beds used above the agreed upon 12 beds will result in charges beyond the contracted amount.

This proposal also includes an option for the NWRCC to provide transportation of inmates to and from Moorhead twice per week. A contract has been forwarded to Clay County for review and board approval. Should this agreement come to fruition, a revenue approaching \$20,000 per month would be realized and sustained each and every month through the contract cycle.

Possible new member

Mahnomon County is also exploring increased usage of Tri-County Community Corrections (TCCC) by considering the possibility of becoming an equal member in the Joint Powers and Regional Jail agreements.

This would result in Mahnomon County transitioning all adult and juvenile probation services from the Minnesota Department of Corrections to TCCC, additionally utilizing the Red River Valley Juvenile Center (RRVJC) and NWRCC as members versus the current practice of renting beds at a per diem rate.

A formal presentation has been made to the Mahnomon County Commissioners and cost estimates are being prepared to assist them in the decision of selecting services. — **Phillip Greer, TCCC administrator**

Marshals Service requiring 2 transport officers

Since October, the Northwest Regional Corrections Center in Crookston has housed U. S. Marshals Service inmates via a contractual agreement between Tri-County Community Corrections (TCCC), the Marshals Service and the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

This contract was designed and implemented to generate per diem revenues to offset financial contributions by the three TCCC member counties of Norman, Polk and Red Lake. Polk County, which contributes 87 percent of the TCCC budget, receives the greatest benefit of the increased revenue.

The Marshals Service requires two sworn law enforcement officers to provide transportation of their federal inmates.

Transport contract

TCCC has contracted with the Sheriff's Office to provide transportation services as needed. This agreement provides the sheriff with two fulltime transport deputy positions (salaries plus benefits) at the expense of TCCC. The primary responsibility of these transport deputies is transporting federal

inmates to and from the Fargo area, the location of the nearest Federal Courthouse.

Additionally, these deputies provide service to TCCC by transporting federal inmates to and from medical appointments and providing guard service

should a federal inmate be hospitalized.

The Sheriff's Office plays a critical role in this three-way contractual arrangement. Without their participation, TCCC would not be able to garner the U.S. Marshals business and the

revenue it provides to the organization and member counties.

Due to the oil boon in Western North Dakota, jails in that region are at or above capacity, resulting in the Marshals Service's need for alternate inmate housing.

Equally beneficial

The opportunity to utilize the Northwest Regional Corrections Center facility provides a valuable and needed resource to the Marshals Service and is equally beneficial to TCCC in financial remuneration.

U.S. Marshals inmates have exceeded projected numbers.

Initial projections suggested an average daily population of 8 federal inmates, totaling 2,920 inmate bed days per year. TCCC is currently averaging approximately 15 federal inmates per day, which would total 5,475 inmate bed days per year should the average daily population continue.

Currently, TCCC is receiving compensation exceeding \$30,000 per month for the federal inmates with the potential to approach annual earnings in excess of \$350,000. — **Phillip Greer, TCCC administrator**

Early retirements may be problem

Minnesota counties and cities are bracing for the prediction by some that from 500 to 1,000 law officers statewide will take early retirement this summer. That would be out of up to 1,600 officers, who could choose the early retirement option.

Retirements at anything close to those numbers would mean that the demand for good law enforcement officers coming into the profession would become even greater than what it already is, according to Polk County Sheriff Barb Erdman.

Erdman, who hasn't yet received notice that any of her officers are planning early retirement, is concerned that what happens in other jurisdictions could make filling and keeping a

full force in Polk County more difficult.

A change in the early retirement benefit formula for Police and Fire Plan members of the Public Employee Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA) is the reason behind the early retirement issue.

This change reduces the rate of penalty for fully vested officers who retire when they are between the ages of 50 and 54 years. Age 55 is the full pension retirement age.

To get the benefit of this one-time reduction in early retirement penalty, the intent to retire has to be declared before July 1. This means that the effect of the change will be felt statewide yet this year.

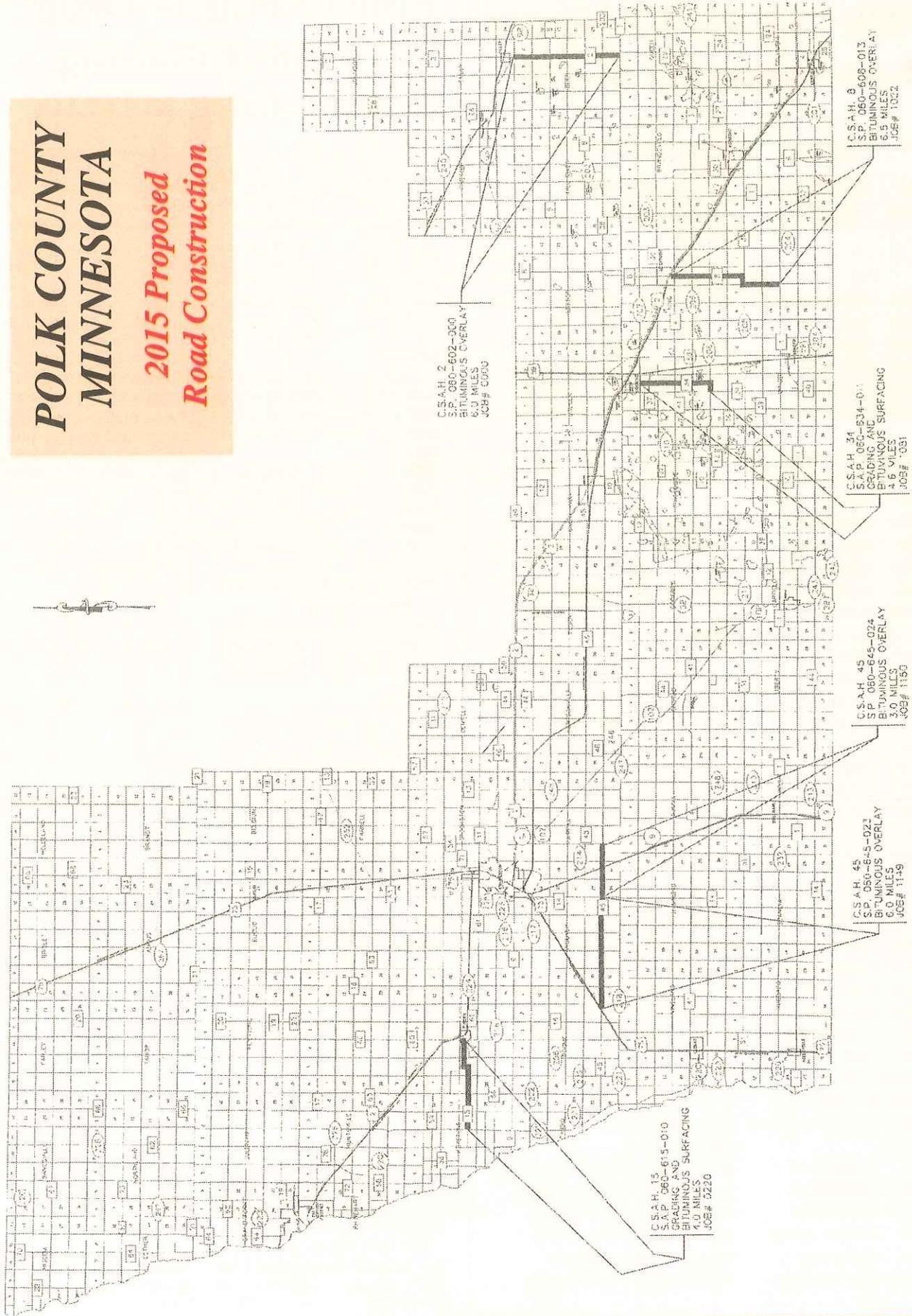
POLK COUNTY MINNESOTA

2014 Proposed Road Construction



POLK COUNTY MINNESOTA

2015 Proposed Road Construction



Polk County Employee Anniversaries in 2014

<u>Hire</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Department-Position</u>
1/2/79	Norma Johnson	
10/1/79	Linda Cornia	
35 Years		
		Co. Attorney-Office Manager
		Sheriff's Dept.-Bailliff
30 Years		
25 Years		
4/24/89	Teresa Genereux	Soc. Svcs.-Accounting Technician
5/17/89	Todd Tranby	Municipal Solid Waste-Landfill Tech
6/12/89	Celeste Morris	Finance-Clerk/Typist/Cashier IV
6/19/89	Betty Solie	Soc. Svcs.-Support Service Supervisor
10/2/89	Larry Orvik	Co. Attorney-Assistant Co. Attorney
12/20/89	James Arneson	Soc. Svcs.-Social Service Supervisor
20 Years		
1/4/94	Karen Warmack	Soc. Svcs.-Social Service Supervisor
1/24/94	Randall Sondrol	Sheriff's Dept.-Sergeant
5/2/94	Karen Biermaier	Soc. Svcs.-Child Support Officer
5/11/94	Pamela Cournia	Co. Attorney-Clerk/Typist/Cashier IIIA
6/6/94	Nancy Shafer	Sheriff's Dept.-Dispatch Records Supr.
6/6/94	Debbie Hanson	Soc. Svcs.-Case Aide
8/1/94	Randall S. Olson	Highway Department-Maintenance II
8?29/94	Randal Huot	Highway Department-Shop Foreman
15 Years		
1/5/99	Warren K. Affeldt	Board of Commissioners-Elected Official
1/21/99	Ron Denison	Finance Department-Finance Director
2/3/99	Erik Sandberg	Transfer Station-Transfer Station Tech
6/1/99	Todd Lewis	Highway Department-Maintenance II
6/1/99	Beverly Johnson	Taxpayer Service Center.-Admin. Asst. I
6/28/99	Peggy Vizenor	Soc. Svcs.-Case Aide
8/1/99	Connie Desrosier	Taxpayer Svc. Ctr-Clerk/Typist/Cashier III
8/1/99	Les Goodwin	Veterans Service-Veterans Svc. Officer
9/1/99	Karen Broekemeier	Soc. Svcs.-Social Worker-CPS
12/13/99	Scott Oliver	Highway Deparptment-Engineer Tech IIB
10 Years		
4/1/04	Jeffrey Durbin	Transfer Station-Transfer Station Operator
5/3/04	Debbie Kappedal	Incinerator-Secretary/Receptionist
6/14/04	Raymond Austin	Soc. Svcs.-Social Worker
7/8/04	Donald Solheim	Sheriff's Dept.-Bailliff
8/9/04	Judy Keasler	Public Health-Clerk/Typist/Cashier III
8/13/04	Kathy Girdler	Public Health-Registered Nurse III
9/1/04	Crystal Bergerson	Soc. Svcs.-Office Support Specialist
9/7/04	Jesse Haugen	Sheriff's Dept.-Patrolman
10/11/04	Sara Spicer	Govt. Center Operations-Custodian I
11/22/04	Michelle Ostgard	Soc. Svcs.-Social Worker
12/1/04	Carolyn Selmanson	Sheriff's Dept.-Bailliff
5 Years		
1/6/09	Craig Buness	Board of Commissioners-Elected Official
1/12/09	Debra Nelson	Govt. Center Operations-Custodian I
3/9/09	Jacyln Martin	Soc. Svcs.-Lead Eligibility Worker
5/1/09	Jeffrey L. Jorgens	Highway Department-Maintenance II
6/8/09	Brad Driscoll	Highway Department-Mechanic
9/14/09	Sue Thompson	Public Health-Community Facilitator

Pine to Prairie Drug Task Force making dent in drug activity

Investigative work done by the Pine to Prairie Drug Task Force in Polk County in 2013 initiated 171 cases against local drug kingpins and dealers.

In addition to the 96 arrests that were made for drug trafficking or manufacture, the four-member Task Force team confiscated an extensive amount of drugs and seized 19 weapons.

Another 18 arrests were made when searches turned up drug paraphernalia and stolen items, or because of outstanding warrants.

Drugs seized included: 3 grams of cocaine, 6 grams of crack, 12 grams of heroin, 3.9 pounds and 71 plants of marijuana, 237 grams of meth, 870 prescription pills and 2.5 pounds of synthetic marijuana.

The starter drug

Marijuana, according to team members, is the "starter" drug, the one that typically precedes the use of coke, heroin, meth and others.

A state grant pays for 50 percent of the salaries for three members of the team. The other half of the salary, along with the benefits and overtime, is provided by the cities of Crookston and East Grand Forks and by Polk County. The U.S. Border Patrol provides the fourth member of the Task Force.

The Task Force reports to an advisory board made up of Crookston City Council member Bob Quanrud, Crookston Police Chief Paul Biermaier; East Grand Forks City Council member Mark Olstad, East Grand Forks Police Chief Michael Hedlund, Polk County Sheriff Barb Erdman, and Polk County Commissioner Warren Affeldt.

County Attorney Greg Widseth is an advisor to the team as is the supervisor of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security office in Grand Forks.

The Task Force is based in the recently remodeled Law Enforcement Center in Crookston.

The drugs seized last year confirms the fact that methamphetamine is the drug of choice.

Less made locally

However, less of it is being made locally, the agents — who go nameless for good reason — note, because that which is "coming from the cartel" is cheaper, better and less risky. "And you don't risk blowing up the house if you're not making it," they say.

Also high in popularity is the use of prescription pills. The popularity of these medications has resulted in a number of home break-ins where the medicine chest was a prime focus. Of crimes committed locally, the agents say, drugs and alcohol are a factor in 85 percent of them.

The work of the Task Force has involved situations where young children were in the home when a search and arrest were made. In one case, the home was just across the street from a school. Mom and dad were high and selling drugs while their school-age children were not in school.

In addition to arrests in Crookston and East Grand Forks, a dent was made in the drug trafficking that had been going on in East Polk County.

High arrest rate

The Pine to Prairie team has one of the highest arrest rates in the state. It works extensively with drug task forces in adjacent counties and throughout Minnesota and in North Dakota, too.

Suspicious activities can be reported to the sheriff's office (218-281-0431), the Crookston Police Department (218-281-3111), the East Grand Forks Police Department (218-773-4307), or to Polk County's Help Us 2 Fight Meth and All Crime anonymous number (877-204-7505).

Presentations can be arranged for clubs, church groups and other organizations by calling the same numbers.

Tackling 2014 & Beyond

By Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator



It's amazing how fast time moves with everything, except long winters. I have now passed a year and a half with Polk County with a still full agenda of work to tackle in 2014.

A lot has gotten done in the past year including selling a \$6 million bond for County State Aid Highway road improvements, a subsequent improvement in the county's bond rating to 2AA, near completion of remodeling at the Law Enforcement Center, securing grant funds and completion of major E-911 system upgrades, state pay equity wage compliance, hiring three new department heads, building improvements at the Highway Department building, approval of the 2014 budget with a 2% levy increase, and the demolition of the old Professional Building.

Throw in a new county commissioner, some staffing changes and a couple of department reorganizations and I would say 2013 was a pretty good year.

That leads us to 2014.

As with other things these days, there is no real down time any more. This year will continue to be busy. Heading the list is the planned expansion of the waste to energy incinerator plant in Fosston.

Polk County has a longtime partner agreement with several other northwest Minnesota counties to burn, recycle and landfill garbage residue.

Incinerator expansion

Now, \$7.5 million is being sought in the state's bonding bill to pay for half of the \$15 million expansion of the incinerator facility. Tip fees collected from existing counties and new ones coming into the partnership, along with sales of energy and other non-property tax revenue will cover the remaining project costs.

The County Board will know of the state's funding plans later in the spring in order to decide on the project's go ahead.

We are also looking closely at how our buildings operate and at what their condition and future maintenance needs are. Energy costs and reliable backup power options are getting some scrutiny, particularly when it comes to efficiencies. The winter weather and pipeline problems have exposed some vulnerabilities in the county's ability in maintaining 24/7 operations.

In addition, we have "decommissioned" the Annex building, mostly due to operational costs but also for maintenance issues that affect the work environment inside. The building has been used mostly for file storage but, as of last fall, is no longer served by utilities. Once emptied, decisions will need to be made about its future.

Computer files

The files need to find new space to occupy. That is being addressed by converting paper

files into computer files. Scanning documents one by one is time intensive but necessary and will be taking place this year to reduce the space needed for these files. Faster retrieval and longer retainage are benefits of this conversion but are also budget necessities when compared to the costs of maintaining buildings.

The work preparing for the fall elections has already started as well. While Polk County's population remains steady, our sheer geographic size and the number of voting jurisdictions keeps our elections staff busy preparing for much of the year. We are blessed with top notch elections officials that make election days go as smoothly as they do and their preparation helps make that so.

Pro Building site available

After demolishing the old Pro Building across from the Government Center in Crookston last year, the Board put the vacant property up for bid. After receiving no bids, \$50,000 was set as the minimum sale price on the property. To date, no offers have been received.

The Board is also working diligently on options for county representation on the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed Board of Managers. Currently, Polk County has one appointee to watershed, which covers part of Polk County and most of Marshall County.

Commissioners are working with neighboring counties and the Minnesota Board of Water & Soils Resources on the watershed's distribution of county representatives.

Last year saw the unveiling of the county's new website (<http://www.co.polk.mn.us>) and this year we are looking for enhancements to make the site more relevant to county residents. Keep an eye out for new news on the website and feel free to contact me at chuck.whiting@co.polk.mn.us with suggestions or questions as we move the site forward in 2014.

Finally, I see planning needed to address a trend many organizations are facing. That is work force turnover. We have seen a number of retirements in the time I have been here and expect more over the next few years. Coupled with the transitory options new work force entrants have, this creates a great deal of fluidity within the county's workforce.

While this turnover opens opportunities for new people coming into the organization, a great deal of history and knowledge often walks out the door. No one approach will address this but working with the Board of Commissioners it will be important to recognize opportunities for leadership development as we cycle through our workforce.

All in all there is plenty of work going on with more to do and just maybe that will make this long winter move along just a little faster!

Valuation of real estate in county now tops \$5.2 billion

As determined by the Polk County director of assessment services for the purpose of assessing property taxes that will be payable in 2015, the valuation of real estate in the county now totals \$5,236,848,400.

This new total amount of valuation represents an increase of \$971,389,800 over 2013, or about 22.8%.

Of the new total valuation amount:

- 63% is for tillable agricultural lands.
- 6.8% is for all other agricultural property.
- 21.6% is for residential properties.
- 3.8% is for seasonal recreational properties.
- 2.5% is for commercial properties.
- .8% is for industrial properties.
- 2.7% is for building sites (rural homes and garages on 1 acre)*.
- 1.5% is for "all other" property classifications.

New construction accounted for \$29,194,800 of the total valuation increase. The balance of the increase is the result of the re-valuation of existing properties.

Note — The valuations total does not take into account railroad or utility values. The figures above are based on the 2014, Spring Mini Abstract. Last year's figures were based on the 2013 Fall Mini Abstract. The 2014 Fall Mini-Abstract is not yet available.

* Included in all other agricultural property

McDonald, Theis join Extension Committee

Dustin McDonald, rural Fisher, and Amy Theis, rural Crookston, are new members of the Polk County Extension Committee. They represent Commissioner Districts 2 and 3, respectively.

McDonald succeeds Carol Svendson, East Grand Forks, whose increased work and travel responsibilities prevented her from completing a second term. Theis succeeds Stephanie Olson, Fertile, who had served the maximum number of two three-year terms.

The committee hears reports and provides input on Extension Service activities, both those that are agriculture related and those involving the 4-H program. The committee also makes recommendations to the County Board about staffing and budgeting.

Farms in Nesbit Township

McDonald, who farms with his father, George, lives in Nesbit Township where he is a member of the Nesbit Town Board. He is also a member of the East Grand Forks Truck Haul Committee for American Crystal Sugar.

A 1994 graduate of Fisher High School, McDonald studied diesel mechanics at the



Amy Theis

Northland Community & Technical College in East Grand Forks for two years before earning a B.S. degree in agronomy at the University of Minnesota-Crookston (UMC) in 2002. He and his wife, Jodie (Vonasek), have three children: Savannah, 12; Nate, 10; and Kasey, 8.

City clerk-treasurer

Theis, who is the Fisher city clerk-treasurer, lives with her husband and family north of Crookston. She grew up in Crookston (as Amy Thompson) and was a member of the Community Star 4-H Club (now North Star Club).

"I concentrated on sewing



Dustin McDonald

and baking activities in 4H. We lived in town, so I didn't have any farm animals," she says.

After graduating from Crookston Central High School in 1992, she attended UMC, the University of North Dakota, and Range Technical College at Hibbing, Minn. (now Hibbing Community College).

Her community involvements include serving as an adult leader for the North Star 4-H Club, as treasurer of the Crookston Youth Basketball Association, as treasurer of the Polk County 4-H Federation, as chair of the Polk County

4-H Fair Committee, and as chair of the Altar Guild at Trinity Lutheran Church in Crookston.

Theis and her husband, Mike, a lieutenant with the State Patrol, have two children, Jared, 14, and Gretchen, 11.

New committee chair

Kaydi (Strickler) Grunhqvist, Euclid, representing Commissioner District 5, is the new chair of the Extension Committee.

Nancy Capistran, Crookston (at-large representative), is vice chair. Other members are: Cheryl Byrne, Erskine (Dist. 1), and Paul Rosendahl, Fosston (Dist. 4).

Two county commissioners, Don Diedrich and Nick Nicholas, also serve on the committee. County Director of Property Records Michelle Cote is the committee secretary. Deb Zak is director of the Regional Extension Office, which is located in the Valley Tech building on the UMC campus. Extension agent Jim Stordahl is based at the McIntosh office. Kristina Johnson is 4-H program coordinator and also works from McIntosh office.

Enhanced Driver's License allows re-entry to U.S. from Canada, Mexico, Caribbean & Bermuda

If the idea of getting a Minnesota Enhanced Driver's License or the Enhanced Identification Card interests you, it won't be that hard to accomplish.

But it can't be done in Polk County. And it must be done in person at one of the Minnesota Department of Transportation operated Driver License Exam Stations. The two nearest such sites are at:

- Bemidji, 111 2nd St., Union Square and
- Detroit Lakes, 1000 Highway 10 W.

The Enhanced License allows a Minnesota resident to re-enter the United States at land or seaports when returning from Canada, Mexico,

Bermuda or the Caribbean.

Application can be done:

- Either at the time of renewal or to replace a current license prior to the date of renewal,
- As a part of the first time application for a license or learner's permit, or
- As a part of the application for a non-driver photo ID card.

Applicants must be 16 years of age or older and be able to provide proof of identity (with photograph), proof of residency and citizenship, full legal name, and social security number.

Questions can be directed to DVS.driverslicense@state.mn.us or to (651) 297-3298.

Help Us 2... Fight Crime

The Polk County Sheriff's Tip Line is completely Anonymous

Help us to fight drugs and all crime. Your tips, especially when combined with other information that we already might have, could help someone's child, parent, relative or friend. — Sheriff Barb Erdman

1-218-435-7872

Buness is Agassiz Rec Trail chair

Polk County Commissioner Craig Buness, Crookston, is the new chair of the joint powers board that operates the 52-mile Agassiz Recreational Trail that runs from Crookston to Ulen.

Buness succeeds Jerry Waller, Dilworth, who retired. Harold Allrich, Twin Valley, is the vice chair and Dan Wilkens, Beltrami, is secretary-treasurer. Gordy Gudvangen, Fertile, continues as the trail administrator.

The board includes county commissioners from Polk, Norman and Clay counties. Besides Buness, those members are Marv Gunderson, representing Norman County, and Frank Gross from Clay County.

At-large members are: Allrich and Glenn Visser, Ada, representing Norman County; Dean Adams, Crookston, representing Polk County, and Ben Fuglie, Ulen, for Clay County. Fuglie has succeeded Waller on the board.

The ART has had funding issues during the last three years because it relies on reimbursements from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and does not have a funding stream that covers expenses. Most of the reimbursements from the DNR are on a 90/10 or 65/35 match basis. Legal fees are not covered.

As CRP lands were put back into production in recent years, some encroachment and drainage issues emerged. Ditch assessments also came into play two years ago when Norman County assessed the trail. The ART Board negotiated with the DNR to pay the 2012 assessment but that the resulting agreement came after the cutoff of the department's fiscal year. The 2013 has been paid.

The trail parallels State Highways 102 and 32. Owned by the three counties, it was constructed on abandoned railroad grade. The section from Crookston to Fertile was added last summer.

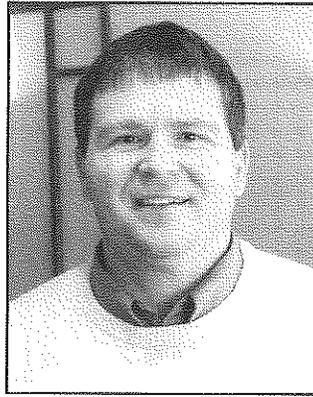
Ellingson becomes H.R. director

Nate Ellingson has become Polk County's new human resources director. He succeeds Linsey Rood, who left the county at the end of 2013 to take a position with the City of Grand Forks.

A native of Crookston, Ellingson had been a benefits specialist in the Human Resources Department for Altru Health System in Grand Forks for the past 2½ years.

After graduation from Crookston Central High in 1991, he ventured to Oregon to be involved with a family construction business. After some time out there and wanting to return home, he began his collegiate studies at the University of Minnesota-Crookston.

Between time spent at UMC, the University of North Dakota, and Bemidji State University, he earned a degree in Sports Management with an emphasis on public relations in 1998. Since that time, he has also earned a Professional Human Resources certification through SHRM-Society Human Resources Management. He notes it was one of the hardest exams he has even taken.



Nate Ellingson

Living in the Twin Cities from 1998 until 2002, Ellingson started his professional career as a personal banker and then went on to work for a friend with a small family business working with Jacuzzi products. He later helped expand that business platform by initiating a now successful Jacuzzi internet sales program.

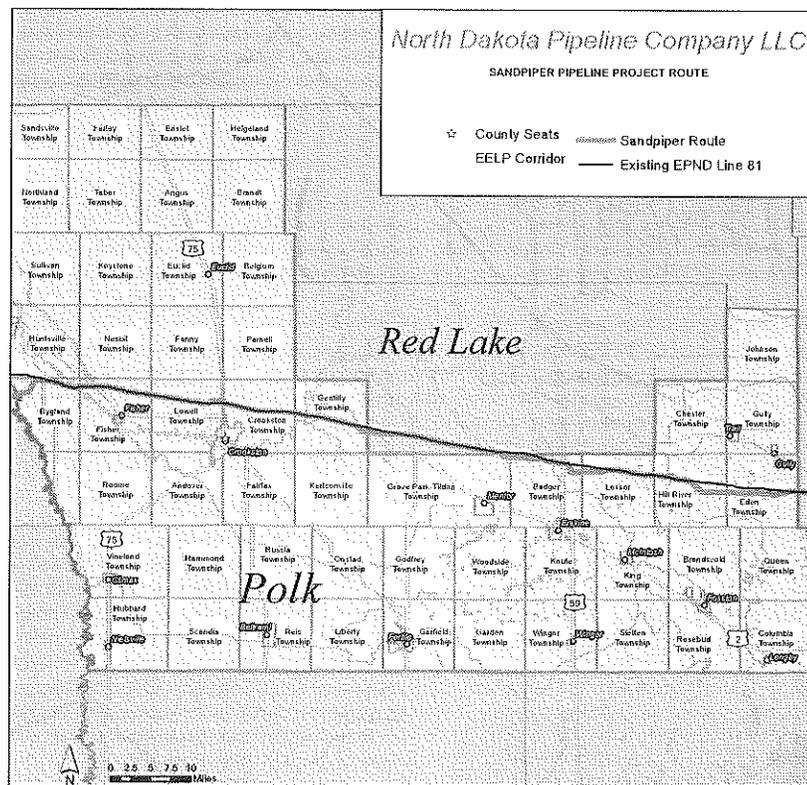
He and longtime girl friend Jessica Hovde of Fertile — they had met at Oxcart Days in Crookston in 1991 — were married in 1999. They moved to Fertile in 2002.

While living with Jessica's parents (Jon & Darlene Hovde), Ellingson worked on the restoration of a "labor of love" home before taking a position with Tri-Valley Opportunity Council in Crookston in November 2002.

"That job," he says, "opened my eyes to the value of becoming a part of your community. I believe in giving back... that each of us has an obligation to do that." Among his involvements, he is a volunteer fireman in Fertile.

"I'm really excited about coming to Polk County. My predecessors have left me with all the needed tools. I have them at my disposal and it's a great template to start work from," he says. "I'm really looking forward to being a professional and active member of the county."

Ellingson, who does scuba diving in local lakes and is an avid fisherman, and Jessica, a renal dialysis nurse at Altru Clinic in Crookston, live in Fertile. They are the parents of three daughters: Olivia, 12; Norah, 9, and Sophia, 2.



The route of the proposed Sandpiper pipeline through Polk County generally follows existing line



Award winners

Senior Probation Agent Lisa Larson, lead probation agent Kip Viau, clerk LaVonne Dale, and RRVJC Youth Counselor Sandra Nielson

received special honors at the Tri-County Corrections Employee Recognition event in January.

Tri-County Corrections staff members are recognized at employee event

Three Tri-County Corrections staff members — LaVonne Dale, Lisa Larson and Kip Viau — were presented Recognition of Excellence Awards at the organization's annual employee recognition event held Jan. 9 at Bede Ballroom at the University of Minnesota-Crookston.

Dale also received the Director's Service Award.

Nominated by peers

The Recognition of Excellence Award recipients were nominated by their peers for "having gone above and beyond job responsibilities and for having continuously displayed outstanding work ethic and job performance."

In the selection process, the names of the nominees were removed from the nomination forms before they were forwarded to local department heads and to Minnesota Community Corrections directors throughout the state for the selection of the winners.

Dale is a clerk in the Probation Division, Larson is a senior probation agent and Viau, is the lead probation agent.

Director's Service Award

For the Director's Service Award, Dale was recognized for her outstanding initiative and dedicated performance, especially during a period when the Probation Division was short-staffed.

Fifteen nominations had been submitted by their fellow workers for the three Recognition of Excellence Award winners. The other nominees included Ryan Chisholm, Devin

Frederiksen, Gene Irelan, Craig Magsam, Jason Raupp and Heather Sabian.

Recognized at the event, too, was Red River Valley Juvenile Center youth counselor Sandra Nielson, who had earlier received the 2013 Detention Worker of the Year from the Minnesota Juvenile Detention Association.

Years of service

Certificates and recognition rewards for years of service were presented to:

Five years — Dale Arnold, Kurt Ellefson, Annette Erickson, Doug Ottinger, Paula Schroeder and Heather Sabian; 10 years — Dawn Cossette, Judy Moran and Harvey Uken; 15 years — Chad Johnson; 20 years — Jean Clauson; and 25 years — Troy Cymbaluk.

Connie Anderson, who retired as the office manager in the Probation Division on Jan. 31, was also recognized for 31 years of dedicated service. She was described as the "person who you went to for everything" in the Probation Division.

Guest speakers

Special guest speakers were Ninth Judicial District Judge Anne Rasmusson and Timothy Denny of the Northwestern Mental Health Center. Executive Director Phill Greer, Chief Probation Officer Tami Lieberg, Jail Administrator Andrew Larson, Juvenile Center Manager Daryl Meyer, Deputy Director Paul Bissonette and Polk County Commissioner/Regional Corrections Board Chair Warren Strandell also offered remarks.

Eidenschink reappointed to LARL Board

Terri Eidenschink, Climax, has been reappointed to a second three-year term on the Lake Agassiz Regional Library Board.

She is one of two members that are appointed by Polk County Board of Commissioners. The other Polk County member on the board of trustees is Ilene Rue, Fosston.

Craig Bunes, Crookston, is the Polk County commissioner representative. Representing the City of Crookston as a member-at-large is Dana Johnson.

LARL, which has its offices in Moorhead, is the oversight board for the libraries in seven counties in northwestern Minnesota that are a part of the Minnesota Library System. Member libraries in Polk County are located in Climax, Crookston, Fertile, Fosston and McIntosh.

A native of Mahanomen, Eidenschink graduated from high school there in 1990. She earned an associate degree in restaurant management at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. Her involvement in kitchen management has included 10 years with the Climax School System where she is the head cook. She also works with Quality Catering in Ada.

Eidenschink and her husband, Gary, and daughters; Hailey (16), and Alyssa (14), regularly use the Climax Library.

County Maps Available

Polk County maps showing the streets and avenues in the rural addressing system are available at the Highway Department and at the Taxpayer Service Center in the Government Center (former Auditor-Treasurer Office).

The cost is \$2 each.

Public Health Services

Health Screenings and Disease Prevention

SITE	ADDRESS	DAYS	HOURS
Crookston	721 S. Minnesota St	Every Tuesday	3:00 – 5:30 p.m.
East Grand Forks	1424 Central Ave NE	2 nd and 4 th Wednesday of each month*	3:00 – 4:30 p.m.
McIntosh	275 Cleveland Ave	1 st and 3 rd Thursday of each month*	9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

*Immunizations at these locations are available by appointment only

Public Health services available by walk-in or appointment:

- ✓ Childhood and adult immunizations
- ✓ Limited family planning services: pregnancy testing and contraceptives-including oral birth control pills, patch, ring, depo shot, plan b/emergency contraceptives, male/female condoms, dental dams
- ✓ Mantoux-TB testing
- ✓ Dental varnish- fluoride treatment
- ✓ Lead Testing
- ✓ Blood Pressure Check
- ✓ Cholesterol screening
- ✓ Blood Sugar screening
- ✓ Flu shot
- ✓ Height and weight checks, including baby weight checks
- ✓ Hemoglobin
- ✓ Hearing and vision screening

** Comprehensive Family Planning Clinic in Crookston office on Wednesday's 2:30-4:30 p.m. by appointment. Contraceptives, STI Diagnosis and Treatment, Pregnancy Testing, Gynecological Exams, Counseling, Education and Referrals
Additional Crookston Family Planning Walk-In Hours- Mon and Thurs 2:00-4:30 p.m.

<p>Questions or to make an appointment?</p> <p>Call 218-281-3385. Walk-ins welcome.</p>	<p>What if I'm not able to come during these times?</p> <p>Call and schedule an appointment for another date/time.</p>
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Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

No one will be turned away or denied services due to inability to pay.



POLK COUNTY
2014 ASSESSMENT PROPOSED TILLABLE CHANGES
PRIOR TO STATE BOARD ADJUSTMENTS

HIGDEM 20% \$4,063	SANDSVILLE 45% \$4,802	FARLEY 60% \$5,247	BRISLET 60% \$3,953	HELGELAND 45% \$2,194
ESTHER 25% \$4,452	NORTHLAND 60% \$5,604	TABOR 60% \$5,121	ANGUS 60% \$4,125	BRANDT 20% \$1,724
GRAND FORKS 25% \$5,339	SULLIVAN 20% \$5,717	KEYSTONE 40% \$4,755	EUCLID 60% \$4,526	BELGIUM 40% \$1,978
RHINEHART 20% \$5,260	HUNTSVILLE 25% \$5,758	NESBIT 40% \$6,151	FANNY 60% \$5,106	PARNELL 35% \$2,062
	BYGLAND 40% \$5,781	FISHER 40% \$5,920	LOWELL 30% \$5,153	CROOKSTON 30% \$3,247
	TYNSID 40% \$4,833	ROOMIE 45% \$5,584	ANDOVER 25% \$4,758	FAIRFAX 30% \$4,265
	VINELAND 45% \$5,374		HAMMOND 30% \$4,054	RUSSIA 35% \$3,564
			SCANDIA 30% \$4,790	REIS 30% \$2,760
				LIBERTY 25% \$1,457
				GARFIELD 25% \$1,818
				GARDEN 25% \$2,455
				WINGER 25% \$2,322
				KNUTE 25% \$2,169
				WOODSIDE 20% \$2,026
				KNUTE 25% \$2,169
				KING 20% \$1,841
				LESSOR 20% \$1,445
				BADGER 20% \$1,416
				GROVE PARK 20% \$1,199
				TILDEN 20% \$1,199
				KERTSONVILLE 30% \$1,387
				GENTILLY 30% \$1,980
				HILL RIVER 30% \$1,706
				EDEN 20% \$1,674
				CHESTER 20% \$1,174
				GULLY 30% \$1,050
				JOHNSON 60% \$1,202

KEY	
TILLABLE PERCENTAGE CHANGE	
PROPOSED AVERAGE TILLABLE VALUE PER ACRE	