

POLK COUNTY NEWSLETTER

FALL 2016



The new 2-acre solid waste cell at the Polk County Landfill will soon be put into use. The sand layer covers the liner and allows liquid accumulated in the cell to flow to the central collection system for treatment.

Use of new landfill cell to start soon

Last fall Polk County filed with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) the permit application documents and the required Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for construction of a new two-acre lined cell for mixed solid waste (MSW) and to renew the existing operational permit for the entire Landfill Complex.

The operational permit was set to expire the summer of 2016.

State law requires a facility operator to file for permit renewal six months prior to expiration in order to continue operations while the state processes the application. The state is running a backlog of landfill permits of over 6 years.

With space running out

In addition, Polk asked for, and was told it would receive, an expedited permit as we would be running out of space in the MSW cell with the increase of waste due to Hubbard County entering the system in July and delays in getting the expansion project moving. The agreed upon date for MSW cell construction was June 1st, 2016.

Polk's EAW was processed, and despite major and unexplained delays by the state, ultimately approved after receiving no negative comments to the public notice.

Likewise, unexplained delays occurred in the processing of our application and construction documents. These delays placed the June 1st deadline for construction in jeopardy and as such Polk made plans to move construction back to July 2016 to allow more time to get the permit.

County told to close cell

However, an unexpected issue arose which derailed the processing of our Landfill permit. At the end of March, the MPCA told Polk County it would need to close its Demolition Debris Landfill and begin putting that demolition material in the MSW Landfill.

Up to that point, all attention paid to the Polk County permit and EAW were pertaining to the MSW Landfill area. Not a single comment or con-

See **LANDFILL**, Page 7

Work nearing completion on building projects

With the end of the lease approaching for the space that was being rented to house its Public Health Department and with projects that needed to be done on several other properties, the Polk County Board decided in mid 2015 that it might as well bite the bullet and try to address a lot of different issues with one plan.

Biting the bullet meant selling \$3 million in bonds to finance a number of projects now rather than have the work be spread out over several years. It was a "do them all and do them right" approach to improve county offices and workspace while also saving in utility costs and eliminating the cost of leasing space at a time when the county actually had uncommitted space available.

Best alternative

Not only would the plan get a lot of work done but it would be done with low-interest bonding money before inflation could pump up the cost of the projects.

By late this year, most of the projects will be done or will be close to being done. And, with Facilities Director Mark Dietz overseeing the work, all of it is being accomplished within or below budget. Beginning with work at the Polk County Justice Center, the projects have included:

- The County Attorney's Office, which was initially located on the south end of the ground floor of the eight-year-old Justice Center building, has been moved to that previously uncommitted and

See **PROPERTIES**, Page 2

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Polk property valuation now totals \$5.49 billion

As determined by the Polk County director of assessment services for the purpose of assessing property taxes that will be payable in 2017, the 2016 valuation of real estate in the county now totals \$5,495,432,800.

This new total amount of valuation represents a decrease of \$197,435,700 over 2015, or about 1.9 percent.

Of the new 2016 total valuation amount:

- 61.3% is for tillable agricultural lands.
- 6.7% is for all other agricultural property.
- 22.9% is for residential properties.
- 3.8% is for seasonal recreational properties.
- 3.1% is for commercial properties.
- 0.95% is for industrial properties.
- 2.7% is for building sites (rural homes and garages on 1 acre*).
- 1.25% is for "all other" property classifications.

New construction accounted for \$24,931,400 of the total valuation.

The overall decrease is mainly the result of the softening of the tillable agricultural market.

Note — The figures above are based on the 2016 Spring Mini Abstract.

The valuation total does not take into account railroad or utility values.

*— Included in "all other" agricultural property

Updated: Aug. 3, 2016

Properties

Continued from Page 1

unfinished space on the second floor. This 5,600 square feet of area had been created almost as an after thought when the County Board was told during construction of the jail that all it would take to have space for some future use would be to extend a couple of walls upward one story. The board did that then at a very low cost and put the space to good use this year.

- During this same fall-to-March time frame new quarters for the Public Defenders Office were developed on the second floor in a portion of the fourth courtroom at the south end of Justice Center. The now smaller courtroom is being used for actions that do not generally involve the need to have seating for a number of observers.

- Previously, the prime use for this courtroom seating space had been as the assembly area for prospective jurors. Jury assembly has since been moved to the far north end of the second floor into space that had housed the county's Information Services Department before it was moved to the Law Enforcement Center building early last year.

With the County Attorney's Office and the Public Defenders Office now both on second floor, all court activities are on that level of the building.

- The side-by-side areas on the first floor that had been occupied by the County Attorney's Office and Public Defenders Office are now the home for Polk County Public Health, which had been located in the rented space several blocks away. A separate Public Health entrance has been created at the south end of the building. This eliminates the need for Public Health visitors to go through the security controls that are required for people who have interests or business with the courts and or the jail.

The office moves that have been made within the Justice Center were precipitated by a couple of things. First, the leased quarters that house Public Health fell short of meeting building codes for that purpose. Second, the county was spending over \$50,000 a year to rent space for Public Health. And third, the county had that previously "unused" space available.

- The original, 47-year-old boilers in the Government Center have been replaced. This work, which qualifies for a rebate payment from the gas company, has increased the efficiency rating for

heating of the building from 85% to 96%, thereby saving utility costs. A follow-up to the boiler replacement will be the updating of the heat distribution system and an updating of the building's elevator car and controls.

- In Fosston, space will be created in the Stenberg Building over the winter to serve as a satellite facility for the Sheriff's Department. This will provide for an office and data hub, for interview rooms, for a place for DUI testing, and for a sally port that will provide security when dealing with a prisoner. Purchased by the county five years ago to serve as a storage facility at the solid waste incinerator site, this building has ample space for other uses as well.

- Underway, too, is a project to address the cooling needs and expand the county's server room located in the Law Enforcement Center. This building, which was constructed as a jail, is a fortress and the ideal location for this equipment.

- Also currently being addressed is an updating of the security system in the Justice Center. This will involve replacement of the security cameras and door swipes. In a separate project also in the Justice Center, Tri-County Community Corrections, the agency that operates the Northwest Regional Corrections Center jail, is also progressing through a plan to update the security system that operates the secure doors, the elevator and cameras in that area of the building.

- In McIntosh, the Public Health office was moved across the street to the city-owned Bjella Building earlier in 20125. This move has reduced rental costs and co-located the office with the Polk County Extension Service and the County's Veterans Services offices that also have space in the Bjella Building.

A project earlier in 2015 involved the demolition of the Annex Building, which had been taken out of use in late 2014.

While there will always be roofing, parking lot, equipment storage, needed technology updates and other infrastructure issues to deal with as a part of regular budgeting, there are no other major projects that are expected to have to be addressed for a number of years... that is aside from the Solid Waste incinerator expansion project in Fosston that has been put on hold as noted in a story on **Page 7**.

Nicholas chairs the County Board

Commissioner Nick Nicholas became chair of the County Board in July following the plan that was adopted when the County Board reorganized in January. Commissioner Craig Bunes was to serve as chair in the first six months of 2016 with Nicholas to become chair for the balance of the year.

As a part of the process, they also switched vice chair roles on the same schedule.

In another officer change that also occurred in July, Commissioner Don Diedrich succeeded Bunes as chair of the Social Service Board. Diedrich had been the vice chair. The new vice chair of the Social Service Board is Commissioner Warren Strandell.

The County Board positions of chair and vice chair are normally chosen in January for the

calendar year, while the Social Service chair and vice positions change annually in July.

The Social Service Board, which operates on a fiscal year basis, meets monthly as a separate body. It is made up of the five county commissioners and at-large members, Paula Waters, Crookston, and Cathy Gutterud, Fosston. Gutterud is secretary of the Social Services board.

42 of the county's 82 precincts vote by mail

Voters in 42 of the 82 precincts in Polk County now cast their Primary and General Election ballots through the U.S. Mail rather than at polling places at township halls or at different sites within smaller cities.

By state law, mail ballots must be delivered to registered voters between 14 and 46 days prior to the election date. The ballots can then be filled out and mailed back to the Polk County Taxpayer Service Center as soon as the voter has decided how to vote up to Election Day.

Mail ballots can also be delivered on Election Day to the Polk County Taxpayer Service Center, which serves as the official polling place for all mail ballot precincts.

"Our target for this mailing," Michelle Cote, Polk County director of property records, says of getting the ballots out, "is to have them in the mail at around the 30-day mark. This is so they won't arrive so early that people forget about them or so late that we are getting phone calls from voters who are looking for their ballots." Cote is the county's election administrator.

Mail balloting is available to non-metro townships of any size and to cities with less than 400 registered voters. Besides usually resulting in greater participation in the election process, advantages to those precincts that use mail voting are that they do not have pay to train poll judges or staff a polling place on Election Day. The cost of mailing of the ballots amounts to about \$2 per ballot. Precincts often find the fiscally responsible choice of mail balloting ensures that voting is much easier for their residents.

For the recent Primary Election, approximately 3,300 mail ballots were mailed out to registered voters in mail ballot precincts.

Townships that use the mail ballot option are:

Andover, Angus, Belgium, Brandt, Brislet, Chester, Crookston, Eden, Fairfax, Fanny, Farley, Fisher, Gentilly, Grand Forks, Gully, Hammond, Helgeland, Hubbard, Johnson, Kertsonville, Keystone, Liberty, Lowell, Northland, Nesbit, Parnell, Onstad, Reis, Roome, Rosebud, Russia, Sandsville, Scandia, Tabor, Tynsid and Vineland.

Cities that have elected to use the vote by mail ballot are: Beltrami, Climax, Fisher, Gully, Nielsville and Trail.

Plat books available at Taxpayer Service Center

The most recent edition of the Polk County Plat Book is available at the County Taxpayer Service Center Office in the Government Center in Crookston. The price is \$30.

An additional charge of \$5.95 is made for mail orders. Information about ordering is available by calling the office at 218-281-3464.

Published in 2015, the 188-page spiral-bound book features property ownership data. It has aerial view GIS maps along with map pages that show ownership of all land parcels of 5 acres or more along with ditches, roads, etc. A landowner index is included for cross referencing. Premium wall maps are also available.

The book has maps of the school districts, ambulance districts and commissioner districts as well as those of 4-H club locations, cemeteries and lakes. An explanation of the public land survey system is also included.

Initial 'buffer protection' map released, revisions to come in October, January

Minnesota DNR has released an initial "buffer protection map" (July 2016) and states that the map may be utilized for implementation of regulated buffers.

West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District (with watershed district, drainage authority and landowner assistance) has extensively reviewed the DNR map and submitted (to DNR) indicated reaches that involve discrepancies or error. Accepted revisions to the map should be seen on subsequent versions (10/2016, 01/2017).

It has been stated that many "challenges" to public waters shall require DNR field review and documentation. Discrepancies involving Public Drainage (county, jurisdictional and watershed ditches) must be indicated and submitted by the drainage authority. Landowners are encouraged to visit SWCD technical staff for assistance in determination of buffer requirements.

Counties or watershed districts are charged with enforcement of buffer legislation (compliance) under Minnesota Statute and must affirm jurisdiction (local) or defer to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) by March 2017.

Existing local shoreland ordinances "greater or more restrictive" than the governor's Buffer Initiative must be enforced by counties until local jurisdiction is affirmed and a plan consistent with BWSR is adopted.

Required buffers on public waters (50 feet) must be in place by Nov. 1, 2017. Buffers on public drainage systems (16.5 feet) must be in place by Nov. 1, 2018.

If a landowner is out of compliance with the requirement, the county or watershed district will provide a correction letter (notification provided to BWSR with potential administrative penalty order [APO]) and work with the landowner on a reasonable timetable for completion.

SWCDs are not the enforcement entity regarding buffers under Minnesota Statute. Local water resources riparian protection requirements will be developed by July 1, 2017 and will not be included on DNR maps.

West Polk SWCD staff are available to assist with any inquiries relative to buffer legislation/requirements and identify multiple funding options with direction.

Federal agencies (FSA, NRCS) administer various compliance programs that provide cost share and potential annual payments (CRP, EQIP) for implementation and maintenance of buffer/filter strips, although availability of programs is questionable after buffer regulatory deadlines.

It is our certain intention to assist you with technical guidance and field inquiries as information becomes available.

A self-initiative approach to compliance (without any state or federal program assistance or compensation) allows a land-owner to determine the seed mix of perennial vegetation for establishment and required maintenance of buffer obligation.

Please view www.westpolkswcd.com buffers page and utilize direct links to BWSR, DNR and Minnesota Farm Bureau web pages for current available information regarding buffers or visit our field office West Polk SWCD: (co-located with NRCS) 528 Strander Ave., Crookston. East Polk SWCD: Bjella Building, 240 Cleveland Ave, McIntosh. — **Aaron Habermehl, district technician, West Polk Soil & Water Conservation District**



Jerry Jacobson



Jeremy Hovde



Dean Adams



Gary Wilhite

3 commissioner seats to be decided in General Election

Three Polk County commissioner positions will be decided in the General Election on Nov. 8. Those contests are in Districts 1 and 3 where voters will choose new members of the County Board and in District 5 where the incumbent commissioner has competition.

The contests include:

District 1 — Jerry Jacobson vs. Jeremy Hovde

In the Primary Election contest that was required to reduce the field from three candidates to two, Jacobson was the top finisher with 245 votes. Hovde was second with 235 votes. Both advance to the General Election. Wayne Melbye finished third with 163 votes and was eliminated. Commissioner Craig Bunes, who was elected in 2008 and re-elected in 2012, did not seek re-election.

Jacobson, rural Fertile, who served as a commissioner for 8 years (2000-2007), was a founder of the Valley Shopper and the North Star Shopper publications and was the owner of Printing Plus in Thief River Falls before retiring. In addition to running small businesses, he has and/or continues to serve on the boards of several public service organizations including the Northwest Regional Development Commission and its Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging/Senior Linkage Line and the Retired Senior Volunteer Program.

Hovde, rural Fertile, is making his first run for public office. He works from his home as the territory manager for Herc-u-lift, a material handling equipment firm based in Maple Plain, Minn.

A 1988 graduate of Fertile-Beltrami High School, he studied

diesel mechanics at North Dakota State College of Science in Wahpeton and sales and marketing at the University of Minnesota-Crookston. He has been a member of the Fertile Volunteer Fire Department for 27 years and an emergency medical technician for 20 years. Hovde and his wife, Sarah, have three children.

District 3 — Dean Adams vs. Gary Wilhite

Adams, Crookston, owner of Adams Heating, Cooling & Construction, was a candidate for the position 4 years ago when Nick Nicholas was elected.

He is chair of the Crookston Township Board of Supervisors and vice president of the Polk County Township Officers Association. Adams served on the Agassiz Recreational Trail joint powers organization during the dissolution process when the ownership of the 52-mile recreational trail back was transferred back to the individual counties through which it passes.



Don Diedrich

The mayor of Crookston, Wilhite is the director of student housing and campus security at the University of Minnesota-Crookston where he has held various positions for 38 years. He has a Ph. D. in progress through the University of Minnesota.

Wilhite served on the Crookston City Council for four years in the 1990s (1997-2000) and later for another two years (2013-2014) before being elected mayor. If elected a commissioner, he would no longer be able to serve as mayor.

Commissioner Nick Nicholas did not seek re-election.

District 5 — Don Diedrich vs. Donald Casmey

Diedrich, rural Warren, a retired farmer, was first elected as a commissioner in 2004 and then re-elected in 2008 and in 2012. He is an elected member of the board of directors of the Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust. Prior to becoming a commissioner, he served as a member of the Polk

County Planning & Zoning Board for 20 years including 18 as the board chair. Diedrich was a Brislet Township supervisor for 20 years.

Casmey, East Grand Forks, served on the East Grand Forks City Council for eight years (1990-97). A graduate of the University of North Dakota (industrial technology), he recently retired from positions with the State Department of Corrections and the Minnesota Department of Transportation.

Primary Election

The Primary Election attracted 2,347 voters, or 14.7 percent of the county's 15,943 registered voters. Of the total number of registered voters, 83 were new registrants for this election.

SWCD Elections

There are no contests in the Soil & Water Conservation District elections. The candidates, including four incumbents who filed for re-election, are:

East Polk County

District 3 — Al Bauer, Erskine.

District 4 — Scott Balstad, Fosston.

District 5 — Lawrence Vettleson, Gully.

West Polk County

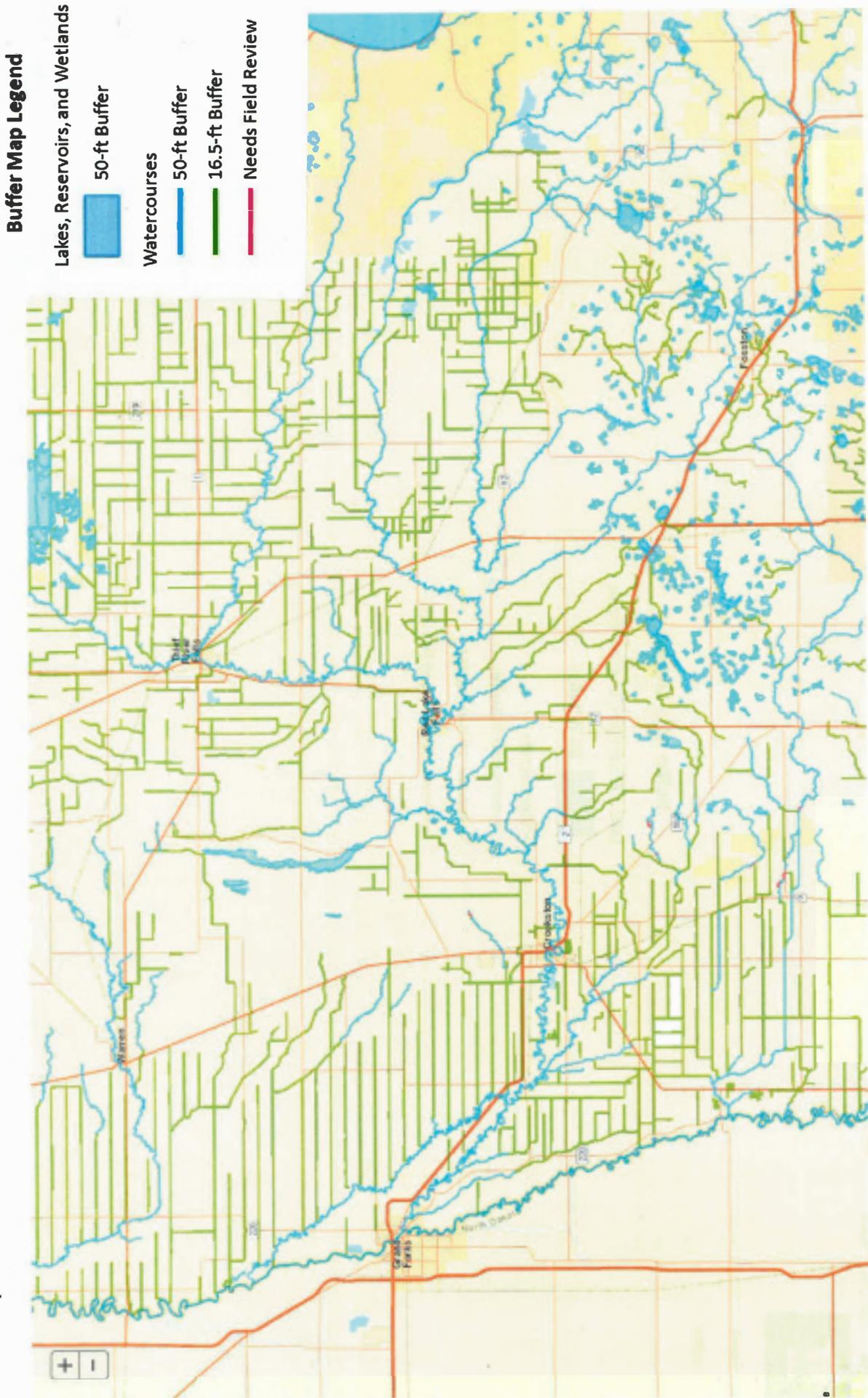
District 2 — Derek Peterson, Warren.

District 4 — Elliot Solheim, Crookston, is a candidate to succeed Russ Syverson, who retired.

District 5 — Ben Larson, Climax, did not file for re-election and no one filed to succeed him. The district's representative will be determined by write-in vote.

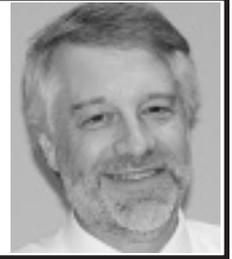


Donald Casmey



Election Years Are Always a Time for Self Assessments and Course Adjustments

By Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator



As everyone no doubt knows by now, 2016 is an election year. It is important to remember that elections at the local level are just as important as the more boisterous national election.

Likewise, it is a time for reflecting on where Polk County is and where it is going. We are wrapping up several building projects this year designed to significantly reduce utilities costs, eliminate leased space costs and keep these county assets up to snuff for the foreseeable future.

We've also been addressing our internal management and staffing processes, adjusting to employment realities that reflect the national trending from the baby boomer generation to GenXers and millennial generations. Technology is now so intimately involved in every aspect of county operations it is hard to think of an area it hasn't touched.

All in all, Polk County has moved forward like many other counties to better respond to the issues and opportunities of the day.

We are part of a bigger picture that must be kept in mind however. Our local economy is what sustains people's abilities to live and work here and our job in local government is to live within our means, provide solid support for local values and be responsive to the needs of our respective communities.

A couple of years ago I along with our commissioners were interviewed by a National Association of Counties staff member on why Polk County was one of the first counties in the nation to rebound from the 2008 recession, a question and statistic that struck us as odd.

Our local economy had never had the wildly speculative residential development of other parts of the country.

Ag-based economy

Agriculture is our base economy and while some recent times have been good, this Board of Commissioners heard from our farm land owners and is aware of the impacts state tax policy, commodities pricing and historical land sales are having on our rural community.

That has driven board policy for the past few years and continues to be the prevailing out-

look as we begin the work on the 2017 budget.

So, back to the election. As it is, we will have two new commissioners and a third seat decided on Nov. 8. As sometimes is the case, this board will approve a budget that the next board will implement.

Working on 2017 budget

The 2017 budget, while still early in its development, will provide room and time for the next board to develop its vision for county policy leadership. The Fosston incinerator expansion project is the major initiative and, while a very significant project, it is one funded through solid waste fees and assessments, contracts with other counties and state bonding funds, not the property tax levy.

The rest of the 2017 budget is oriented toward efficiency in operations with no large levy funded capital outlays planned.

The goal will be to keep the levy increase in the 3 to 3.5% range, which should equate to no real increase in the property tax rate over last year (meaning overall property values increase at a higher rate than the increase in the levy).

In the coming weeks, property taxpayers will get notified of the board's "preliminary" levy, an amount not to be exceeded by the final budget levy determined in December.

Usually reduced

Usually the final levy is reduced from the preliminary levy by that meeting in December.

Taxpayers will also be notified that the 2017 budget hearing will be conducted on Nov. 29, at 6 p.m. in the County Board room.

In the meantime, the budget grind will continue at the staff and board level with updates and discussions at each board meeting. Board agendas and meeting times are posted on the county's website at <http://www.co.polk.mn.us/> and all board meetings are open to the public.

Oh, and don't forget to vote Nov. 8th!

Remembering County Veterans Service Officer Les Goodwin

We've lost our County Veterans Service Officer Les Goodwin, who passed away on July 11th. Les was such a strong spokesman and advocate for not only Polk County veterans, but veterans up and down the Red River Valley on both sides of the river.

A career Air Force man, he served his country for over 30 years usually overseeing the fueling of fighters and transport planes. To many veterans and veterans' families here in Polk County, he was the difference maker in the quality of life that our veterans so deserved.

For those of us who worked in the office with him, the joy he brought, the joking and real interest he had in how you were doing was just who he was. He was 74, still working, still saying he had the best life of anyone he knew, and still preferring to help his fellow veterans every day rather than retire like most people his age.

We all have our own rea-



Les Goodwin

sons for missing him and adding those up community wide shows how blessed we were to have him while we did. — Chuck Whiting, Polk County administrator

Landfill

(Continued from Page 1)

cern had been expressed in regard to the Demolition Landfill. Polk County has refused to put demolition material in the MSW cell.

Despite much work and cost to address various issues raised thereafter, all progress toward issuance of the landfill permit was stalled.

The need to construct the MSW cell this summer was not eliminated, however. Due to seasonal constraints and deadlines by which frost protection of the liner materials are required, time to construct the cell grew short.

Polk County engaged the MPCA about the need to construct the MSW cell – with or without a permit – and proposed various possible ways to achieve that and remain in compliance.

In the end, Polk County received a letter of No

Enforcement Action from the MPCA in regard to construction of the MSW cell without a permit. In mid July, R.J. Zavoral & Sons began construction of a new, \$416,000 lined MSW cell that is two acres in size. Despite many inclement weather delays, the MPCA conducted its as-built inspection of the new MSW cell on Sept. 8. Polk anticipates placing waste in the new cell starting at the end of September in order to get the mandatory frost protective layer established.

Polk continues to work with the MPCA on coming to acceptable terms on the new Landfill Complex operational permit. However, the MPCA's current stance toward all existing Demolition Landfills, including Polk County's facility, stands in the way of achieving that goal at this time. — **Jon Steiner, administrator, Polk County Solid Waste**

Expansion held up

As noted in the spring issue of the Polk County Newsletter, significant delays in 2015 Bond Fund appropriations that lingered well into spring 2016 placed the Phase I Solid Waste Expansion Project in jeopardy of substantial and costly delays.

Likewise, issues with the Beltrami County portion of the project further delayed movement on the project, pending resolution.

As expected, following successful on-site tours to our project by the capital investment committees of both the house and senate (with the support of our local legislators) our Phase II funds were included in the 2016 bonding bills put forward by both bodies.

Unfortunately, because of complications caused when other projects sought to be included in the bonding bill, it was not approved and sent to the governor for signature prior to the expiration of the session.

As a result, no Phase II funds were received to augment the Phase I dollars.

Due to the need to amend the grant agreement to account for both the changes to the Beltrami County project and to proceed on the expansion project with only Phase I funds available, progress on the project has substantially slowed and construction has been postponed until 2017.

With the uncertainty of a 2016 Special Session to allocate those Phase II Expansion Project bond funds and both design and permit work yet to be started due to the grant agreement not being altered as necessary, the exact work to be undertaken in 2017 has not completely taken shape.— **Jon Steiner, administrator Polk County Solid Waste**



Welfare Fraud

People who give false information or withhold facts in order to receive Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) aid, food stamps, general assistance, child-care or medical assistance if you suspect someone of misusing or abusing Minnesota assistance programs, call the Polk County Sheriff's Office at this number 24 hours a day, 7 days a week:

1-218-281-0431

(ask for extension 2249)

YOU CAN REMAIN ANONYMOUS

Gravel tax collections down from total distributions made in 2014 record year

The \$175,864 in Aggregate Material Tax collected for gravel excavations made in Polk County in 2015 was down from \$254,861 in 2014.

Distribution of the 2015 tax included \$71,005 each to the Township Road & Bridge Fund and to the Polk County Road & Bridge Fund, \$25,061 to the Reserve Fund for Pit Restoration, and the \$8,793 that was credited to the county auditor-treasurer for administration.

The tax was based on the mining of 1.078 million tons and 65,862 yards of gravel. The county and townships each receive 42.5 percent of the tax while the restoration fund receives 15 percent and the auditor-treasurer retains 5 percent.

Active pits

For townships, the method of distribution of the gravel tax is based on the number of "active" pits within the township rather than on the number of miles of road that are affect-

ed by the hauling.

The tax is used as a way to help maintain roads. By law, the tax rate is set at 21.5 cents per cubic yard or 15 cents per ton of aggregate material excavated.

The ability to collect the tax was created by special legislation at the request of Polk and Norman counties when Bernie Lieder was the Polk County engineer. It has been available to counties since 1980.

Initially, the tax called for voluntary compliance by aggregate producers. In an effort to bring all producers into compliance, the law was amended in 1997 to give county auditors (and/or township clerks) full access to the business records of an operator or importer.

Distribution

The settlement payments sent to each township for 2015 included: Chester, 5 pits, \$13,149.05; Columbia, 3 pits, \$7,889.43; Gentilly, 7 pits, \$18,408.67; Grove Park-

Tilden, 4 pits, \$10,519.24; Kertsonville, 1 pit, \$2,629.81; Lessor, 1 pit, \$2,629.81; Liberty, 2 pits, \$5,259.66; Onstad, 1 pit, \$2,629.81; Queen, 1 pit, \$2,629.81; and Trail City, 1 pit, \$2,629.81; Woodside, 1 pit, 2,629.81.

History of Gravel Tax collections

| | |
|------|-----------|
| 1997 | \$3,325 |
| 1998 | \$78,035 |
| 1999 | \$77,655 |
| 2000 | \$90,678 |
| 2001 | \$90,391 |
| 2002 | \$73,975 |
| 2003 | \$86,007 |
| 2004 | \$72,362 |
| 2005 | \$104,077 |
| 2006 | \$98,378 |
| 2007 | \$66,497 |
| 2008 | \$64,299 |
| 2009 | \$124,766 |
| 2010 | \$144,334 |
| 2011 | \$165,101 |
| 2012 | \$197,253 |
| 2013 | \$177,846 |
| 2014 | \$254,861 |
| 2015 | \$175,864 |

Overlays dominated road work

Labor Day has come and gone and the 2016 construction season is coming to an end.

Again this year, we have spent most of our money to overlay existing bituminous roads to make them smooth and to strengthen them.

We are seeing a lot of rutting and damage due to overweight trucks and pavements that weren't designed to handle that weight.

This year's projects that have been completed include:

CR 214 — Overlay from CSAH 45 to Trunk Highway 2, \$534,599 (totally paid for with the \$10 per vehicle Wheelage Tax funds collected in the county).

CSAH 20 — Overlay from CSAH 21 to Polk/Marshall Co. Line, \$1,069,593.

CSAH 68 — Overlay from CSAH 23 to Polk/Marshall Co. Line, \$457,843.

CSAH 34 — Grade-widening/overlay from CSAH 36 to South Limits of Erskine, \$1,706,357.

CSAH 36 — Grade-widening/overlay from CSAH 36 South to CSAH 34, \$234,279.

CR 206 — Realign/overlay at CSAH 34 intersection, \$103,949.

This work was completed using state gas tax funds, federal gas tax funds, and county wheelage tax funds.

Other maintenance type projects that we have done include spending over \$100,000 in patching on bituminous pavements throughout the county. We also spent over \$250,000 stabilizing approximately 20 miles of gravel roads using Base One as a stabilizing product.

This year we lucked out and didn't have to fix any flood damage. Hopefully we can continue with this for the upcoming years. — **Richard Sanders, Polk County engineer**



Drone does its job while bridge officials keep track of pictures from infrared camera

Nielsville Bridge project uncertain

The Polk County share of funding for the replacement of the Nielsville Bridge is in place for construction that could begin as early as next year, according to Polk County Engineer Richard Sanders.

That's if North Dakota can come up with the funding needed to pay for its share of the project. That funding is not currently available, according to Traill County officials.

Replacement of the bridge itself is estimated to cost about \$6 million.

In addition to the \$3 million cost for its half, Polk County would need to spend another \$2 million to upgrade the road approaching the structure. The \$5 million investment, Sanders says, would be made up with \$1.4 million in Federal Gas Tax funds, \$2.6 million in State Bridge Bonding funds, and \$1 million from the county's allotment from state gas tax collections.

An earlier attempt to secure federal funding through a Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant that would have covered all of the cost for the entire project was not successful. Had it been approved, that grant would have covered both the bridge and the approach work in both Polk and Traill counties. In Traill, that would have included a bituminous overlay of Traill County 17 from

the end of the bridge approach construction to County Road 81.

To verify what Polk and Traill counties had determined — that simply repairing the whole in the concrete deck was not practical — the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) used both traditional equipment and new drone technology to make another inspection of the bridge and concrete deck.

The traditional practice involved the use of the inspection snoopers that positions inspectors in critical areas under the bridge deck.

The new technology involved the use of an infrared camera that

took pictures from a drone that was flown to positions above and below the bridge deck. Collins Engineering, a firm from Collins, Colo., that specializes in work with drones, was brought in by MnDOT as a part of a pilot project to determine how that procedure could be used.

The infrared camera showed that the concrete at each floor beam and the gutters has deteriorated to a point where it would not be safe for the traveling public. Therefore, until funding to replace the bridge is found, the bridge will need to remain closed.



Underside inspection the more traditional way



Mike Powers



Robert Franks



Donovan Wright



Len Vonasek



Courtney Pulkrabek

Meet the Polk County Planning Commission

Mike Powers, East Grand Forks, is chair of the Planning Commission. He was appointed in 2013 to serve as East Grand Forks Mayor Lynn Stauss' representative on the commission. Powers, who also chairs the Board of Adjustment, is a member of the East Grand Forks Planning Commission and of the Grand Forks/East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization. He is a 1969 graduate of the University of North Dakota where he had a 32-year career in safety and security positions that included serving as a fire marshal and building inspector.

Robert Franks, rural Warren, represents Commissioner District 5. He was appointed to the commission in 2013 to succeed Barbara Hangsleben, when she retired after serving in the position for 30 years. Franks has served on the Island Lake White Wind Lake Owners Association near Lengby. A retired lineman from PKM Electric Cooperative in Warren, he is vice chair of both the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment.

Donovan Wright, rural Mentor, has served on the commission since 2007. The representative from Commissioner District 1, Wright has lived on Maple Lake since 1995 when he retired following a 36-year career in ground services management for a commercial airline carrier at Minot, N.D. The Wright family has had property at the lake since 1957. Wright also serves on the Board of Adjustment.

Len Vonasek, East Grand Forks, is

the representative from Commissioner District 2. He succeeded Osmund Moe when he retired in 2015. Vonasek has over 40 years of experience in dealing with building codes and regulations from a career in construction that included 26 years as the owner-operator of Projects Unlimited. He has been the Huntsville Township building inspector for 27 years.

Courtney Pulkrabek, Crookston, has served on the Planning Commission for the past 11 years as the representative from Commissioner District 3. A native of the Sherack area and a 1967 graduate of the University of North Dakota, he has been a State Farm Insurance agent in Crookston since 1969. Pulkrabek also serves on the Board of Adjustment.

Paul Jore, rural McIntosh, is the representative from Commissioner District 4. He was appointed to the commission in 2015 to succeed Kerry Winkelmann. Jore, who with his family operated a traveling craft business for 20 years, was a Lessor Township supervisor and treasurer for 12 years.

Wayne Melbye, Crookston, who has been a commission member since 2013, is the representative of the Crookston mayor. He was initially appointed by Mayor Don Osborn and was kept in the position by Crookston Mayor David Genereux and also by current Mayor Gary Wilhite. Melbye is a member of the Crookston City Council.

Arlet Phillips, rural East Grand Forks, is the representative from the Polk County Townships Officers Association.

The Huntsville Township clerk since 1986, Phillips joined the commission in 2013 when Delores Myerchin was no longer a Crookston Township officer.

Rolland Gagner, rural Erskine, is the representative of the Union Lake Sarah Improvement District. A retired sewage, landscape and excavation contractor, he has served on the commission since 1997. Gagner also serves on the Board of Adjustment.

Mike Schulz, rural Mentor, is the new representative from the Maple Lake Improvement District. Schulz was appointed by County Board action in late July to assume the balance of the term of Dennis Yell, who had retired for health issues after serving on the commission for 8 years. That term continues through the balance of 2016. Schulz is a member of the board of directors and a past president of the Maple Lake Improvement District and is vice chair of the Polk County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force.

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

The decisions made by the Board of Adjustment are final and do not advance to the County Board for any action.



Paul Jore



Arlet Phillips



Rolland Gagner



Mike Schulz



Wayne Melbye

Planning Commission upholds Zoning Ordinance

The County Board established the Polk County Planning Commission in 1971. That's when the first Zoning Ordinance went into effect. The ordinance has been amended or updated several times, the last revision occurring in 2014.

As laid out in the ordinance, the commission has 11 members. The membership includes one county commissioner, one member from each of the five county commissioner districts, one member from the Polk County Township Officers Association, one member from the Maple Lake Improvement District, one member from the Union Lake Sarah Improvement District, and two members who represent the mayors of Crookston and East Grand Forks.

The Planning Commission is set up to:

- Hear "conditional use" permit requests,
- Review any ordinance changes or updates that might need to take place, and
- Advise the County Board about any comprehensive plan updates or amendments that may need to be made.

The Planning Commission's role is to review planning issues in the county and to make recommendations to the County Board, which makes the final decisions on conditional use permits and ordinance amendments.

For the most part, any construction project in the county requires a land use zoning permit. The Zoning Ordinance lays out different set-backs from roads and other properties and other conditions that must be met. Certain projects, depending upon the proposed use and location, may require a conditional use permit. Those "conditional use" permit requests are brought before the commission.

A separate Board of Adjustment made up of five members of the Planning Commission, each representing a commissioner district, hears requests for variances or appeals to the rules of the Zoning Ordinance.

The premise of the Polk County Land Use Zoning Ordinance is that it is there to make sure that land use is appropriate for the area and to control development in an orderly way. The guidelines and rules are there to help promote orderly development, to keep peace between neighbors and to make sure that other factors are taken into consideration, such as how close the project is to a road that may affect its maintenance and snow removal, and how close it is to property lines to make sure that there are some buffer areas between neighbors.

Shoreland issues

Another big part of the ordinance deals with shoreland issues. This section is very detailed as it involves rules and state laws that have been established by the Minnesota Department of the Natural Resources. The county is tasked with enforcing those rules and regulations. The role of that section of the ordinance is to make sure that projects are set-back adequate distances from the water, help preserve the green space, help promote healthy lakes and the environment, and also

to address set-back issues to keep proper distances between neighbors and roads.

Septic systems

Septic systems are a big part of the Zoning Ordinance. The ordinance helps to meet the requirements of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. These rules and regulations which the county is tasked with enforcing address projects whether in a shoreland area or in the general county. They are designed to help promote the health and welfare of the environment by making sure that the people have compliant septic systems.

Depending upon the location in the county, septic systems are designed to account for the type of soil on the property. The most common septic systems in the county are mound systems, at-grade systems, or an in-ground trench or pressure-bed type systems. The soils in the western part of Polk County, which are often the heavier clays, normally require a mound system. This is an above ground system that requires a certain amount of sand lift to make sure that adequate separation is attained so that the sewage is properly treated before it could enter any ground water.

Eastern areas in the county have more varied soils from those in the Red River Valley. Depending upon the soils around the lakes, one area may require a mound system while only a few doors down the soils may be totally different and may require an in-ground system.

Septic systems are normally designed by private contractors, who have state licensing that authorizes them to do the soil sampling that determines the type of system that is needed. We have staff within our office that is trained and authorized to do inspections on new septic systems.

When someone comes into the office looking to get a septic system permit, we can help guide them through the requirements and what they will be looking at and recommend when they should involve a private septic designer or a private septic inspector to get started with any new construction or upgrades.

Any land use/zoning permit that is issued, whether it involves a land alteration permit, a permit to add a bedroom onto a house, a permit for a storage shed, etc., requires a compliance inspection within the shoreland district. Should that inspection fail; you would have two years to upgrade the system.

The reason for the inspection requirement for a bedroom addition is that it would amount to an expansion on the current septic system. The inspection would involve making sure that the system was up to code and could handle the extra volume.

Floodplain zoning

Floodplain zoning also is a major component of the ordinance since major portions of land in townships along the Red River and Red Lake River are in the floodplain area. People who live within floodplain areas need to know the eleva-

tions of their property whenever they want to do any building project. Depending upon the situation, they may have to elevate buildings in order to get approval for a project.

Joint Permitting

Several townships in Polk County do joint-permitting with the county. In those townships, the building permit application begins with the county, which after a preliminary review of the plan directs the applicant back to the township building official for approval before the county can sign off and issue the permit.

Thirteen townships do joint permitting. They are: Andover, Bygland, Crookston, Esther, Grand Forks, Huntsville, Liberty, Lowell, Northland, Onstad, Parnell, Rhinehart and Sullivan townships.

Permitting fees are established by the County Board. These fees were last revised in 2010. For a residential dwelling, the fee is \$100. For an addition to the home or any accessory structure such as a garage or shed, the fee is \$50. Septic permit fees are \$150 for residential properties. Conditional use permits and variance applications, which require public hearings and the additional background work that is associated with them, are \$300.

The approved fee schedule, application forms and other information are available on the Polk County website under Planning & Zoning. The fees are used to offset some of the zoning costs associated with the administration of the zoning ordinance.

If the permit is not obtained prior to the start of a construction project, the application is treated as an "after the fact" permit request, which is three times the regular fee plus a \$150 penalty. If a permit is not obtained when a variance or conditional use permit is needed, there is a \$1,000 penalty fee as part of going through an after-the-fact process.

Under the authorizations of the Zoning Ordinance, the zoning administrator has the authority to place a "stop work order" on a project. Should work proceed after a stop work order is placed, it can lead to citations or civil action through the County Attorney's Office. If a project that is already completed is not approved through the after-the-fact permit process, the applicant may have to remove the structure. This process can go all the way to District Court to make sure that the rules and regulations are followed.

The Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment typically meet at 9 a.m. on the fourth Friday of each month with the exception that the November and December meetings are combined into one joint meeting.

Remember, it is important to get your permits for construction before any work begins. Give our office a call — either to me or to one of our two technicians — with any questions on construction activities that you might have. — **Josh Holte, Polk County Assistant Environmental Services Administrator**

Tri-County Community Corrections Update:

Jail population up, per diems down

The jail population at the Northwest Regional Corrections Center has continued its upward trajectory with an average daily population for the year 2016 of approximately 182 inmates through the month of July.

What is most noteworthy is not the size of the increase from the previous year, which is roughly 4%, but is instead what is driving the increase. Compared against recent years, the greater population is now being driven by a significant increase in local county inmates rather than inmates being housed as per diems from other jurisdictions.

In 2015, local county inmates (meaning inmates who were being held for Norman, Polk or Red Lake counties) accounted for approximately 58.5% of the entire jail population with the rest of the inmates being housed for other jurisdictions.

Through July of 2016, this number has changed dramatically with nearly 70% of the jail's capacity now being used for the housing of local inmates.

Beds for per diem inmates down

This significant increase means that fewer beds are available for housing per diem inmates and also increases other costs that are the responsibility of the jail, such as medical and mental health care.

While it is difficult to pinpoint one particular cause of this increase, a major factor is drug and alcohol problems being seen in the region.

Jail statistics show that drug and alcohol related charges rank first and second respectively in total new admissions for a new criminal charge thus far in 2016. These statistics do not take into account the numerous other charges for which people are booked into jail that are directly related to drug or alcohol use, such as probation or parole violations, domestic assault or disorderly conduct for example.

The recent news coverage of the opioid epidemic and the numerous overdose deaths paints a sobering picture of the prevalence of drug and alcohol abuse in our region, along with the resource strain that this places on criminal justice and human service agencies.

Offender Programming

2016 has seen the return of GED (General Education Development) testing at the

Northwest Regional Corrections Center through the Tri-County Community Corrections Adult Basic Education (ABE) Program.

Long a staple of the jail's ABE program, changes in GED testing requirements that have been implemented over the last couple of years have severely impacted the ability for GED testing to occur in a jail setting.

GED testing now occurs on computer with the test being proctored by an ABE staff member through a wireless computer connection. These changes pose significant challenges within the rigid technological confines of a county jail.

Thanks to the persistence of ABE Program Manager and Teacher Lori Kasprick and the help of the Polk County Information Technology Department, GED testing has resumed with the first student passing their GED test in July.

'Moving On' training

Probation staff recently attended training sessions intended to improve services provided to offenders within the community.

Probation agents attended "Moving On" facilitator training in the Twin Cities, which will allow for expanded evidence-based cognitive behavioral programming.

"Moving On" is a gender responsive cognitive behavioral program, which targets many of the criminogenic risk factors that are unique to female offenders. It is anticipated that groups for female offenders within the community could start as early as October

In late August, probation staff, along with several local law enforcement agencies, first responders, public health and mental health staff attended a Critical Incident Stress Management training.

The primary focus of this training is to equip staff with the tools to provide support to other professionals in the aftermath of a critical incident. This skill set will also prove valuable in working with offenders who often have a difficult time managing the crises that they are faced with, which often returns them to the destructive habits that get them involved with the criminal justice system. — **Andrew Larson, TCCC executive director**

Social Host Ordinance now in effect

The Polk County Wellness Coalition (PCWC) thanks and recognizes Polk County Commissioners as partners in helping to reduce underage alcohol use in Polk County as demonstrated by the adoption of the Social Host Ordinance.

This work resulted from collaboration with many stakeholders. The PCWC highlights key leaders Polk County Attorney Greg Widseth and Polk County Sheriff Barb Erdman. Their support and guidance have been imperative throughout the process to ensure its success.

Through the Social Host Ordinance, individuals (regardless of their age) are held CRIMINALLY responsible for hosting events or allowing gatherings where anyone under the age of 21 possesses or consumes alcohol, regardless of who provided the alcohol.

Violating this ordinance could result in a misdemeanor, subject to a maximum penalty of 90 days in jail and/or a \$1,000 fine.

The ordinance is an effective strategy to combat the problem of underage drinking where it repeatedly occurs — house parties. It further reduces youth access to alcohol, reduces binge drinking, and holds teens and adults accountable for their behavior.

In addition, it provides law enforcement a tool in their communities to prevent tragedy. It assists both adults and youth to make wise choices. And finally, the SHO reinforces a consistent message that underage drinking is unhealthy, unsafe, unacceptable, and illegal.

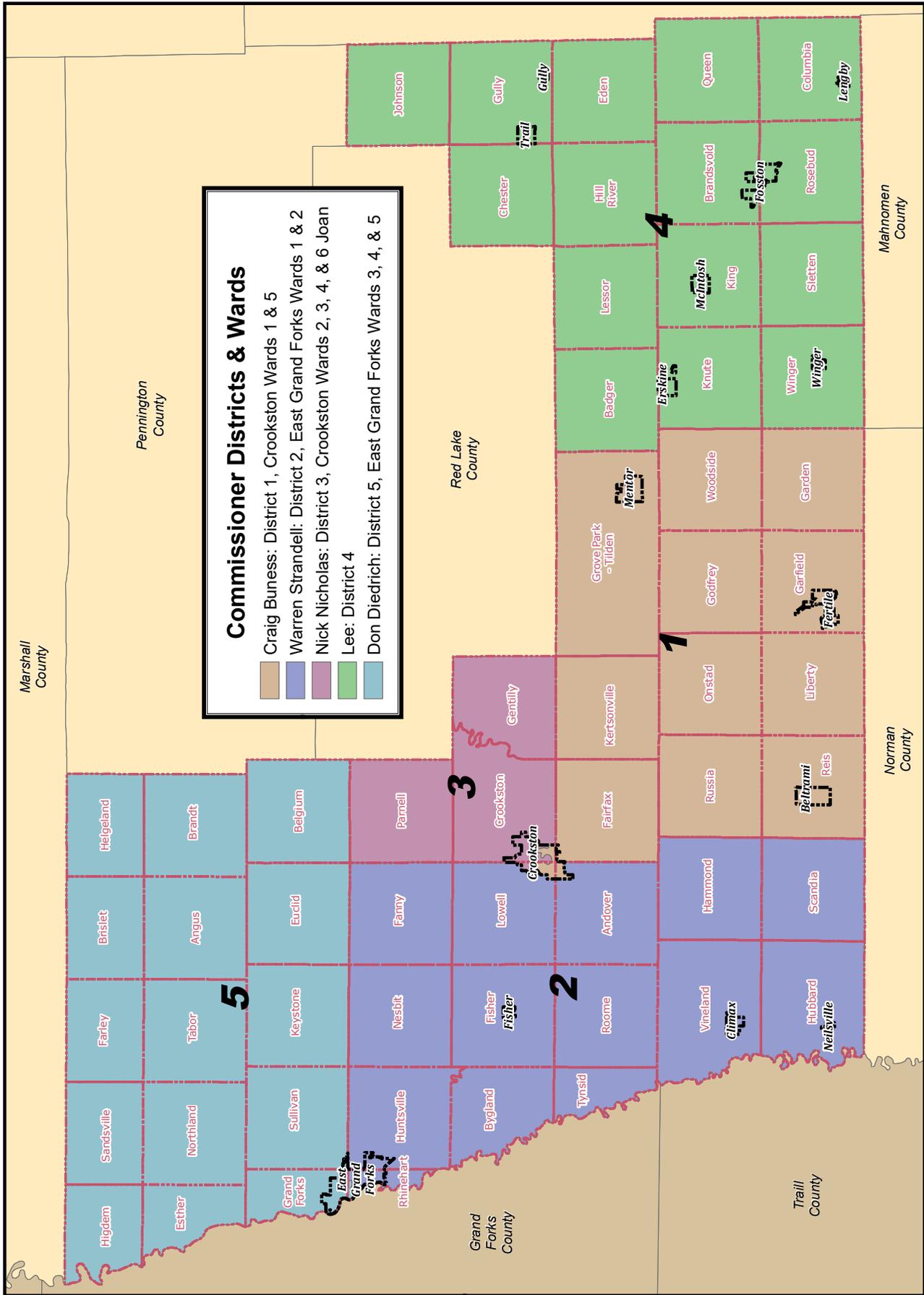
The PCWC congratulates Polk County for joining the 23 counties in Minnesota who have adopted a Social Host Ordinance and for demonstrating their leadership in the reduction of illegal underage drinking.

County Board Meeting Times

- 8:00 a.m. on 1st Tuesday of the month
- 10:00 a.m. on the 3rd Tuesday
- 8:00 a.m. on the 4th Tuesday

All meetings are open to the public

- County Commissioners**
- Dist. 1 — Craig Buness
 - Dist. 2 — Warren Strandell
 - Dist. 3 — Nick Nicholas, chair
 - Dist. 4 — Joan K. Lee
 - Dist. 5 — Don Diedrich, vice chair



Commissioner Districts & Wards

| | |
|--|--|
| | Craig Bunes: District 1, Crookston Wards 1 & 5 |
| | Warren Strandell: District 2, East Grand Forks Wards 1 & 2 |
| | Nick Nicholas: District 3, Crookston Wards 2, 3, 4, & 6 Joan |
| | Lee: District 4 |
| | Don Diedrich: District 5, East Grand Forks Wards 3, 4, & 5 |



2016 Polk County Commissioner Districts & Wards

These data are provided as an "AS-IS" service. The County does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the information provided. The County is not responsible for any errors or omissions in the data. The County is not responsible for any liability arising from the use of these data.

'County officials moving on up...'

Sanders to head national road body

Polk County Engineer Richard Sanders' election in April to the position of secretary-treasurer of the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) puts him on track to serve as the national organization's vice president in 2017 and then its president in 2018.

A nonprofit, nonpartisan professional association now in its 60th year of existence, NACE promotes activities and legislation for safe, efficient county roads and bridges. Nationwide, local roads account for about 75% of the highway system and the over 231,000 bridges that are owned by counties.

NACE membership includes nearly 2,000 county engineers, road managers and related professionals in the U.S. and Canada.

Its primary goals are to:

- Advance county engineering and management by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas and information aimed at improving service to the public;
- Influence federal legislation affecting county transportation/public works departments; and
- Foster and stimulate the growth of individual state transportation organizations.

The NACE executive board conducts its business through monthly conference calls. The executive board is made up of the president, president-elect,

secretary-treasurer, past president, five regional vice presidents, and a liaison member from the National Association of Counties.

The full board of directors, which also includes one representative from each state, meets twice a year.

Prior to his election to the national position, Sanders had been vice president of the North Central Region of NACE and before that had been president of the Minnesota County Engineers Association. He is also a member of several state and national transportation committees and study groups including the University of Minnesota Local Transportation Assistance Program Steering Committee.

Cote is vice president of state recorders

Polk County Director of Property Records Michelle Cote was elected vice president of the Minnesota Association of Recorders at the organization's annual meeting at Minneapolis in February. From that position, she will advance to the presidency of the state organization in 2017.

A 28-year employee of the county, Cote worked in the Auditor's Office for a year before moving across the hall to the Assessor's Office for 17 years. She was appointed the county recorder on June 19, 2006, and became the director of property records in 2011

when the Assessor, Recorder and Auditor offices were combined into the Taxpayer Service Center.

Cote is also a member of Riverview Hospital Board of Trustees for the past four years and is the vendor manager for the Polk County Fair Association.

Whiting to become chair of MACA

County Administrator Chuck Whiting will become chair of the Minnesota Association of County Administrators in December.

He was elected vice chair of the association in 2014 after having served as chair of the organization's Intergovernmental Relations Committee.

The vice chair automatically advances to the top position following the second year of the two-year officer term. Sibley County Administrator Roxie Traxler will complete her term as chair in December.

Now in his fourth year with Polk County, Whiting became county administrator in August 2012 in the process of succeeding John "Jack" Schmalenberg, who was retiring at the end of that year.

Whiting had previously been the city administrator at Faribault, Minn., and before that the administrator in St. Croix County Wisconsin.



Brent Silvis

Silvis named MSTRWD administrator

Brent Silvis is the new administrator of the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District, which has its offices in Warren.

A native of Pennsylvania, Brent, who lives in Crookston, earned a master of science in Earth System Science and Policy at the University of North Dakota in May. His earlier education includes a business management degree from Western Illinois University and an environmental science degree from Slippery Rock University in Pennsylvania.

Silvis has previous work experience in construction, machining and public housing civil service along with volunteer work in monitoring systems designed to address sulfuric acid discharge at retired coal mines in Pennsylvania.

As a part of his graduate work, he studied nitrate levels in water and their relation to the different crops grown in the Red River Valley.

Silvis taught at Leech Lake Tribal College, Cass Lake, while working on his graduate degree.

Kristina Slowinski has also recently joined the watershed as a technician. Kristina, who is from Columbus, Minn., also lives in Crookston. She earned a degree in geology from Winona State University and has worked for the Conservation Corps and in environmental consulting.

**Make a Difference
Change a Life
Become a Foster Parent!**
Polk County Social Services
1-877-281-3127

Solid waste fees adjusted for 2017

Due to rising costs of transportation, equipment and labor expenses, Polk County has approved an increase in the Solid Waste Fee Assessment for 2017.

The Assessment increase will impact all classifications of residential assessments: primary residential, secondary residential, multiple residential and disabled residential rates.

The primary residential will increase from \$100 to \$120 and all others will rise from \$60 to \$80. The last rate increase for residential was in 2010. Non-residential will remain at the same rate as 2016.

The Polk County Solid Waste Fee Assessment is collected on each residential and non-residential waste generation site

throughout Polk County except for those located within the City of East Grand Forks. Entities located within the East Grand Forks city limits are not eligible for participation in the Polk County Solid Waste system.

The fees collected from this assessment are used to pay the tip fees to the Polk County Resource Recovery Facility in Fosston, the Solid Waste Management Tax required to be remitted to the Minnesota Department of Revenue, and the handling, processing, transportation and management costs for other materials such as recyclables, electronic wastes, passenger vehicle tires, household hazardous wastes and appliances. — **Jon Steiner, administrator Polk County Solid Waste**

Schulz named to Planning Commission

Mike Schulz, Mentor, is the Maple Lake Improvement Association's new representative on the Polk County Planning Commission. His appointment to complete the term of Dennis Yell was approved by the County Board in July.

Yell had retired because of a health issue. The new 2-acre solid waste cell at the Polk County Landfill will soon be put into use. The sand layer covers the liner and allows liquid accumulated in the cell to flow to the central collection system for treatment. The term ends in December at which time Schulz will be eligible for reappointment.

A native of Crookston and 1980 graduate of Crookston Central High School, Schulz has been a resident at the lake for 12 years. He is the past president and a current member of the board of directors of the lake's improvement organization. He is also the vice chair of the Polk County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Task Force.

Schulz is a member of Crookston Masonic Lodge, the Kem Temple in Grand Forks, and the Eagles Lodge in Crookston. He has been involved with Schulz Carpeting, a family-owned commercial and residential floor covering business in Crookston for his entire working life. He has two children, a son, Tony, who is involved in the family business, and a daughter, Jill, a student at St. Cloud State University.

Lieberg cited by Dept. of Defense

Tami Lieberg, chief probation officer for Tri-County Community Corrections (TCCC), has been cited as a "patriotic employee" by the U.S. Department of Defense in recognition for the support that she and her department have given to employees who are members of the National Guard and Reserve.

Lieberg, who joined TCCC as a probation agent in 1994, was named senior probation agent in 2003 and became supervisor of the department as chief probation officer in 2013.

Nurse Family Partnership Home Visiting Program now using evidenced-based systems

In 2013 when the Polk-Norman-Mahnomen Community Health Services did not meet the minimum qualifications to begin its own Nurse-Family Partnership Program (NFP), the board and health departments wanted to utilize innovative systems level changes to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Family Home Visiting program.

The Clay-Wilkin NFP program had sufficient experience with the program model and a supportive team that had implemented the NFP program with fidelity since 2000. The Community Health Board pursued a partnership with the nearby Clay-Wilkin Community Health Board Nurse Family Partnership program and was awarded funding by the Northwest Minnesota Foundation.

Through a sharing of expertise and resources, Polk County Public Health and Norman-Mahnomen Public Health have creatively partnered to offer Nurse Family Partnership, a national evidenced-based program.

The goals of the program include: Improved pregnancy outcomes, improved child health and development, and improved parents' economic self-sufficiency.

We attribute initial success to strong relationships, committed communication and collaboration, and a shared purpose. Since starting the program in 2013, the three NFP nurses have provided over 1,000 home visits done in Polk, Norman and Mahnomen counties.

As a result, 88.4% of NFP enrolled mothers reported initiating breastfeeding at birth, 100% babies were born full term and at acceptable birth weights and 100% of children enrolled are up-to-date on immunizations.

To date, PNM has graduated sixteen (16) clients from the 2+ year, voluntarily enrolled NFP program. Additional graduations are anticipated.

For more information, contact Angel Korynta at 218-399-8553.

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

POLK COUNTY
2016 ASSESSMENT TILLABLE CHANGES
PRIOR TO STATE BOARD ADJUSTMENTS, AFTER COUNTY BAE

| |
|--------------------------------|
| COUNTY TILLABLE AVERAGE |
| \$3,510 |

| |
|--|
| KEY |
| TILLABLE PERCENTAGE CHANGE |
| AVERAGE TILLABLE VALUE PER ACRE |

| | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| HIGDEM -5% \$4,051 | SANDSVILLE -5% \$4,790 | FARLEY -10% \$4,958 | BRISLET -10% \$3,740 | HELGELAND -10% \$2,073 |
| ESTHER -5% \$4,863 | NORTHLAND -5% \$5,589 | TABOR -10% \$5,070 | ANGUS -10% \$3,899 | BRANDT -10% \$1,553 |
| GRAND FORKS -5% \$5,325 | SULLIVAN -10% \$5,660 | KEYSTONE -10% \$5,136 | EUCLID -15% \$4,073 | BELGIUM 0% \$1,976 |
| RHINEHART -10% \$5,444 | HUNTSVILLE -10% \$5,685 | NESBIT -15% \$5,490 | FANNY -15% \$4,584 | PARNELL 0% \$2,062 |
| | BYGLAND -10% \$5,460 | FISHER -10% \$5,596 | LOWELL -10% \$5,089 | CROOKSTON 0% \$3,732 |
| | TYNSID 0% \$5,074 | ROOMIE -5% \$5,570 | ANDOVER -10% \$4,704 | FAIRFAX -5% \$4,659 |
| | | VINELAND 0% \$5,106 | HAMMOND 0% \$4,257 | RUSSIA 0% \$3,742 |
| | | HUBBARD 0% \$4,792 | SCANDIA 0% \$3,475 | REIS 10% \$3,186 |
| | | | | ONSTAD 10% \$1,585 |
| | | | | GODFREY 0% \$1,619 |
| | | | | WOODSIDE 0% \$2,332 |
| | | | | GARFIELD 10% \$2,198 |
| | | | | LIBERTY 10% \$1,684 |
| | | | | GARDEN 0% \$2,824 |
| | | | | WINGER 0% \$2,671 |
| | | | | SLETTEN 0% \$2,516 |
| | | | | ROSEBUD 0% \$2,246 |
| | | | | COLUMBIA 5% \$1,542 |
| | | | | QUEEN 0% \$1,675 |
| | | | | BRANDSVOLD 0% \$2,407 |
| | | | | KING 0% \$2,117 |
| | | | | LESSOR 0% \$1,517 |
| | | | | HILL RIVER 0% \$1,967 |
| | | | | EDEN 0% \$1,208 |
| | | | | CHESTER 0% \$1,349 |
| | | | | GULLY 0% \$1,313 |
| | | | | JOHNSON -5% \$1,313 |
| | | | | TILDEN 5% \$1,320 |
| | | | | GROVE PARK 5% \$2,395 |
| | | | | KERTSONVILLE 5% \$1,600 |
| | | | | GENTILLY 10% \$2,395 |

Polk County AIS Taskforce has successful summer

Polk County formed an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Taskforce to help in the fight against aquatic invasive species within the County. The taskforce consists of members from all around the county and represents several different entities.

This summer the taskforce hired two seasonal AIS technicians to conduct watercraft inspections, work on monitoring projects and help with other AIS outreach and educational activities. Several hundred watercraft inspections were completed on public water access sites around the county.

The inspectors received training from the Minnesota DNR and were busy inspecting watercraft every weekend during the summer months. The AIS technicians were also busy spreading the AIS message at the Polk County Fair and a few other events during the summer.

With the positive results we have seen with two seasonal AIS technicians the taskforce may look at adding a third position to help with



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

watercraft inspections next summer.

Invasive species are species that are not native to Minnesota and cause economic or environmental harm or harm to human health. Minnesota waters are threatened by aquatic invasive species. It is illegal to transport any aquatic species like Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels, starry stonewort, spiny waterflea or other prohibited invasive species.

Within Polk County, Eurasian watermilfoil is already present on Union Lake and zebra mussels are present in the Red River. With the new infestations of starry

stonewort in Beltrami County and other counties around the state it is critical that every boater take the steps necessary to limit the spread of AIS.

With the waterfowl seasons among us it is just as important for hunters to do their part to prevent the spread of AIS. So remember to clean, drain, and dry your boat, gear and equipment every time to help protect our lakes and rivers.

For more information visit www.co.polk.mn.us/ais. — **Josh Holte, Polk County Assistant Environmental Services Administrator.**

Regulations You Should Know It is Unlawful to...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug
- Arrive at a lake access with drain plug in place
- Transport any prohibited species on public roads
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers
- Dispose of live bait into the water
- Launch watercraft with prohibited species attached



STOP

AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS

- Remove aquatic plants and invasive species off your boat.
- Drain your live well and remove your drain plug.
- Dispose of used bait in the trash.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

www.co.polk.mn.us/ais