

**NOVEMBER 22, 2016**  
**BOARD MINUTES**

Pursuant to motion of adjournment the Polk County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 8:00 o'clock a.m., November 22, 2016 in the Commissioners Room, Government Center, Crookston, MN. Members present: Commissioner Craig Bunes, Commissioner Warren Strandell, Commissioner Nick Nicholas, Commissioner Don Diedrich, Commissioner Joan Lee and Charles S. Whiting, Polk County Administrator. Others present: Michelle Cote, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

**AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Diedrich and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the November 22, 2016 agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bunes seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the Consent Agenda with the removal of item No. 1 on the agenda the November 15, 2016 minutes.

1. Approve payment to Fleetmatics, Waltham, MA in the amount of \$76.00 for vehicle tracking for the IS Department.
2. Approve payment to Beta Analytic Inc., Miami, FL in the amount of \$390.00 for greenhouse gas testing (CO2 Content Analysis) for the Incinerator in Fosston.

**COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS ISSUE FORUM**

1. Commissioner Bunes brought forth that he participated in a full LARL Board meeting where a potential Bremer grant in the amount of \$91,000 was the focus. He also participated in the Polk Norman Mahnomen Health Board. Also brought forth was discussion regarding an upcoming meeting for the Sandhill River Watershed Advisory Board meeting where the discussion will be focused on an open seat on the Board being vacated by Bill Brekke.
2. Commissioner Nicholas brought forth discussion regarding the Polk Norman Mahnomen Health Board meeting that he attended where leadership and finances were the focus. He also participated in the Tri-County Community Corrections Advisory Board Meeting.
3. Commissioner Diedrich brought forth that he attended a Middle Snake Tamarac River Watershed Advisory Board meeting.
4. Commissioner Lee brought forth that she participated in a Household Hazardous meeting. She also participated in the 2016 General Election Canvassing. In addition she participated in and Inter Community Council Day focused on diversity.
5. Commissioner Strandell brought forth that he participated in the Tri-County Community Corrections Advisory Board meeting where information was brought forth that youth within the Juvenile Facility can participate in Stable Days Youth Ranch activities. Staff turnover within Corrections continues to be an issue.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

Jon Steiner, Environmental Services Director came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department

### **1. Landfill Permit Update.**

An update regarding the Landfill permit was provided to the Board.

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

Nicole Bernd, West Polk SWCD Manager and Matt Fisher, BWSR Board Conservationist came before the Board to discuss the Red Lake River One Watershed One Plan Executive Summary and facilitate their public hearing.

### **1. Red Lake River One Watershed One Plan Executive Summary and Hearing**

A motion was made by Commissioner Diedrich seconded by Commissioner Bunes and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to open the West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District Hearing at 9:20 a.m. The focus of the Hearing was the Red Lake River One Watershed One Plan Executive Summary. (Executive Summary on file in the Administrator's Office). A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to close the Hearing at 9:45a.m.

## **FACILITIES**

Mark Dietz, Facilities Management Director came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

### **1. Polk County Project Review**

Discussion was held with the Board regarding the Polk County projects that have been completed from 2013 to present and their effect.

## **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

Ross Hier, Emily Hutchins, and Tammy Vaden, from the Department of Natural Resources came before the Board with matters pertaining to DNR. Also in attendance were, Sidney Fjerstad, Steve Fjerstad, Cody Fjerstad, Larry Lenes, and Dan Wilkens, Sandhill Watershed Administrator, Rich Sanders, Polk County Highway Engineer, and Jody Beauchane, Polk County Agricultural Ditch Inspector. Comments were taken from the gallery:

- Sidney Fjerstad indicated they own land abutting the project and want no part of this project.
- Dan Wilkens, Sandhill Watershed Administrator brought forth concerns that a legal public hearing should be held and in addition damages could be potentially paid.
- Ross Hier, DNR brought forth that the proposed resolution is a compromise.
- Sidney Fjerstad was asked if he would be interested in selling his property affected by this resolution. He indicated he was not.

### **1. Resolution (2016-62) Approving the Replacement of Water Control Structure on County Ditch No. 83**

#### **RESOLUTION (2016-62)**

#### **Approving the Replacement of Water Control Structure on County Ditch No. 83**

The following resolution (2016-62) was offered by Commissioner Diedrich:

WHEREAS, a water control structure was in place on County Ditch #83 in the Northwest Quarter (NW1/4) of Section 27, Township 147, Range 40, in the Hovland Wildlife Management Area from 1962 to 2011, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources Section of Wildlife desires to reinstall a water control structure on Ditch #83 so as to restore Hovland Marsh, protected water basin #60034600, to provide high quality wetland wildlife habitat, improve water quality in the Sandhill River Watershed, in which the upper portion of the Sandhill River remains in impaired status, and provide flood storage benefits for the Red River Watershed, and

WHEREAS, in response to adjacent landowner concerns, the runout elevation of the water control structure will be 1272.6 (North American Vertical Datum of 1988), 1.8 feet below the Ordinary High Water Level of 1274.4, and

WHEREAS, the Polk County Board of Commissioners has examined and fully understands the plans and specifications for the restoration of said public water basin #60034600 and believes the same to be practical and advisable, and

WHEREAS, the costs of construction and maintenance of such water control structure will be paid or borne by the State of Minnesota and no costs for such structure shall be the responsibility of the County,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the County Board of Polk County grant approval to the State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources for the proposed development and permission to construct and maintain said water control structure.

Commissioner Strandell seconded the foregoing resolution. The resolution **failed** upon the following vote. YEAS: Diedrich, Strandell. NAYS: Lee, Bunes and Nicholas.

Commissioner Bunes would like to be on the record indicating he is not opposed to the project but would like to see a hearing process for public input.

### **REVISED AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Diedrich seconded by Commissioner Strandell and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to add Robert Wagner, Director of Assessment Services with a Truth in Taxation correction to the November 22, 2016 agenda.

### **TAXPAYER SERVICE CENTER**

Robert Wagner, Director of Assessment Services came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

#### **1. Truth in Taxation Correction:**

Robert Wagner brought forth an issue regarding Euclid and Fanny townships. The 10% reduction authorized at the 2016 Polk County Board of Equalization was inadvertently not transferred from the Valuation Program to the Tax Program. The impact for landowners outside of Euclid and Fanny Townships is minimal. The landowners in Euclid and Fanny townships will receive a notification of correction.

**ADMINISTRATION**

Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

**1. 2016 Budget to Actual October Year to Date:**

An update was given to the Board regarding the 2016 budget. (Handouts on file in the Administrator's Office)

**2. 2017 Budget**

An update was given to the Board regarding the 2017 budget. (Handouts on file in the Administrator's Office)

With no further business the Board adjourned to reconvene at 1:00 o'clock p.m., November 29, 2016.

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Nick Nicholas, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Charles S. Whiting, Clerk of the Board