

**DECEMBER 1, 2015**  
**BOARD MINUTES**

Pursuant to motion of adjournment the Polk County Board of Commissioners met in session at 1:00 o'clock p.m., December 1, 2015 in the Commissioners Room, Government Center, Crookston, MN. Members present: Commissioner Craig Bunes, Commissioner Warren Strandell, Commissioner Nick Nicholas, Commissioner Joan Lee, Commissioner Don Diedrich, and Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator, Clerk of the Board. Others present: Michelle Cote, Deputy Clerk of the Board.

**REVISED AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Nicholas seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the revised December 1, 2015 Board agenda changing the dollar amount on No. 2 under the consent agenda, and adding Public Health and No. 4 under Administration to the agenda.

**REVISED CONSENT AGENDA**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bunes seconded by Commissioner Diedrich and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the revised December 1, 2015 consent agenda changing the dollar amount on No. 2 on the consent agenda.

1. Approve Auditor Warrants.
2. \*Approve payment to Card Member Services, St. Louis, MO in the amount of \$9,145.19 for Credit Card Purchases.
3. Approve payment to Stone's Mobile Radio, Inc., Grand Forks, ND in the amount of \$4,482.23 for Radio Equipment/Base Station for the Sheriff's Office.

**COUNTY BOARD MEMBERS ISSUE FORUM**

1. Commissioner Strandell brought forth a review of his upcoming schedule.
2. Commissioner Lee brought forth discussion that she participated in the meeting with Department of Natural Resources regarding the log cabin ownership and the Agassiz Recreational Trail.
3. Commissioner Nicholas brought forth discussion that he will not be seeking reelection in 2016. Discussion was also brought forth regarding the AMC conference and MRCC not being on the agenda for discussion.
4. Commissioner Diedrich brought forth that he attended the Middle Snake Tamarac River Watershed Advisory board meeting.
5. Commissioner Bunes brought forth that he will be attending the Red Lake Watershed meeting where a designee will be appointed to the Board.

**\*\*PUBLIC HEALTH**

Sarah Reese, Public Health Director came before the Board with matters pertaining to her department:

**1. Proposed Clerk Typist Cashier II Position**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bunes seconded by Commissioner Nicholas and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve posting and hiring a Clerk Typist Cashier II position in the Public Health Department.

## **PLANNING AND ZONING**

Josh Holte, Planning and Zoning Administrator came before the Board with matters pertaining to his department:

### **1. Tax Forfeit Demolition Quotes**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bunes seconded by Commissioner Diedrich and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to award the 2015 Tax Forfeited Properties Demolition Project #1 quote to Lyle Wilkens, Inc., for Parcels #82.01478.00 and #82.00566.00 (Crookston) in the amount of \$9,949.00.

A motion was made by Commissioner Diedrich seconded by Commissioner Lee and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to award the 2015 Tax Forfeited Properties Demolition Project #1 quote to Lyle Wilkens, Inc., for Parcels #85.00073.00 and #85.00136.00 (Fertile) in the amount of \$7,948.00.

### **2. Resolution (2015-63) Approve The 2015 Polk County**

#### **Approve the 2015 Polk County Aquatic Invasive Species Plan**

#### **RESOLUTION (2015-63)**

The following resolution (2015-63) was offered by Commissioner Lee:

WHEREAS, 2014 Session Law Chapter 308 enacted by the Legislature provides Minnesota counties a County Program Aid grant for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention. The amount designated for each county is based on the number of watercraft trailer launches as well as the number of watercraft trailer parking spaces within each county. Polk County was allocated \$24,932.00 for 2014, \$55,405.00 for 2015 and \$55,187.00 for 2016 and years following, and

WHEREAS, the legislation requires that Polk County must establish, by resolution or through adoption of a plan, guidelines for the use of the proceeds which are to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of AIS at water access sites within the County, and

WHEREAS, the county may appropriate the proceeds directly or may use any portion of the proceeds to provide funding for a joint powers board or cooperative agreement with another political subdivision, a soil and water conservation district in the county, a watershed district in the county, or a lake association located in the county. Any money appropriated by the county to a different entity or political subdivision must be used as required under this section, and

WHEREAS, the county must submit a copy of its guidelines for use of the proceeds to the Department of Natural Resources by December 31 of the year the payments are received, and

WHEREAS, the threat of the introduction and spread of AIS is acknowledged as a serious concern to the health of the environmental and economic health of Polk County, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the Polk County Board of Commissioners designates oversight of Polk County's AIS prevention efforts to the Polk County Environmental Services Department and delegates to them the responsibility to prepare, implement and report annually a plan to allocate the funding in accordance with the above legislation. Allocation of funding, grant requests and plan updates are to be approved by the Polk County AIS Taskforce. A copy of the approved AIS plan will be kept on file in the Polk County Environmental Services Department.

Commissioner Bunes seconded the foregoing resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote. YEAS: Lee, Diedrich, Strandell, Bunes and Nicholas. NAYS: None.

### **ASSESSMENT SERVICES**

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

#### **1. EGF Interconnect Project Request for Easements**

Discussion was held with the Board regarding the City of East Grand Forks asking Polk County for easements for the construction of the interconnect sewer project. Polk County owns the flood buyout lands where the pipeline would cross. No action taken at this time.

### **ADMINISTRATION**

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

#### **1. Resolution (2015-64) Thomas Nelson Retirement – Highway Department**

##### **Thomas Nelson Retirement – Highway Department**

##### **RESOLUTION (2015-64)**

The following resolution (2015-64) was offered by Commissioner Bunes:

WHEREAS, Thomas W. Nelson will officially retire as Maintenance Man of the Polk County Highway Department, effective January 5, 2016, and

WHEREAS, Thomas has faithfully and diligently served the residents of Polk County for the past 39 years.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Commissioners does hereby accept the retirement of Thomas Nelson from the Polk County Highway Department with regret, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Commissioners wishes to extend a hearty thank you for a job well done, and

BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Polk County Board of Commissioners want to extend to you best wishes for a long, active and enjoyable retirement.

Commissioner Nicholas seconded the foregoing resolution and it was declared adopted upon the following vote. YEAS: Lee, Diedrich, Strandell, Bunes and Nicholas. NAYS: None.

**2. 2016 Budget**

Draft budget resolutions were presented and discussed with the Board. The 2016 Committee Appointments were discussed with the Board. (On file in the Administrator's Office)

**3. Review of 2016 Committee Appointment**

The Board discussed the 2016 Committee appointments.

**4. Out of State Travel Request**

A motion was made by Commissioner Diedrich seconded by Commissioner Nicholas and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the out of state travel request for Andrew Johnson to attend the National District Attorney's Association course on computer forensic training in Alabama December 6, 2015 to December 11, 2015.

**AUDITOR WARRANTS**

A motion was made by Commissioner Bunes seconded by Commissioner Diedrich and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to approve the following Auditor Warrants for payment:

The Board adjourned to reconvene at 6:00 o'clock p.m., for a Public Hearing.

**2016 Budget Public Hearing – Government Center**

**1. Public Hearing – 2016 Budget**

Chuck Whiting, Polk County Administrator presented an overview of the 2016 budget.

A motion was made by Commissioner Diedrich seconded by Commissioner Nicholas and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to open the Public Hearing at 6:16 p.m.

Bruce Newhouse, 27093 350<sup>th</sup> AVE SW Fisher, MN addressed the Board regarding the levy increase percentage and health insurance costs. Chuck Whiting addressed his questions.

Bruce Newhouse, 27093 350<sup>th</sup> AVE SW Fisher, MN also had questions regarding the \$16,000,000 Social Services Budget and how much of this amount is targeted for Long Term Care in addition to the revenue portion of the Social Service Budget. Commissioner Bunes and Chuck Whiting addressed his questions.

Bruce Newhouse, 27093 350<sup>th</sup> AVE SW Fisher, MN brought concerns regarding the Agriculture valuations which he feels are inaccurate. He feels there should be some property in Polk County should be undervalued. He feels if the Agriculture Values were reduced it would benefit the family farm. Mr. Newhouse referenced a parcel of land North of East Grand Forks which has been listed for sale for in excess a year for \$5,400.00 per acre and has not sold. He feels the county need to be more responsive to the Agricultural Land Sales Market. Rob Wagner, County Assessor addressed sales periods and sales methodology.

Gerald Mozinski, 1915 S. 19<sup>th</sup> St Grand Forks, ND addressed the Board regarding the level of assessment. Rob Wagner addressed his question. The current ratio for the 2017 assessment is 99%. We are not seeing a decrease in sales ratios but a leveling.

Gary Hoerner, 31558 230<sup>th</sup> ST SW, Crookston, MN addressed the board asking what percentage of the budget is derived from Agriculture properties. Commissioner Buness and Robert Wagner addressed his question.

Todd Sorenson 39493 280<sup>th</sup> ST SW Fisher, MN addressed the Board regarding the County Services which are provided. Commissioners Strandell and Diedrich responded to his question indicating most programs are state mandated.

Gary Hoerner, 31558 230<sup>th</sup> ST SW, Crookston, MN addressed the board with questions regarding the Crookston Commercial Valuations and how they derived the values. His specific question referenced the motels in Crookston. Rob Wagner and Commissioner Nicholas responded to his questions.

Lyle Wilkens, 28355 255<sup>th</sup> AVE SW Crookston, MN addressed the board regarding his commercial property located on Hwy 75 which had a 96.4% tax increase. His property has no sewer or water amenities. Rob Wagner addressed his concern and invited him to come into the Taxpayer Service Center his value.

Bruce Newhouse, 27093 350<sup>th</sup> AVE SW Fisher, MN addressed the board regarding two specific quarters he owns in Bygland Section 25 and Fisher Section 18 that are valued differently. Rob Wagner addressed his question.

John Garry 28495 160<sup>th</sup> ST SW Euclid, MN addressed Rob Wagner with specific valuation questions. Rob Wagner addressed his questions.

Also present was John Sorenson.

A motion was made by Commissioner Lee seconded by Commissioner Buness and adopted by unanimous vote of the Board to close the Public Hearing at 7:46 p.m.

With no further business the Board adjourned to reconvene on December 15, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

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Warren Strandell, Chairman

ATTEST:

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Charles S. Whiting, County Administrator  
Clerk of the Board