

Polk County *Newsletter*

Fall 2005

Construction of Jail, Justice Center begins

Contracts awarded in first bid package

Construction of the new jail and justice center project has begun.

Two Polk County construction firms — Lenex Sand & Gravel of Fosston and A & S, LLC of Climax — have been awarded initial contracts and have been on the job doing site and concrete work in the first stage of construction of a new Northwest Regional Corrections Center and adjoining Polk County Justice Center.

The final decision on whether or not to proceed with the project was made by the Polk County Board of Commissioners at its meeting on Aug. 16 when it was assured that the first phase of bidding was within cost projections.

Wall panels included

Besides the site preparation and concrete footings work now underway, other work awarded in the first phase of bidding included that for the development and erection of the pre-cast concrete wall panels that will form the outer walls and roof,

plus contracts for roofing and waterproofing. The award of a contract for mechanical equipment was delayed. The cost of the contracts in the first bid package was \$4.3 million.

The total projected total cost of the complex is \$23.7 million. The cost of the Justice Center, estimated to be \$6.2 million, will be separated out and paid for with existing Polk County funds. The 218-bed jail will be leased to and operated by Tri-County Community Corrections.

The Justice Center will house District Court and all activities related to the court and corrections. Those offices include the administrative offices of Tri-County Corrections, which operates the jail and corrections programs, and those of Polk County Probation, Polk County Attorney & Victim Services, and the public defender service provided by the State of Minnesota.

Construction of the jail will be financed

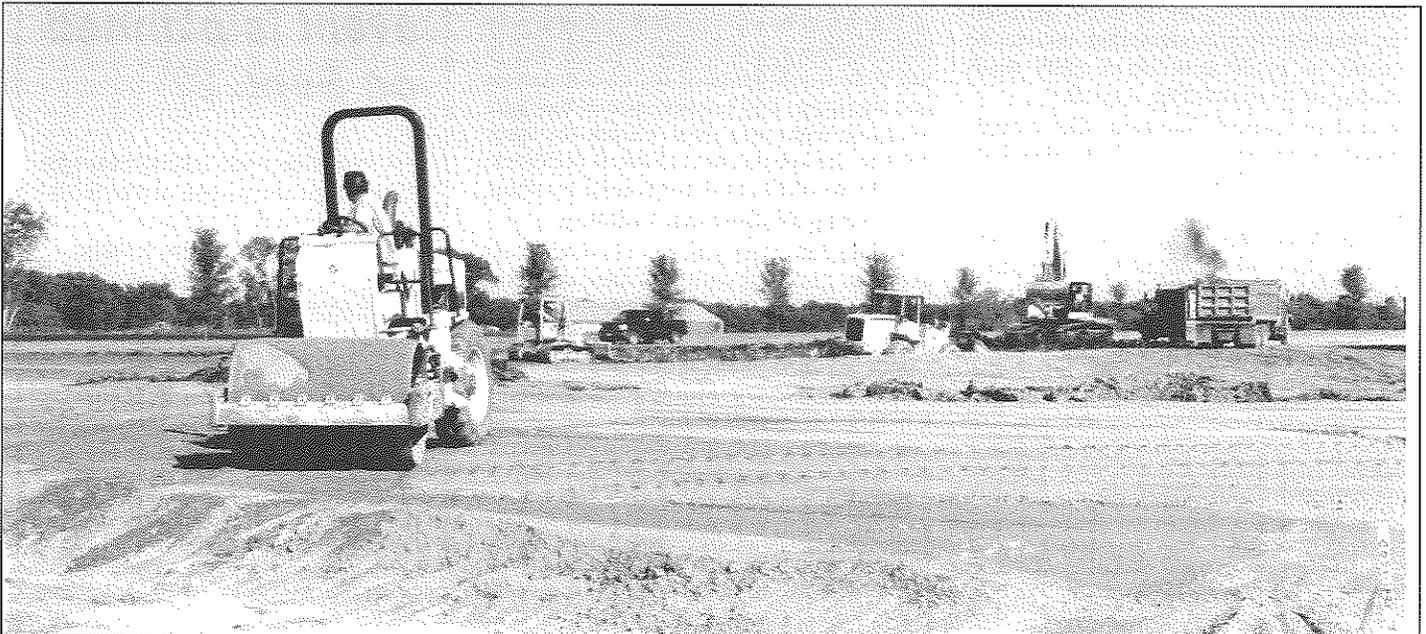
by the sale of \$17.5 million in general obligation bonds. Debt service for repayment of those bonds will be factored into the annual lease of the jail facility to Tri-County Corrections.

Polk County currently pays about 85 percent of the cost of the operating of the jail and corrections programs by Tri-County Community Corrections. That percentage amount is based on a running, five-year history of its use of jail space and of corrections and probation services. Tri-County partner counties — Norman (10 percent) and Red Lake (5 percent) — assume the balance of operational costs based on their use of jail space and services.

Second package in October

A second bid package is scheduled for opening in October and a third package is to be bid in early December. The final two

See JAIL, Page 2



Site work marked the start of jail and justice center construction

Jail, Justice Center work

Continued from Page 1

bid packages will follow. Work is being bid in "packages" to facilitate fast-track construction.

An advantage of fast-track construction is that it minimizes the effect of inflation on the cost of labor and materials. Another advantage is that, with Tri-County Corrections on the line for the growing cost of housing overflow prisoners in other county jails, having a new jail up and operating as soon as possible is important.

The fast-track method is being facilitated by the use of a construction management firm (Construction Analysis & Management, Inc., Brainerd, Minn.), which schedules bidding as the different elements of the plans are developed by the architects (Klein McCarthy & Co., Minneapolis, and Richard Rude Architecture, Inc., Bemidji). As an agent of Polk County, the CM will also oversee the construction process throughout the project.

Open in 2008

Located on Polk County property next to its Highway Department buildings in southwest Crookston, the jail and justice center complex is expected to be completed and ready for use in early 2008. The timetable of the first phase of construction includes erecting the building shell before the onset of cold weather. This will allow a significant portion of inside masonry work to be done through the winter months.

The current jail, which shares space in the Northwest Law Enforcement Center building with the Polk County Sheriff's Department, has been overcrowded for several years with the situation becoming more serious each year. In 2004, the average number of prisoners that had to be housed in other jails on a daily basis because of overcrowding was 10.

Based on current numbers, the average number of prisoners housed in other jails in 2005 will balloon to more than 20. It has exceeded 30 several times in recent months. At an average per diem cost of \$50 per day, this will amount to an expense nearing \$400,000, not including the cost of transportation.

Jail needs growing

Projections for the growing need for jail bed space in the years ahead indicate that the cost of paying other counties to house excess Tri-County Community Corrections prisoners will exceed the cost of debt service for a new jail in 11 years, or less. And the 11 years, some officials are now saying, could be reduced to as little as seven or eight years because of the fast growing demand for jail beds both regionally and throughout the state.

Package 1- Low Bids

Sitework

Lenes Sand & Gravel Co.,
Fosston\$359,000

Concrete

A & S, LLC
Climax\$257,750

Pre-Cast Concrete/Steel

Concrete, Inc.,
Grand Forks\$3,107,327

Roofing

A & R Roofing, Inc.,
Fargo, N.D.\$439,000

Waterproofing

Davis Contracting,
Hibbing, MN\$6,975

Total\$4,316,896

Drug crimes, especially those dealing with the use, manufacture and sale of methamphetamine, are the primary cause of the increasing need for jail space.

One of the greatest areas of need for more jail beds, both regionally and throughout the state, is for female prisoners. Of the 218 beds in the new jail, 60 will be available for female prisoners. The current facility has only six beds for female prisoners with a daily demand of between 15 and 20.

Another 60 beds will be for general population male prisoners. Sixty more will be for male work release prisoners with that section constructed to "secure" standards so that it can be used to house general population prisoners, if needed. The balance of the beds would be used for circumstances and situations that require special management for male prisoners. Except for some cells in the special management cellblock, all cells would be built for double-bunking.

Aging Professional Building

Besides the efficiencies of having all agencies that deal with jail, court and corrections in the same facility, construction of the Justice Center allows the County Board to also address another building issue — that of the Professional Building, which at 105 years old is showing its age and would need extensive work to make it serviceable for any length of future use.

The Polk County Attorney, Polk County Probation Office, Polk County Information Management office, and the public defenders are currently housed in the "Pro Building" along with the Income Maintenance Division of Polk County

Social Services.

With District Court and Court Administration going to the new Justice Center when it is completed, the then vacant upper floor of the courthouse will be used by Social Services — both for the Income Maintenance Division now in the Pro Building and for the main Social Services Department offices located on the lower level of the courthouse. The county's Information Management office will also move into the courthouse.

At the conclusion of all of the relocations, the Pro Building will be taken out of circulation and eventually taken down.

Old cells to stay

The current jail cells in the Law Enforcement Center will remain intact, at least partly because it would be expensive to remove them. When vacated, that area will be used for secure evidence storage among other purposes. The cells could be put back into use in the event of an emergency or an extreme situation.

Administrative space now used by Tri-County Corrections in the Law Enforcement Center will be taken over by the Polk County Sheriff's Department, which has been strapped for space. The Juvenile Center and the Polk County Dispatch Center, also both located in the Law Enforcement Center complex, will continue to operate there.

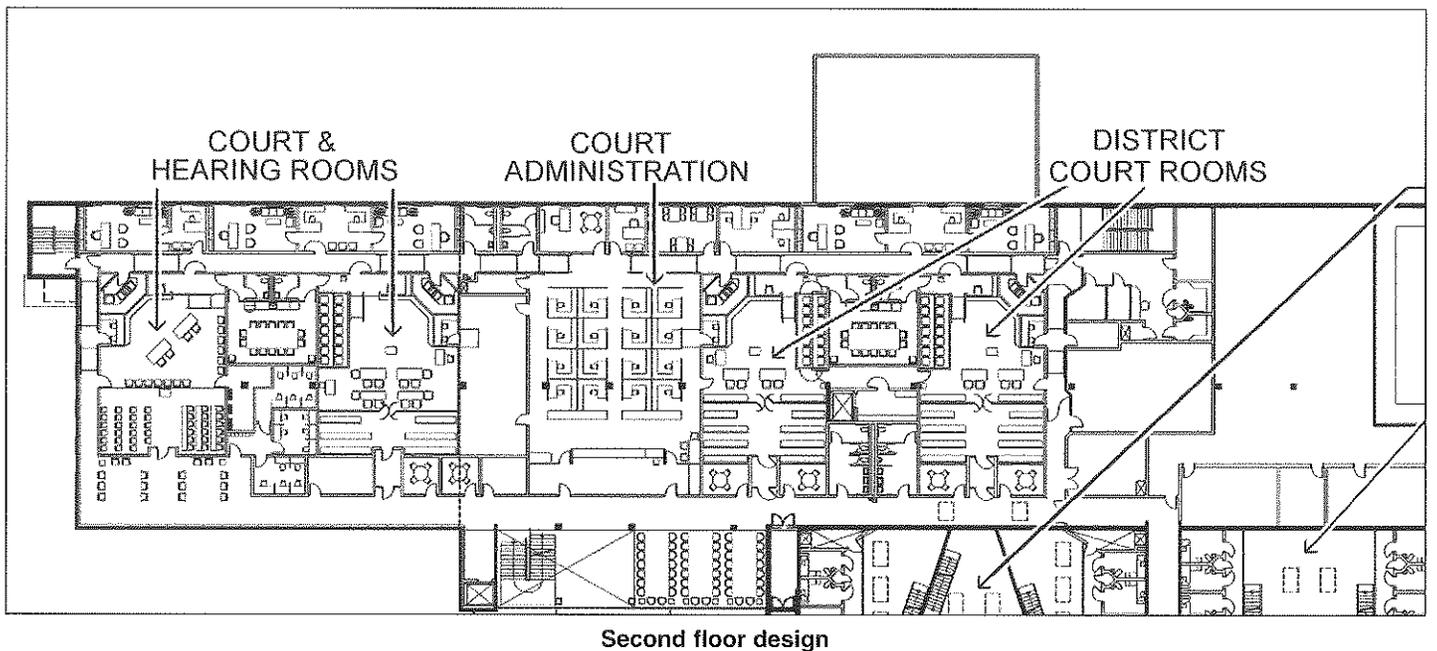
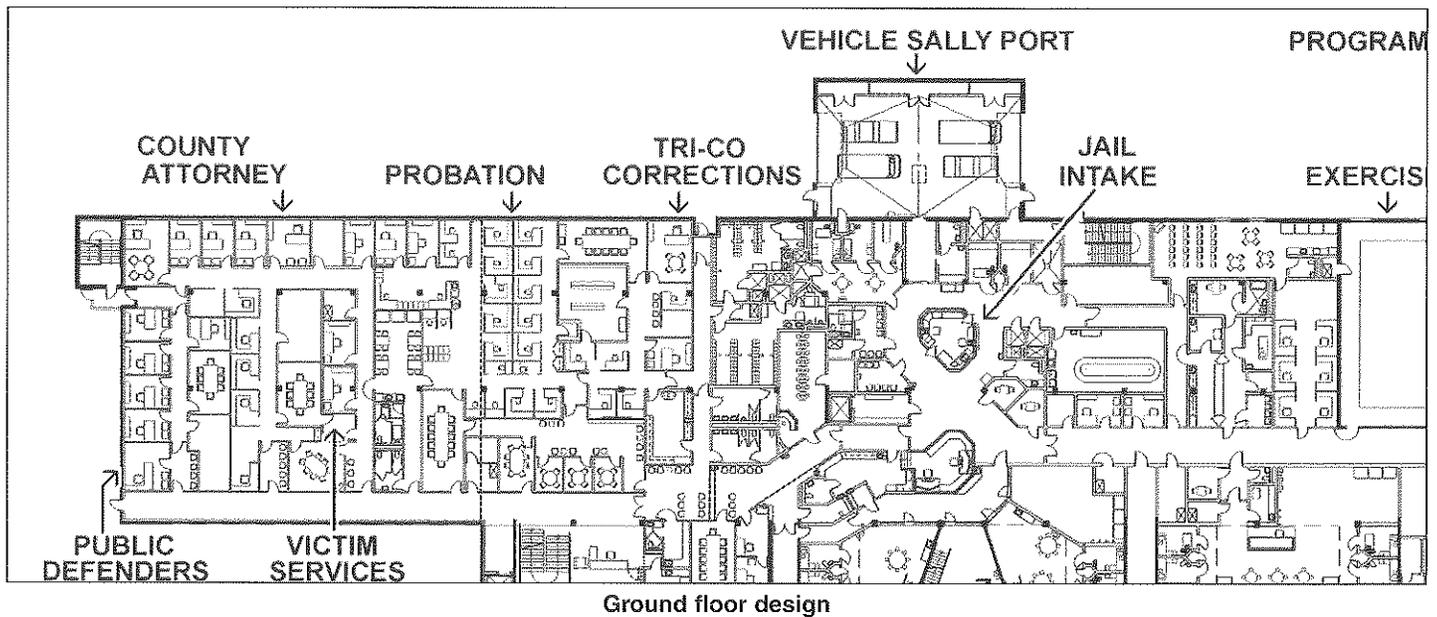
Groundbreaking event is planned on Sept. 27

A formal groundbreaking event for the new jail and justice center facility will be held at 12:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Sept. 27, at the building site near the Polk County Highway Department in southwest Crookston.

Commissioners from the three partner counties in the Tri-County Community Corrections program, the commissioner members of the Northwest Regional Corrections Board, District Court judges, officials from the three counties, the architects and the construction managers have been invited to participate in the event.

The public is invited to attend.



Road through Gully reconstructed

By golly, Gully's gotten a facelift.

The Polk County Highway Department had been looking at reconstructing County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 from TH 92 to the Polk/Pennington County Line for several years but because of the lack of federal funding, the project had always stayed on hold.

The first step in completing this project was accomplished when the Minnesota State Legislature approved and Gov. Pawlenty signed the bonding bill this past spring. The bill included \$5 million

for "roads of regional significance" (10-ton roads).

Polk County applied for the funding and received \$560,000 for the reconstruction of CSAH 2 from TH 92 to a mile north of Gully.

The development of a design that would be appropriate for the city and would work for the local establishments was a detailed process.

We had a couple of public meetings in Gully and met with the City Council and landowners to discuss the type of design.

We even went as far as to

take digital photos and have the Minnesota Department of Transportation do an enhancement of those photos to show what the project would look like after it was completed. Based on the pictures, it was decided to do a full reconstruction, which included curb and gutter and sidewalks.

Now, work is coming to completion just in time for the next phase of the CSAH 2 reconstruction into a 10-ton regional roadway to begin.—
Richard Sanders, Polk Co. highway engineer

Affeldt is chair of Social Services Board

Commissioner Warren Affeldt, Fosston, is the new chair of the Polk County Social Service Board. He succeeded Warren Strandell, East Grand Forks, as chair on July 1.

The position of chairperson rotates among the county commissioners, who are all members of the board. Affeldt had been the vice chair. The new vice chair is Bill Montague, Crookston.

In addition to the commissioners, Paula Waters, Crookston, and Catherine Gutterud, Fosston, serve on the board as lay board members.

HAVA requires having assisted voting machines

Polk County Auditor-Treasurer Gerald Amiot is working with a group of township, city and school district election officials to create a plan for the placement and use of assisted voting machines (AVM) in elections beginning in 2006.

The 2002 federal "Help America Vote" Act (HAVA) mandates that an AVM be placed in every polling place in the United States. Cities are to be compliant by the fall elections in 2006 with townships and school districts to be compliant by 2008.

The purpose of an AVM is to allow a person with hearing or visual disabilities to enter the polling place, sit at the machine and vote for the candidates of their choice without assistance from election judges or other persons.

Polk County allocation

The HAVA legislation appropriated \$29 million for grants to counties in Minnesota to provide assistive voting technology and to pay for certain operating expenses. Of the state total, Polk County is being allocated \$578,870, or \$7,059 for each of the 82 precincts that were open for the 2004 elections.

Additionally, another \$246,000 was appropriated to Minnesota for the purchase of optical scan precinct counters. Given to the precincts in \$3,000 increments, the first priority for this money will go to hand and central-count precincts in which optical scan machines have not previously been used. The second level priority will be for precincts that have precinct count machines that are not compatible with the computerized ballot marking voting machines that automatically record vote totals.

The funding is expected to cover the full cost of the AVMs at about \$5,400 each and of the precinct counters at \$5,200 each, Amiot says. Annual maintenance costs for AVMs and precinct counters is expected to be \$200 each.

Townships and cities may continue the practice of voting by mail but still need to comply with certain HAVA requirements, according to Amiot. The number of townships using direct mail voting is now at 21. Three cities (Beltrami, Nielsville and Trail) also use mail voting.

Mail voting to be explored

Mail voting eliminates the need to keep precincts open on election days, which is savings for that government body. As a part of the planning, Amiot says, "We will be looking at the possibility of consolidating certain precincts, which could result in a significant savings for the smaller precincts.

"An advantage of using precinct counters," he says, "is that they give the voter a second chance should his or her ballot be rejected for some reason such as voting for too many candidates or crossover voting. And the computerized precinct counters, which provide immediate vote totals on each issue, will make determining election outcomes a lot less time-consuming."

By law, the working group must keep meeting until it comes up with an approved equipment plan. The plan must include each polling place location, define responsibilities for providing equipment not covered by the grant money, determine funding for any city or township that requests AVM equipment, and outline responsibilities for the operation, maintenance, storage and replacement of the equipment.

The working group's plan will first be submitted to the Secretary of State for comment and then be the subject of a public hearing scheduled by the County Board. After approval by the County Board, the plan must be filed with the Secretary of State to make the county eligible to receive the HAVA funding.



Sheri Altepeter



Linda Hanson

Hanson is new nursing supervisor

Altepeter named director of Polk County Public Health

Sheri Altepeter is the new director of Polk County Public Health. An 18-year employee of the department, she assumed the lead position in the agency on May 9.

Altepeter succeeds Brenda Menier, who moved to the Lake Park, Minn., area with her husband, Jerry Nagel, in November and is now a nurse consultant for the Minnesota State Department of Health. Menier had been with the agency for 22 years, including 17 as its director.

Hanson is supervisor

Also in a new position in the agency is Linda Hanson, who has succeeded Altepeter as nursing supervisor.

"I'm happy to have this new position," Altepeter says. "With the agency covering so many different areas and being dependent on so many different funding sources, the job is both interesting and challenging. It's a big responsibility and I accept it."

A native of Crookston, Altepeter graduated from Crookston Central High School in 1979 (as Cheri Trandem). After studying engineering at Moorhead State University for a year, she transferred to the University of North Dakota where she earned a B.S. degree in nursing in 1983.

With county since 1987

Before going to work for Polk County in 1987, she had nursing experience as an oncology nurse at St. Luke's Hospital in Fargo, as a charge nurse at Good Samaritan Nursing Center in East Grand Forks, and as a primary nurse deal-

ing with head and spinal cord injuries at the University of North Dakota Rehabilitation Hospital in Grand Forks. With Polk County, Altepeter has worked as a case manager, as the Day Activity Center nurse consultant, as a home care nurse and as director of that program before it was discontinued in 2003. She had been nursing supervisor the past two years.

Altepeter and her husband, Phillip, who farms with three brothers, live in Fanny Township. They have three sons, Tyler, 16; Justin, 13, and Joshua, 11.

A native of Spring Grove, Minn., Hanson earned a registered nurse diploma from the Hennepin County Medical Center School of Nursing in Minneapolis and a bachelor of science nursing degree from Moorhead State University. She has worked for Polk County Public Health for 13 years.

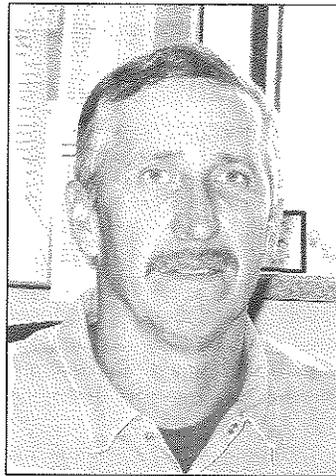
Previous experience

Her previous nursing experience includes positions with the University of Minnesota Hospitals, Hennepin County Medical Center and the Loyola University Hines Veterans Administration Hospital in Riverside, Ill.

With Polk County Public Health, she has worked in the areas of maternal child health, parenting visits and school health. She and her husband, Dr. Rolf Hanson, who has been a family physician in Crookston since 1979, have four children: Rolf W. in San Francisco, Calif.; Rachel (Peter) Evans in Australia; Annie in Mexico City; and Abe, a student at the University of Minnesota.



Bob Martin



Ron Larson

Changes at Solid Waste Plant

Martin retires; Larson is new chief combustor operator

Bob Martin, the first employee of the Polk County Solid Waste Incinerator at Fosston who was hired even before it began operation, retired Sept. 1 after 18 years on the job.

Succeeding him as chief waste combustor operator at the plant is Ron Larson, who has worked at the plant for 17 years.

Before going to work for Polk County, Martin had been chief boiler operator at the Land-O-Lakes milk plant in Fosston. Martin, who had earned the required state licenses and was chief boiler operator for the incinerator for all 18 years, initially helped with the hiring process for boiler and loader operators, set up the schedule for seven-day operations, and established procedures for daily operations of the waste combustors, boilers, and other related equipment.

"Bob was very adept with mechanical functions and was extremely helpful during startup of the incinerators in resolving many operational problems," Bill Wilson, Polk County Solid Waste facilities manager, says. "He set up our boiler maintenance and water treatment programs and was also the safety/training coordinator for the plant. Throughout his 18 years of employment, Bob's dedication to his duties and responsibilities were reflected in the tremendous success this plant has had operating efficiently and safely within MPCA/EPA rule requirements and with minimum

shutdown time.

"Bob commanded the respect of his co-workers and continually offered suggestions for plant operating improvements, many of which were implemented," Wilson says. "The greatest challenge Bob encountered was keeping up with ever-changing rules and regulations related to incinerator and boiler operations as well as safety and training program requirements."

Although retired from Polk County, Martin has not quit working. He has set up a repair shop in the backyard at his residence south of McIntosh.

A native of the Fosston area, Larson, who started work at the facility in 1988 as a loader operator. He was promoted to waste combustion operator in 1992 and, after earning the title of chief boiler operator in 1999, transferred to the maintenance department where he worked as mechanical maintenance technician, which included some electrical maintenance responsibilities.

In that role, he learned to diagnose plant electrical components as well as to program controllers and instrumentation including the maintenance of the continuous emissions monitoring systems that are critical to the operation of the plant.

In his new position, Larson will oversee plant operations and serve as safety/training coordinator.

Recording fees increased in new state legislation

The fees charged by county recorders and registrars of titles for recording documents in Minnesota were increased with passage of an amendment to State Statute 357.18 by the Legislature.

The legislation was signed into law by the governor on June 2.

New fees

According to Polk County Recorder Marlene Hanson, the major changes in fees, which took effect on July 1, include:

- For recording deeds and other documents including mortgages, satisfactions, releases, assignments and affidavits, the fee is now \$46 (up from \$19.50).

- For recording documents that contain multiple assignments, partial releases or satisfactions, the fee is now \$46 (up from \$19.50). Should the document cite more than four recorded instruments, an additional \$10 fee is required for each additional instrument.

- For a certified copy of a document, the fee is now \$10

(up from \$5) regardless of the number of pages.

- For recording a plat, the fee is now \$56 (up from \$35 plus 50 cents per lot for each lot in a plat over 50).

Promoted by association

While fee increases had been vigorously promoted by the Minnesota Recorders Association for several years, Hanson and the Polk County Board had reservations about supporting legislation that set the new fee amounts.

"I just hate having to charge people that much money to record a document," Hanson says. "There is a benefit to the county, though, because all but \$10.50 of the \$46 fee stays in the county."

Biggest share to county

Of a \$46 recording fee, \$14.50 goes into the county's general fund and \$11 is earmarked for the "recorder's process compliance fund" to support activities that deal with land record-keeping. The remaining \$10 goes to the recorder's technology fund.

Pre-marital counseling makes the cost of license cheaper

The cost of a marriage license in Polk County — and in all counties throughout Minnesota — is a lot cheaper if couples complete 12 hours of pre-marital counseling with a minister, priest or rabbi in advance of their application.

The state-mandated fee for a marriage license increased from \$85 to \$100 on Aug. 1 but that amount can be reduced to \$30 for couples who complete the counseling course, according to Polk County Recorder Marlene Hanson.

Also increased Aug. 1 by state mandate were vital statistics fees for birth certificates, which went from \$13 to \$16, and death certificates that went up from \$10 to \$13.

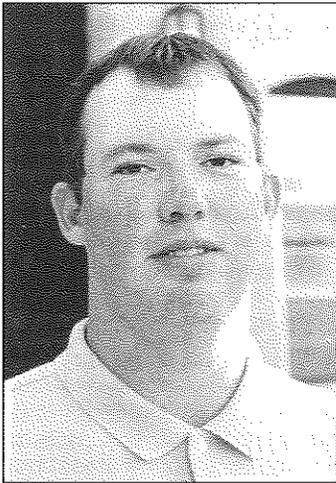
County Board Meeting Times

8:30 a.m. on 1st Tuesday of each month
1:20 p.m. on 3rd Tuesday
8:30 a.m. on 4th Tuesday

Commissioners:

Dist. 1 — Jerry Jacobson, 2005 chair
Dist. 2 — Warren Strandell
Dist. 3 — Bill Montague
Dist. 4 — Warren Affeldt
Dist. 5 — Don Diedrich

All meetings are open to the public



Chris Bruggeman



Jason King

County's Technology Department staffed again

The Polk County Information Technology Department is staffed and providing technical services to county offices again.

After a four-month absence of an on-staff computer technology specialist, Chris Bruggeman, Crookston, and Jason King, East Grand Forks, are on the job as information technology analysts.

They joined the county staff on Aug. 1. Prior to then, the IT Department had not been operational since March when the county's first information technology specialist, Jeremy Seibel, left to take a position with Beltrami County.

The department, which operates under the supervision of Tangee Bouvette, county human resources/special projects coordinator, has its office in the Polk County Professional Building in Crookston.

Besides Polk County departments, Bruggeman and King are also providing technical services for Tri-County Community Corrections.

A native of Crookston and a 1995 graduate of Crookston

Central High School,

Bruggeman earned a bachelors degree in information technology management at the University of Minnesota-Crookston in 2000. Prior to joining Polk County, he had worked as systems administrator at the Agricultural Utilization

Research Center, Crookston, for three years and at Insight Technologies, Grand Forks, as a consultant to government agencies and private business firms for two years. He and his wife, Stacey, have a son, Carter, 2, and a daughter, Halle, 1.

A native of East Grand Forks, King graduated from East Grand Forks Senior High School in 1995 and earned a degree in computer networking at Northland Community & Technical College in 2000. He had been the technical services technician at the Grand Forks Herald for the past four and a half years. King and his fiancée, Chelsea Skavlem, Grand Forks, are planning to be married in 2006.

Funding requirements ended drug task force, but not the efforts of Sheriff's Department

Polk County's effort to fight the manufacture, sale and use of illegal drugs wasn't reduced when changes in federal requirements for funding of regional drug task forces led to dissolution of the four-county Northwest Drug Task Force on Jan. 1.

To continue to be eligible for grant monies under the new requirements after that date, the task force, which involved Norman, Pennington, Red Lake and Polk counties, would have had to designate a fulltime commander.

Cost not justified

The cost of paying for that position in addition to normal staffing of the individual departments by the member counties proved to be more than could be justified.

"But in Polk County, our efforts haven't skipped a beat," Sheriff Mark LeTexier notes. "In the place of the task force in which we had a very major role, we now have mutual aid agreements between the Sheriff's Department and the cities of Crookston and East Grand Forks. This allows us to work together... to help each other.

Team approach

"We still have two members of our Polk County Sheriff's Department working fulltime in drug investigations and education and we have adopted a 'team approach' that increases the involvement of our regular patrol officers and the whole department," LeTexier says. "We're all working dope."

A key part in that effort, of course, is the department's K-9 unit.

"Education is so very important," LeTexier says. "I personally made 17 presentations on meth to some 700 people in three months (April-June) and that was just me. The other officers make them, too. We have to get the message out to kids, to parents, to grandparents, and to the public about the devastating effects that meth use has on users; what it does to a person's body and how it is affecting society.

Meth a big problem

"Meth is a real problem and we are trying to address it through enforcement and education. We want to send a strong message to the drug community that they will be caught and that they will be prosecuted."

The magnitude of the drug problem in Polk County is documented by the fact that the County Attorney's Office prosecuted a felony meth offense every eight days and a drug offense every five days over a recent two-year period.

Tip line planned

As a part of the enforcement effort, the Sheriff's Department is also planning to institute a tip line that residents can use to allow the public to provide information on crime, and especially on drug traffic and use.

"An important part of this program will be that persons would be able to remain anonymous, which they believe might be necessary to avoid retaliation," LeTexier says. "And in some cases, people might even want to provide information on family members as a way of helping them by turning them in to authorities."

Will also save maintenance dollars

Coal ash from Crystal used to stabilize roads

Once again Polk County is using American Crystal Sugar Co. coal ash to stabilize roadways.

We have already completed work on five miles of County State Aid (CSAH) 67, and six

miles of CSAH 66 blending 20 percent ash into the top 12 inches of the gravel roadway.

R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., East Grand Forks, will stabilize another five miles of CSAH 51 this year.

With the increased stabilization of the roadway, the roads should be less costly to maintain, thereby allowing the highway department to use its maintenance dollars more efficiently. The 7,800 tons of ash

used on these projects came from both the East Grand Forks (4,300 ton) and the Crookston (3,500 ton) plants. — **Richard Sanders, Polk Co. highway engineer**

Task Force has questions

Public Safety legislation further clouds the meth ordinance issue

The Polk County Board formed a Meth Task Force in March 2004. One of the goals of the Task Force was to draft ordinances and protocols to protect the public from the many impacts of meth use and production in Polk County. The Task Force was comprised of individuals from the different aspects of this complex issue.

The Meth Task Force met periodically from March 2004 to June 2005 to address these issues and to draft an ordinance that would address the issues of testing, clean-up and occupancy of meth lab sites.

As a model on which to base an ordinance for Polk County, the Task Force reviewed ordinances that had been implemented and tested in other Minnesota counties. The Task Force put a completed draft ordinance out for public review/comment on June 24.

A group of 64 people came out to hear or provide comment on the draft ordinance. Much of the comment received at the public meeting was in regard to the draft ordinance requirement that testing and clean-up costs for meth labs and resulting contamination be paid by the landowner.

The Task Force was set to meet to consider the comments received at the public meeting and review the ordinance before making a recommendation to the County Board.

On June 2, the Crime and Public Safety Bill was signed into law by Gov. Pawlenty. A portion of this bill addressed meth labs and meth contamination. In addition to many other meth-related issues, the bill requires specific actions to be taken by counties when peace officers make an arrest at a meth lab site. The mandated actions to be taken by the coun-

ty relate to ensuring that a meth lab site is not occupied until the landowner has completed the required testing and clean-up of any meth-related contamination. This portion of the bill goes into effect Jan. 1, 2006.

Polk County tabled the draft county ordinance until it is determined how the bill would impact the ordinance, or if an ordinance would even be necessary.

While there has been some clarification of the bill since its passing, it has yet to be determined if an ordinance is needed in order to comply with the law. Polk County and the Task Force are evaluating the need for an ordinance to comply with the law and if the scope of any ordinance should be expanded beyond that specified in the bill. — **Jon Steiner, Polk County environmental services administrator**

Stroble is re-appointed to water board

Arlyn Stroble, Angus, has been re-appointed to a three-year term as Polk County's representative on the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Water District Board of Managers.

Stroble was first appointed to the Board of Managers in 2003 to complete the unexpired term of Richard Kuzel, Angus, when he resigned to accept a position with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture in the Twin Cities.

The Polk County Board appoints one of the seven members on the watershed district's Board of Managers. The other six are appointed by the Marshall County Board.

Adrian leaves post, Drees is acting administrator

Ron Adrian, who left his position as administrator-engineer of the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Water District administrator/engineer in July after 32 years, has joined Houston Engineering Company at its Thief River Falls office.

A native of Hastings, Minn., who earned a B.S. degree in agricultural engineering from the University of Minnesota in 1973, Adrian had worked for the watershed district since April 1973 starting under its then consulting engineer Lloyd Oftedahl.

District engineering technician Nick Drees, who has worked for the district for 33 years, is serving as the acting administrator. Drees, who grew up at St. Hilaire and graduated from Lincoln High School in Thief River Falls in 1968, attended Moorhead State University and the University of North Dakota before joining the watershed district in December 1971.

The district's Board of Managers expects to select a new administrator and a consulting engineering firm this fall.

CRT ban delayed until July 2006

During the 2004 Legislative Session, a ban was passed on all video display devices that contained a cathode ray tube (CRT), such as televisions and computer monitors, effective on July 1, 2005. CRT devices contain significant amounts of toxins and/or heavy metals such as lead, nickel, cadmium, mercury and arsenic.

Banning CRT devices from landfills in Minnesota was just a portion of a much larger project to collect and recycle these materials.

Little cost to resident

As proposed, the program was to require the state to designate collection points and manufacturers of CRT devices to pay for the costs of collection and recycling of these materials. The program was to be at little or no cost to the resident dropping off these CRT devices. However, only the CRT Ban was signed into law.

Though efforts by the Legislature and governor during the 2005 legislative session were made to approve the collection and funding portion of this CRT ban, no program was agreed upon.

With the CRT ban going into effect July 1, 2005, and no approved funding and/or collection program in place, counties were scrambling to implement compliant collection/recycling programs with residents paying for the recycling of these items. The cost to recycle a television ranged from \$10 to \$30 per unit.

Start delayed

On July 6, Gov. Pawlenty signed legislation to delay the CRT ban until July 1, 2006.

The ban was delayed by one year to address the costs related to collection and recycling of these materials, and to establish a comprehensive electronics (all electronics – not limited to CRT devices) recycling program.

Polk County will continue to take waste electronics from residents at the Polk County Landfill until the CRT ban goes into effect on July 1, 2006. The 2006 legislative session will determine how CRT devices and all waste electronics are handled after July 1, 2006. — **Jon Steiner, Polk County environmental services administrator**

Summer Road Construction Report:

Summer road construction work in Polk County moved along just as planned. As long as the rain stays away, most of the projects will be completed by October.

Here is a brief description of each project and their intended completion date.

County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 1 from CSAH 44 to TH 32 in Fertile: The bituminous overlay was completed in September.

CSAH 30 from CSAH 8 in McIntosh to 6 miles east: Paving began in early September with completion planned later in the month.

CSAH 41 from TH 75 at Climax to TH 9: The grading work is continuing with the contractor having completed 7 miles by mid September. The remainder of the work is to be completed in 2006, although the contractor will probably complete more than is required this year by working up to October 1 and then returning after beet harvest.

CSAH 17 from 3 miles east of TH 2 in East Grand Forks to CSAH 20: A contract to overlay this was roadway will be awarded in September. While some work may be possible this fall, it isn't likely now that the project will be started until June. The work calls for cracking of the concrete road surface followed by the application of first a leveling course and then an overlay.

CSAH 23 from 1 mile east of Tabor to TH 75: A contract to crack and overlay this was roadway will be awarded in September. Again, while some work may be possible this fall, it isn't likely now that the project will be started until June. The work calls for cracking of the concrete road surface followed by the application of first a leveling course and then an overlay.

County Road 223 and County Road 231 have both been overlaid with bituminous.

CSAH 11 from TH 2 in Crookston to Barrett Street: This portion of highway was lighted in conjunction with a street lighting project that the City of Crookston is completing.

8 culvert contracts

Polk County has awarded eight contracts for the installation of box culverts. They include structures in Hammond, Vineland, Scandia and Liberty townships. These projects were to start in mid-to-late September and are to be completed in mid October.

All in all, this year's construction season has gone well and hopefully next year will do the same. — **Richard Sanders, Polk County Highway Engineer**

Federal Transportation Bill funds 10-ton route

The \$286.5 billion federal transportation funding bill, the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU) that was passed by the House and Senate and has been signed by the President, includes funding for a 10-ton shipping corridor through Pennington, Marshall and Polk counties.

The Tri-County 10-Ton Corridor project, which has been in planning for several years to accommodate the transportation needs of industry in northwestern Minnesota, especially Polaris Industries in Roseau and Marvin Windows & Doors in Warroad, will receive \$6,480,000 in federal funds to upgrade existing county roads between Gully and Grygla to the 10-ton rating.

The federal money, which will cover 80 percent of the cost of the work, was arranged by Congressman Collin Peterson, who earmarked \$4,480,000 in high priority funding for the project, and by Sen. Norm Coleman, who supplemented that amount with \$2 million in funds that he distributed. The remaining 20 percent will be provided from the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) dollars that the counties receive from their share of state gas tax collections.

Polk County route

In Polk County, the route involves 11 miles of CSAH 2 from the north county line to Gully. That roadway will be grade-widened and receive a bituminous overlay to bring it up to the 10-ton rating. Work will begin this fall and be completed in 2006. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$4 million.

The balance of the \$11.3 million, 36.3-mile project involves CSAHs 27 and 28 in Pennington County and CSAH 54 in Marshall County. At Grygla, the truck route connects with State Highway 89 and at Gully, it joins State Highway 92. The corridor links northwestern Minnesota to U.S. Highway 2, the major interregional corridor in northern Minnesota.

Pennington County started construction on a six-mile portion of the project in July. The balance of the work is now schedule to be started in 2006 and be completed in 2007.

The SAFETEA-LU legislation also included \$960,000 in high-priority funding to extend 13th Street SE in East Grand Forks across the Hartsville Coulee where it will make a right angle connection to Bygland Road SE. Combined with another \$255,000 in federal hazard elimination funds, this project is designed to eliminate a potentially dangerous situation in which school buses are currently forced to negotiate a hairpin turn when enroute to South Pointe Elementary School.

Bathhouse, improvements planned at County Park

Polk County's Maple Lake Park near Mentor will get a new bathhouse in addition to the water and sewer upgrades that are to be done this fall.

The bonus of a new bathhouse for use by park visitors and campers became a reality when the County Board decided to include it in the work plan after bids for the water and sewer work, along with electrical upgrades that were completed last spring, left about \$50,000 in the budget that had been made available for park improvements.

In the contracts awarded at the Aug. 16 meeting of the County Board, Schmitz Builders, Inc., Red Lake Falls, will construct the new bathhouse on its low bid of \$366,000. The water and sewer improvements will be done by Mark II on its low bid of \$225,749. Both projects are to start this fall with completion by June 1, 2006.

The infrastructure work and new bathhouse will represent an investment of \$591,747 in the highly used park.

"In view of the competitive bids that we had, the Board decided that this was a good

time to also proceed with the construction of a new bathhouse," Board Chair Jerry Jacobson says. "Financially, it was possible now while, with other demands on the budget that are upcoming, it probably wouldn't have been likely to happen in a year or two."

In conjunction with the improvements that are being made at the park, a County Board committee is reviewing all policies and regulations concerning park use, especially as it applies to season camping.

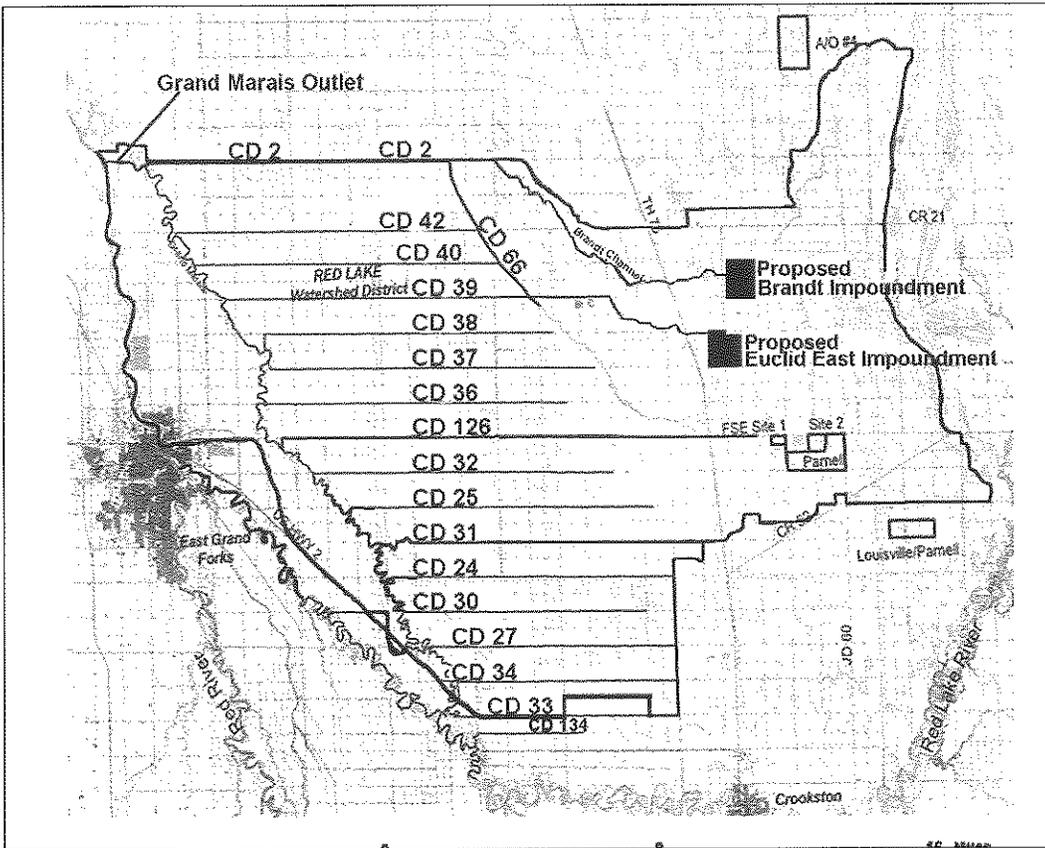
Montague heads Tri-Valley

Polk County Commissioner Bill Montague, Crookston, became president of Tri-Valley Opportunity Council in May as a part of the annual reorganization of the Board of Directors.

He succeeds Richard Andring, Gary, who did not seek re-election as a Norman County commissioner and left the Tri-Valley board of directors.

Montague had previously served as vice president. The new vice president is Don Vellenga, Ada. Other officers are Terry Potucek, Warren, secretary, and Deanna Patenaude, Crookston, treasurer.

The agency marked its 40th anniversary in June.



Euclid East and Brandt impoundment sites

To control runoff east of Euclid

Funding needed to construct impoundments

Arrangements for the construction of two Project 60 impoundments that are designed to control runoff from some 40 square miles of land east of U.S. Highway 75 in West Polk County can begin as soon as the grant funds from the State of Minnesota and needed permits are received.

The impoundments — Euclid East, located a half mile east of Euclid, and Brandt, located one and one-half mile east and a mile north of the City of Euclid — were selected as demonstration projects for state funding as a part of Gov. Tim Pawlenty's Clean Water Initiative, according to Myron Jesme, administrator of the Red Lake Watershed District.

Flood damage benefit

The selection was based at least partly on their potential for flood damage reduction.

The planned \$2,631,606 Euclid East Impoundment, located in Section 24 of Euclid Township and Section 19 of Belgium Township, is designed to store 2,443 acre feet of run-off, or the

equivalent of a 2.68-inch rain in a 24-hour period from a 17.15-mile drainage area.

The \$2,514,402 proposed Brandt Impoundment, located in section 7 of Belgium Township, is designed to hold 3,912 acre feet of run-off, or a 3.1-inch rain in 24 hours from a 23.6-mile drainage area. Although not actually located in Brandt Township, much of the water that it will store comes from that neighboring township.

No assessments

State grants will pay for 50 percent of the total project cost. The remaining 50 percent will be paid for by the Red River Watershed Management Board, the Board of Water & Soil Resources, and the Red Lake Watershed District. There will be no assessment to benefited landowners.

"It is hoped that permitting for both sites can be completed by next spring," Jesme says. "We want to start construction then but, because of the additional permitting that may be required for the Brandt site, the start of

work on that project could be delayed somewhat."

Flow into County Ditch 2

Both drainage areas, which are in the Grand Marais Sub-Watershed, flow into County Ditch 2 and then into the Grand Marais Coulee near its outlet into the Red River seven miles north of East Grand Forks. Run-off from the Euclid East drainage area gets to County Ditch 2 through County Ditch 66, while water from the Brandt drainage area flows through the Brandt Channel enroute to County Ditch 2 at a point about 10 miles east of the Grand Marais Coulee.

Land acquisition and lease arrangements have been completed on virtually all parcels needed for the project.

Known as Project 60, the venture has a number of sponsors. They include the Red Lake Watershed District (the project manager), Polk County Soil & Water Conservation District, Red River Watershed Management Board, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Board of

Water & Soil Resources, U.S. Department of Agriculture, University of Minnesota Extension Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Corps of Engineers, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and a number of landowners.

10-year protection

"The goal of this project," according to Jesme, "is to give the downstream properties protection from a 10-year frequency rain event. But to fully accomplish this, there will have to be improvements to County Ditch 66 and to County Ditch 2. This could be accomplished by filing an improvement proceeding with the Polk County Board of Commissioners. It is the hope of the project sponsors that this will occur sometime in the next three to five years."

While there would likely be support from government programs, much of the cost of the proposed ditch improvements would be paid for by local levy funding.

County Attorney's activity report

(Jan.-June, 2005)

Felonies & Gross Misdemeanors

Complaints prepared	192
Sentencing hearings	198
Committed to state prison	20
Probation violation hearings	188
Committed to state prison	23
Jury trials	3
Convictions	2
Court trials	3
Convictions	3

Misdemeanors

Guilty pleas	67
Court trials	2
Convictions	2

Juveniles

Petitions prepared	64
Detention hearings	58
Disposition hearings	195
Review hearings	131
Cases to Diversion Program	36
Cases to Restorative Justice	30

Services to County Welfare

Petitions prepared	16
Probable cause hearings	17
Commitment hearings	16
Guardian/conservator hrgs	9

Child Support

Support hearings	72
Paternity support hearings	150

'No Net Gain' policy is approved

The Polk County Board has approved a "No Net Gain" acquisition policy that limits land purchases by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Department of Interior.

In the policy, no new lands may be acquired by those agencies unless an equal amount of land is sold back to private ownership.

The action was taken in response to a plan by the State of Minnesota to freeze payments in lieu of taxes (PILT) funding and Congress' failure to adequately fund federal revenue sharing... actions that would cause a significant loss of PILT revenue to the county.

Hanson plans retirement as County Recorder in January

Marlene Hanson will complete a 29-year career with Polk County when she leaves her position as county recorder on Jan. 31, 2006.

"I'm going to miss this job," she says of her impending retirement. "Laverne Sorlie was the recorder when I started and with Sheryl Cariveau there were just the three of us in the office back then. Laverne was just like my mother and Sheryl was my mentor. Later, other people were added to the staff when we started recording vital statistics and when the office got a lot busier after the 1979 flood.

Reservations

"I really love this job and have a lot of reservations about retiring," Hanson says, "but I need to spend some quality time with my husband and family, too."

A native of Anoka, Minn., Hanson and her husband, Lew, who grew up at Stephen, Minn., lived in the Twin Cities for three years following their marriage before deciding that they wanted to raise their family in a smaller town and moved to Crookston in 1965.

Lew farmed in the Stephen-Middle River area until 1991 when he began driving for Transit-tec, which was based at St. Cloud, Minn. He became dispatcher-manager of the north branch of the company in 1999 and is now-semi-



Marlene Hanson

retired.

Started in 1976

After being a "stay-at-home" mom, Marlene worked briefly at Strander Abstract in Crookston before returning home again for a few more years when their fifth child was born.

"When Lew Jr. was five years old in 1976, I went to work in the Recorder's Office, starting as a clerk-typist II," Hanson says.

When Cariveau became the recorder after Sorlie retired in 1985, Hanson was named the administrative assistant. Hanson became the recorder on Sept. 30, 2000, when the County Board appointed her to complete the final two years of the retiring Cariveau's term in office. (Note — The position of recorder was filled by

election until 2000 when special legislation for Polk County made it, along with the office of auditor-treasurer, appointive rather than elective.)

Had good boss

"Sheryl was a good boss and mentor. She trained me well... she taught me everything," Hanson says of her advancement to the eventual position of county recorder position.

"I have a wonderful staff. They are on top of everything. They're bright and wonderful to work with and they are very dedicated, which has made my job a whole lot easier."

Of retirement, Hanson says, "We'll go down south to Weslaco, Tex., for the winters and then come back to Minnesota when it warms up.

Family and travel

"All 13 of our grandchildren, who range in age from 20 all the way down to eight months, live in Minnesota and North Dakota, so I expect to spend quality time with all of them and we'll do some traveling, too," Hanson says.

The Hanson children are: Wendy (Chris) Leines, Hammel, Minn.; Kim (Bob) Stanislowski, Eagan, Minn.; Lori (James) Conway, Wahpeton, N.D.; Teri (Michael) Bauck, New York Mills, Minn.; and Lew Jr. (Shelly), Fertile.

Information on sex offenders found on internet

Information about sex offenders and others with a record of criminal activity in Minnesota is available on the internet by going to the Minnesota Department of Corrections web site (www.MinnesotaDOC.com) and working through the options listed there. You will need to know the name of the person about whom you desire information.

In the case of Level II sex offenders, law enforcement bodies (local police departments and/or the county sheriff's department) are required to notify daycare facilities, schools and other places in the area of the offender's residence where vulnerable children and adults live or congregate.

For Level III offenders, community notification meetings are

required. These public information meetings are organized by local law enforcement officials and include presentations by officials of the Minnesota State Department of Corrections.

It is important for the public to understand that only sex offenders who go to state prisons are officially classified through the risk levels set at release from prison. The Department of Corrections assesses the risk levels, which begin at Level I, with Level III being the highest degree of risk assessed.

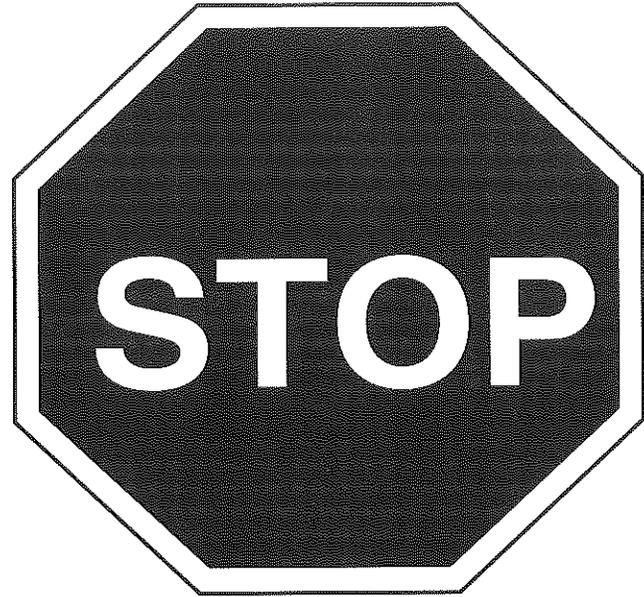
For additional information, contact your local police department, the Polk County Sheriff's Department, or the Tri-County Community Corrections Probation Office located in Crookston (218-281-6622).

Report Welfare Fraud

People who give false information or withhold facts in order to receive Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) aid, Food Stamps, general assistance, childcare or medical assistance may be guilty of fraud.

You may wish to report:

- Persons not reporting income
- Incorrect reporting of persons living in the home
- Misuse of Food Stamps or Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) cards
- Falsifying of information on applications
- Unreported property and assets
- Persons receiving dual benefits (benefits from more than one state)



What You Should Include in Your Report:

- **Who** — The name of the person
- **What** — The fraud suspected
- **When** — Date of occurrence
- **Where** — Address of person

Welfare Fraud

If you suspect someone of misusing or abusing Minnesota assistance programs, call the Polk County Sheriff's Department 24 hours a day, 7 days a week at this number:

1-218-281-0431 (ask for Extension 2249)

You can also contact the toll free Minnesota Welfare Fraud Hotline 24 hours a day, 7 days at week at this number:

1-800-627- 9977

You Can Remain Anonymous

Plant is up and running

New customer to use excess steam from Solid Waste incinerator

Polk County Solid Waste and the City of Fosston have a new business in the industrial park.

Specialty Products broke ground for construction of a new facility in April and began producing product in early August. This was an incredible feat but was necessary to meet the timing for a new product being introduced this summer.

The product is produced by drying honey and then blending it with other ingredients to be used as a flavoring in baked goods.

McDonald's sandwich

Initially, the company will furnish its product to McDonald's, which is introducing a new chicken sandwich with a special bun fla-

vored with this product.

The company will use steam from the incinerator for the drying process. Polk County has installed a steam service line to the new facility.

Prior to the news of the new steam customer, Polk was seriously considering the option of installing a turbine/generator unit to produce electricity from the excess steam the plant now has available with the installation of economizers in the flue gas stream.

However, the new customer needs almost all of the excess steam for its operations and the sale of steam is much more profitable than selling electricity. The investment for the steam and condensate return line is approximately \$500,000.

The projected payback for this investment is one to two years versus five to six years by selling electricity.

Third customer

With three steam customers — Sun Opta, MDV, and Specialty Products — almost all of the steam produced from the incinerators can be put to good use. On occasion it may even be necessary to supplement the steam production with that from the natural gas-fired boiler.

This is great news for Polk and the other four partner counties as the steam revenues can be used to help maintain the tip fee for many years to come. — **Bill Wilson, Polk County Solid Waste facilities manager**

Northwest Mental Health Center plans addition to ease crowding

The Northwest Mental Health Center, which provides services for six northwest Minnesota counties, is in the final stages of developing plans for an addition to its office and clinic building in Crookston.

"With a staff of 80 in quarters that were originally designed for about 35, we've really been cramped. This is a project that is overdue; it's been in planning for about two years," Dan Wilson, center administrator, says. "A groundbreaking and start of construction is possible yet this fall but is more likely

to happen next spring."

Planned is a 4,885-square-foot addition to the front of the current center to provide space for offices, administrative support and a training room that can be utilized by staff and for community meetings. An additional 3,500 square to be provided in a lower level will be used mainly for storage.

Projected total cost of the project, which includes property that has been purchased between the center and Business Highway 75 and also some repairs to the current

facilities, is \$900,000.

The addition is to be constructed on much of the current parking lot with new parking provided on the recently purchased property. The center is using its existing resources for a portion of the project and expects to arrange a 30-year, low-interest U.S. Department of Agriculture loan to complete the financing.

Counties served by the center include Kittson, Marshall, Norman, Red Lake, Mahnomen and Polk.

Sand Hill Watershed managers re-appointed; web site started

Roger Hanson, Beltrami, and Robert "Bill" Brekke Jr., Nielsville, have been re-appointed to the Sand Hill Watershed District Board of Managers for three-year terms.

Hanson was first appointed to the Board of Managers in 1978 and Brekke has served since 1999. Other managers and the years that they were initially appointed are: Stuart Christian, Erskine, 2000; Gordon

Sonsteli, Erskine, 1997; and Harold Vig, Fosston, 1994.

The watershed is currently in the process of developing its web site (www.sandhill-watershed.org) to provide information on its staff, current projects and meeting minutes, according to Dan Wilkens, administrator.

In addition to minutes of current meetings, the site will eventually include the

minutes from all meetings dating back to 1941 when the watershed's predecessor operated as a drainage and conservancy district. "This will be really valuable in researching activities and work that was done in the past," Wilkens says.

A feature of the site invites persons to activate a service in which they will automatically receive minutes of the meetings of the board of managers by e-mail.

Prisoners now in orange 'scrub' uniforms

Non-work release prisoners at the Northwest Regional Corrections Center in Crookston are now dressed in bright orange "scrubs" that readily identify them as inmates.

The two-piece uniforms, which have the big letters NWRCC going down the leg of the pants, became official dress for both male and female prisoners in early July. The use of the orange scrubs has reduced the amount of clothing in the living areas of the jail and resulted in fewer places to hide contraband.

Prisoners, who no longer have any personal clothing available to them while they are incarcerated, wear the uniforms when making first appearances in court but do not wear them during trial proceedings.

The practice of wearing uniforms at the center will expand to the Tri-County Community Corrections staff this fall. "This change is designed to further professionalize the security staff and to make officers readily identifiable in the important role that they have in public safety," Susan Mills, Tri-County Community Corrections administrator, says.

Dress for these officers will include black pants and gray shirts. The shirts will have a U.S. flag on one shoulder with a patch identifying the person as a security officer on the other.