

Jail decision

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for a total of 81 prisoners (32 + 49).

The demand for jail beds is currently being reduced by the use of "electronic home monitoring" supervision. About 20 people are regularly serving time through that feature. Others are being allowed to reduce their sentences by participating in the Sentence to Service program that allows certain prisoners to reduce their jail time by one day for each day of work that they perform on community projects in any of the three counties.

10 to 14 in other jails

Currently, from 10 to 14 prisoners are regularly being housed at jail facilities in other counties at a cost of about \$55 a day plus that of transportation. With drug crimes — especially that of methamphetamine use, manufacture and sale — growing at a rapid rate, projections are that the need for additional jail space will increase by at least three beds per day every day each year for the foreseeable future.

Tri-County Corrections paid out more than \$170,000 to other counties in 2004 to house its overflow prisoners. In addition, the Polk County Sheriff's Department incurred \$75,000 in expenses related to the transportation of prisoners to and from other counties. Statewide jail space shortages already have required transporting prisoners to facilities as far away as Little Falls, Minn.

Transportation time and costs to the Sheriff's Department are not included in the \$170,000 amount.

The Tri-County organization, which includes Norman, Red Lake and Polk counties, provides jail administration along with corrections and probation services for the three partners. The three counties each have two commissioners on the six-member Corrections Board that oversees the agency. As the host county, Polk owns the facilities. The three counties share in operational costs, which include that of any debt service.

The share of operational costs for each county is determined by a rolling five-year average of its use of jail beds, probation services and corrections programs.

Options

Considerations in the decision of whether or not to build now include some of these options:

- The projected cost of a new 218-bed jail that is designed to incorporate the absolute best efficiencies and economies of scale could be \$17 million.

- Debt service on that amount of construction bonds over 25 years would be

about \$1.2 million, an amount that would be incorporated into the annual lease amount that the Tri-County organization pays to Polk County as the building owner.

- Cost projections to continue the practice of housing overflow prisoners elsewhere is expected to grow to more than \$1 million a year in just 10 years and to surpass the \$1.2 million annual bond repayment amount in from 10 to 12 years.

Fact-finding underway

Several measures are currently underway to help Polk County commissioners — and their partner counties — determine how they might or might not proceed.

- David T. Prachar, Duluth, administrator of the St. Louis County Jail and a respected jail consultant, has been engaged by the Corrections Board to assist it in exploring operational designs and practices in a new facility that would maximize efficiencies in the costs for staffing.

- Klein McCarthy & Co., Minneapolis, in association with RRA, Inc. (Richard Rude Architectural), Bemidji, have been engaged by Polk County to design a combination jail and justice center. If built, the jail would be operated by Tri-County Corrections, while the justice center would be paid for solely by Polk County. It would house Polk County District Court and all agencies associated with court activities. Those agencies include the county attorney's office, public defenders offices, court services, county probation program and the administrative offices of Tri-County Corrections.

- CAM (Construction Analysis & Management), Inc., Brainerd, Minn., has been engaged by Polk County to be involved in the initial design of a jail-justice center and will serve as construction manager, if a project goes forward.

Advantages of co-location

The advantage of having both the jail and justice center in the same building is that it eliminates the need to transport prisoners from jail to the courtrooms that are currently located on the upper floor of the County Courthouse. The transportation and supervision that is required when prisoners are to appear in court can tie up four and even five Sheriff's Department deputies on busy days.

Of the estimated total cost of about \$21 to \$22 million for the combination jail and justice center, Polk County would bear the full cost of the justice center portion of the project. The county currently has from \$5 to \$5.5 million in available funds to cover the cost of that facility.

The debt service needed to repay the bonds that would be sold to construct the jail portion of the project would become a part of the Tri-County Corrections operating budget. Polk, Norman and Red Lake counties each pay a percentage share of operational costs based on the jail and probation services that they use.

Percentage share basis

Currently, Polk County pays about 85 percent of that budget with Norman County at 10 percent and Red Lake County at 5 percent.

"The professional people and firms that have been engaged to work on this project were brought in because of their extensive experience in the design and operation of jails," Polk County commissioner Warren Strandell, who is the current chair of the Tri-County Corrections Board, says.

"They've spent a lot of time working with our corrections staff not only to design a building but to develop a plan that will make the most efficient use of staffing that is possible. That efficiency is so important because, over the years, the cost of staffing a jail can become more expensive than that of construction.

"Based on the information that has been developed, we are soon at the point where we need to make a decision on whether or not to proceed with a construction project," he says.

"The estimated cost of constructing a facility that maximizes supervision efficiencies and will meet our projected needs well in to the future takes some getting used to, but the costs associated with not building appear to be even greater... maybe not immediately but certainly in a few years."

Cost go up

Construction costs are expected to increase from 4 to 5 percent annually. Steel and concrete costs alone went up 5 percent in 2004.

The investment that has already been made in a possible building project won't be wasted money if the final decision is not to build right now because the plans that are being developed can be taken off the shelf and used at some time in the future.

"Because of the fast-growing problems associated with the use, manufacture and sale of meth along with other drug and felony DWI crimes, it is inevitable that we are going to have to do something whether it is now or in a few years... and those years seem to go by pretty fast," Strandell says.

District 5 commissioner

Diedrich isn't new to public service

New District 5 Polk County Commissioner Don Diedrich isn't new to public service.

The retired Warren area farmer served as a member of the Polk County Planning & Zoning Commission for 18 years including 12 as its chair.

He was on the Brislet Town Board for 25 years; the Marshall County Cooperative Board for 20 years, many of them as its secretary; was on the founding board of the Warren Education Foundation; has been a member of the Warren Lions Club for 25 years, including those as its president in 1985-86; and has been a member of the Warren Pony Booster Club for a number of years, including four years as its chair.

After graduating as valedictorian



Don Diedrich

of the Class of 1956 at the Northwest School of Agriculture in Crookston, Diedrich worked on the family farm for several years before he and his brother, Harold, farmed together

for several years. Later, Diedrich and his youngest brother, Wally, took over the family farm. They began the process of retiring from farming in 1997.

Diedrich won the District 5 commissioner seat in a race against Darrel Loeck, rural East Grand Forks, in November. The campaign, in which he had finished second in a three-way race in the primary election, was his second try for office. He first ran against District 3 commissioner Bill Montague of Crookston in 2000.

"When re-districting changed the boundaries of Districts 3 and 5 following the 2000 census and when longtime District 5 commissioner Eugene "Jeep" Mattson announced that he was

retiring last year, I decided to run for that open seat," Diedrich says.

"I've always been interested in local government and being retired from farming, I can commit the time that is needed to be a commissioner. Polk County has a really good County Board and I'm proud to be a member of it," he says of his first months in office.

Diedrich and his wife, Arlene (Narloch), who were married in 1968, raised three children. Dan is a medical doctor at Rochester, Minn.; Jennifer and her husband, Jeff Kazin, and their daughter, Sydney, live at Plymouth, Minn., and Janine, who will be married in August, lives at Farmington, Minn. Mrs. Diedrich died in 2001.

County Board re-organizes

Jacobson is new Board chair

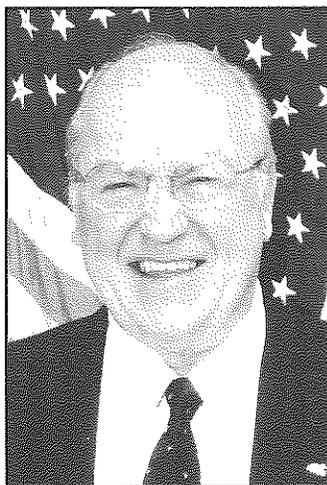
Commissioner Jerry Jacobson, Fertile, is serving as chair of the Polk County Board in 2005. He succeeds Bill Montague, Crookston.

Jacobson, who represents District 1, was the vice chair in 2004. The new vice chair is Warren Strandell, East Grand Forks.

The board annually rotates the offices of chair and vice chair through the commissioners.

As a part of the first meeting of the year in January, District Judge John Roue administered the oath of office to Jacobson, Montague and new District 5 commissioner, Donald Diedrich, rural Warren.

Jacobson and Montague were re-elected to their second four-year terms of office in the General Election in November, while Diedrich defeated Darrel Loeck, rural East Grand Forks, in the District 5 commissioner race. Diedrich succeeds Eugene "Jeep" Mattson, who did not seek re-election.



Jerry Jacobson

Further re-organization of county government will occur in July when Commissioner Warren Affeldt, rural Fosston, is slated to succeed Strandell as chair of the Polk County Social Services Board.

That board, which meets monthly as a separate body, includes the five county commissioners and two at-large members, Cathy Gutterud, Fosston, and Paula Waters, Crookston.

The major issues that the County Board is expecting to have to deal with in

2005, Jacobson says, are that of addressing possible new jail construction, improvements that are needed at the main Polk County Park on Maple Lake, what to do about two tax-forfeited and deteriorating buildings in Crookston, and the ongoing concerns about budget and how to provide needed services in the most efficient way possible.

2004 Election Box Score

Primary Election

Total number of votes1,883

General Election

Total number of votes15,870

Absentee ballots1,045

Election day registrations3,086

Number of registered voters16,134

Election Costs

County election budget\$76,150

Actual election costs\$67,78

Mail Ballot Precincts

Cost per voter/per election\$2.14

Total mail ballot cost\$4,862.08

Mail ballot townships19

Mail ballot cities3

The cost of the envelopes, materials and the postage for mailing ballots to registered voters in mail ballot precincts is billed back to the participating townships and cities on a per voter basis.

Mail ballot precinct (townships and cities) are: Andover, Belgium, Beltrami City, Brandt, Brislet, Fanny, Farley, Fisher, Hammond, Helgeland, Hubbard, Kertsonville, Keystone, Liberty, Nielsville City, Parnell, Russia, Sandsville, Scandia, Trail City, Tynsid and Vineland.

While assuming costs for mail ballot supplies and postage, mail ballot precincts avoid the cost of staffing the polling place on election days.

County Attorney's 2004 activity report

Felony & Gross Misdemeanors

Complaints prepared	376
Sentencing hearings held	355
Committed to state prison	73
Probation violation hearings	333
Committed to state prison	46
Jury Trials	8
Defendants convicted	6
Criminal appeals handled	14

Misdemeanors

Guilty pleas	139
Trials	4
Defendants convicted	4

Juvenile Cases

Delinquency petitions prepared	36
Delinquency hearings held	452
Child in need of protective services (CHIPS) petitions prepared	63
CHIPS hearings held	184

County Welfare

Commitment petitions* prepared	18
Commitment hearings held	33
Guardianship petitions prepared	10
Guardianship hearings held	6
Sexual/ Psychopathic Personality/ Sexually Dangerous Person (SPP/SDP) Commitment petitions filed	2
SPP/SDP persons committed to state hospital**	1
Child Support hearings held	147
Contempt***/Paternity held	223

* Mentally ill and/or inebriate

** One petition pending

*** Contempt hearings for failure to pay child support

Jail Facts

Dept. of Corrections

Licensed Jail Capacities:

Center (med. & max. security)	32
Annex (minimum security)	49

Actual Average

Daily Populations:

1991	72
1997	82
1999	99
2001	89
2003	86
2004	95

DOC recommended daily maximum jail pop. 65

No. Beds Leased

From Other Counties:

2003	274
2004	3,524

Cost of Leased Jail Beds:

2003	\$13,152
2004	\$171,914

* Does not include transportation or medical costs

No. Resident Days

Incarcerated:

	Male	Female
1998	29,485	2,823
1999	32,726	3,541
2000	27,094	3,004
2001	29,604	2,708
2002	25,123	2,632
2003	27,783	3,464
2004	30,373	4,414

Montague heads state health services advisory committee

Polk County Commissioner Bill Montague, Crookston, is serving as chair of the Minnesota State Community Health Services Advisory Committee (SCHSAC) in 2005.

Created by the State Legislature in 1976 to advise, consult with and make recommendations to the commissioner of health on matters relating to the development, funding and evaluation of community health services, the committee is a component of the Local Public Health Act.

The act formed a partnership between the Minnesota Department of Health and local government public health agencies.



Bill Montague

The SCHSAC has voting members from each of the 52 community health boards in the state. Of the 52 community health boards, 26 (including Polk County) are single county boards, four are city boards

and 22 are multi-county boards. The organization meets four times a year.

Recent topics before the committee have dealt with bird flu and the possibility of it becoming pandemic, West Nile disease issues, second-hand smoke and the growing methamphetamine problem.

Montague had previously served on SCHSAC's 11-member executive committee for two years. He became involved in community health and human services issues in 2001 when he assumed the responsibilities previously held by Commissioner Don Bakken, Fertile, who retired in 2000.

County drainage report

30 miles of ditch cleaned, 9 culverts replaced in '04

Approximately 30 miles of the Polk County drainage system was cleaned and repaired during the past year.

Nine culverts were replaced because of disrepair and 14 separate locations were also repaired in the system due to obstructions, back slope failures and erosion problems.

A little over 160 miles of the drainage system, mainly in the northwestern part of the county, was sprayed to control cattails.

Eleven miles of back slope was mowed because of brush or noxious weed infestations. And a 1.5-mile portion of a system was abandoned at the request of the Nature Conservancy.

Beavers removed

Beavers have been an ongoing problem, especially in the east half of the county. Approximately 75 beaver dams were removed and 110 beaver were trapped.

The Polk County Drainage

Department, which is responsible for the maintenance of approximately 810 miles of county, state and judicial drainage systems, has been and will continue to work with landowners and other agencies with drainage issues throughout the county.

In its main function of ensuring that all laws and regulations pertaining to the legal drainage system are followed, the department works with landowners, watershed districts and other agencies to maintain the efficiency of the system.

Responsibilities include conducting inspections, surveying, culvert work, supervising contractors when cleaning and repairing a system, and designating heavy brush and cattail areas to be sprayed. The department, which is located in the Polk County Highway Department, also maintains ditch records, ditch maps and ditch profiles. — Polk County Ditch & Ag Inspector Jody Beauchane

Winkleman introduced

Beiswenger, Pulkrabek on Planning Commission

Two new members were named to the Polk County Planning Commission in March when Earl Beiswenger, Fisher, and Courtney Pulkrabek, Crookston, were approved by the County Board to succeed Donald Diedrich, Warren, and the late Barbara Reitmeier, Crookston.

Diedrich, who was elected the District 5 county commissioner in the General Election, had served as chair of the Planning & Zoning Commission.

Beiswenger, who represents Commissioner District 2, and Pulkrabek, who represents District 3, will serve three-year terms.

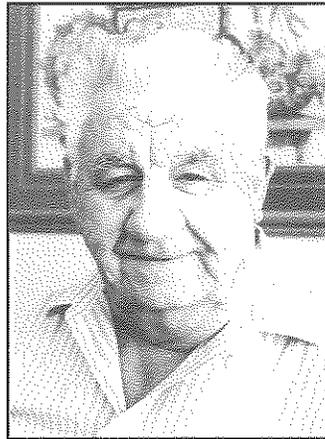
District 2 includes Wards 1 & 2 in East Grand Forks, the cities of Fisher, Climax and Nielsville, and 14 townships in the southwest area of the county — Andover, Bygland, Nesbit, Fanny, Fisher, Hammond, Hubbard, Huntsville, Lowell, Nesbit, Rhinehart, Roome, Tynsid and Vineland.

District 3 includes Wards 2, 3, 4 & 6 in Crookston and the townships of Crookston, Gentilly and Parnell.

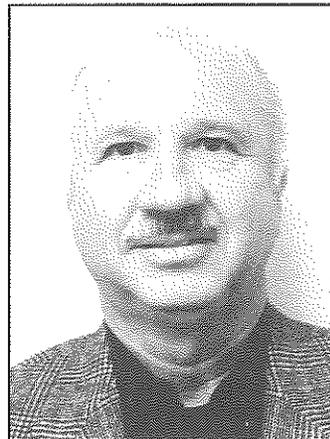
Active in government

Beiswenger has extensive experience in local government having served on the Fisher City Council for 10 years during two separate times and on the Fisher Board of Education for 12 years. In the community, he has been president and is currently a director of the Fisher Chamber of Commerce and serves as the financial officer of the Fisher American Legion Club.

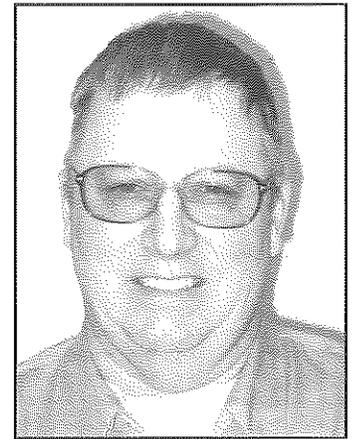
A native of Fisher, he graduated from Fisher High School in 1945, served in the Navy for two years and worked on an area farm before taking a job at M. E. Larson's grocery store in Fisher in 1948. Beiswenger and Edith Ann Korbol, who grew up at Alvarado, were married in 1953. They purchased the store in 1954 and operated it until 1987 when the business was sold. Mrs. Beiswenger died in 1999.



Earl Beiswenger



Courtney Pulkrabek



Kerry Winkleman

Beiswenger, who became involved in crop insurance sales and adjusting in 1971, continues to work in that field. He has four grown children — Jeffrey of Moorhead, Jon (Debbie) of East Grand Forks, Lori (Brian) Morken of Fisher, and Joel (Kim) of Wadena, and 11 grandchildren.

Grew up on farm

A native of the Sherack area, Pulkrabek grew up on a farm there and graduated from Warren High School in 1962. He earned a bachelors degree from the University of North Dakota in 1967 and joined State Farm Insurance as an agent in Crookston in 1969. Pulkrabek recently completed 35 years with the company.

In the community, Pulkrabek is president of the Crookston Shrine Club and has served as president of St. Anne's Church and of the Crookston Lions Club.

He and his wife, Mary (Beresford), who were married in 1967 and live in Crookston Township, have four grown children — Ryan and his wife, Romano, Minneapolis, Dr. Adrian of Phoenix, Ariz., and April, San Francisco — and two grandsons.

Recent appointment

Also a relatively recent appointee to the Planning Commission is Kerry Winkleman, Fosston. He was appointed as the representative from Commissioner District 4 in

2003 when Helmer Homme of Winger retired.

A native of Fosston, Winkleman farmed with his father and brother after graduating from Fosston High School in 1973. During that time, he also worked at Fosston Implement and for Fosston Ag Service.

He and Cheryl Bitker were married in 1985 and that year he also joined his father-in-law in K & L, Inc., a machine shop and small manufacturing firm in Fosston. He also continues to farm.

Winkleman has been a member of the Rosebud Cooperative Board and of the Rosebud Town Board, both for five years. He is a member of the Lake Itasca Region Farmers Club, the Western Minnesota Steam Threshers Reunion Club of Rollag, Minn., and of First English Lutheran Church of Fosston. He and his wife have two children, Timothy, 16, and Katelyn, 14.

Commission members

Other members of the Planning Commission are: Clayton Engelstad, Fertile, (representing Commissioner District 1); Barb Hangsleben, East Grand Forks (District 5), Roland Gagner, Erskine (Union Lake Sarah Improvement District); Doug Thorson, Mentor (Maple Lake Improvement District); Chuck Lairviere, Crookston (repre-

senting townships); Jim Gander, East Grand Forks (representing the mayor of East Grand Forks); and Crookston Mayor Don Osborne.

Board of Adjustment

Engelstad, Pulkrabek, Winkleman, Hangsleben and Gander also serve on the Board of Adjustment, which decides requests to deviate from the county's zoning rules.

The findings of the Planning Commission are forwarded as recommendations to the County Board, which must make final decisions. The Board of Adjustment makes the final decision on variance issues.

As chairman of the County Board, County Commissioner Jerry Jacobson, Fertile, is also serves on the Planning Commission.

County Board Meeting Times

8:30 a.m. on 1st Tuesday of each month

1:20 p.m. on 3rd Tuesday

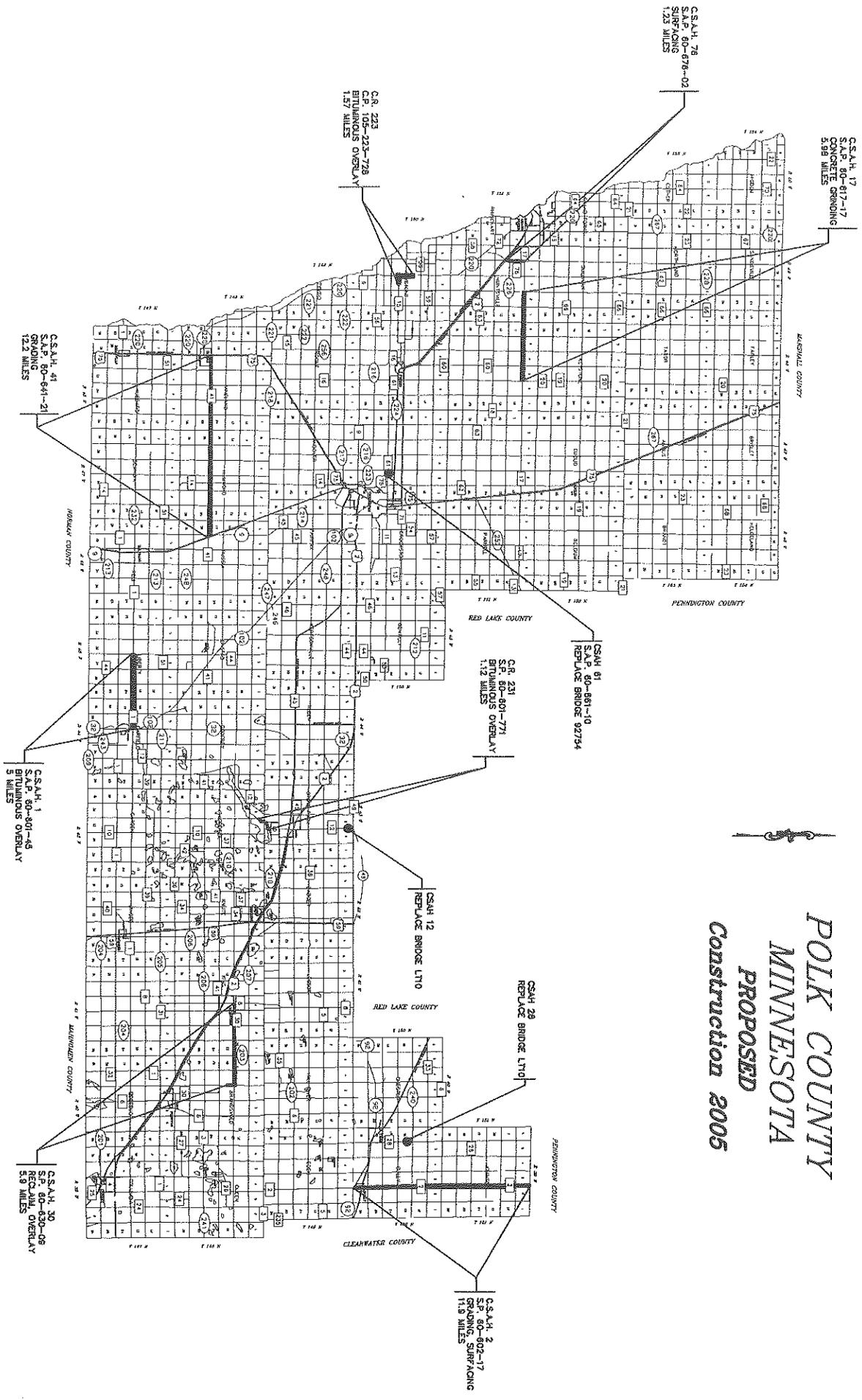
8:30 a.m. on 4th Tuesday

All meetings are open to the public.

Commissioners:

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

POLK COUNTY MINNESOTA PROPOSED Construction 2005



\$10 million in road work planned this summer

Before you know it, the construction season will be upon us and the orange construction signs will start going up. Polk County has another big construction season ahead.

The map at left shows the \$10 million worth of construction projects that are planned for 2005. Not only are there numerous Polk County road projects but also plenty of township bridge replacements.

County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2 from TH 92 in Gully to the Polk/Pennington county line is scheduled to be grade widened and have a bituminous overlay constructed. Congressman Collin Peterson has earmarked the 80 percent of Federal High Priority Project Funds needed for this project in the Federal Transportation Bill.

The bill has passed the House of Representatives and is awaiting approval by the Senate and the President. The remaining 20 percent will be paid from County State Aid Highway funds.

The portion of this project from TH 92 to CSAH 74 through the City of Gully will be reconstructed with curb and gutter and sidewalk this summer using Municipal State Aid Highway funds.

The following gravel road will have bituminous surfacing and aggregate shoulders constructed:

CSAH 76 from TH 2 to CSAH 17 (1 mile east of East Grand Forks).

The following bituminous roads will have a bituminous overlay and

aggregate shoulders constructed:

CSAH 1 from 1 mile west of CSAH 44 to TH 32 in Fertile.

CSAH 30 from CSAH 8 in McIntosh to 6 miles east.

CR 221 from TH 220 west and north back to TH 220 (5 miles west of Fisher).

CR 231 from CSAH 12 (1 mile south of Mentor) to CSAH 10.

The following concrete road will be planed and aggregate shoulders constructed:

CSAH 17 from 3 miles east of TH 2 (near East Grand Forks) to CSAH 60.

Two span bridges will be constructed in Esther Township and approximately 15 box culverts are to be installed throughout the county.

Be patient

If you come across construction work, not only on Polk County roads but also on state highways or roads in other counties, please be patient.

Contractors and government employees will be working long hours to get this work completed in an efficient manner and they don't need impatient drivers yelling at them because they have to wait a few minutes before traveling on.

If you have any questions concerning this year's construction program, please give our office a call at 218-281-3952 and talk with either Darin Carlstrom at ext. 2003 or me at ext. 2001.— **Richard Sanders, Polk County highway engineer**

Improvements set at County Park

Polk County's Maple Lake Park, along County State Aid Highway 12 south and west of Mentor, will get a facelift this summer.

The County Board has provided \$300,000 in its 2005 budget for water, sewer and electric upgrades at the park. The Polk County Highway Department and the engineering firm of Widseth, Smith & Nolting of Crookston are putting together a plan and cost estimate to construct the upgrades. A plan is also being put together to solicit estimates for a new bathhouse structure and two picnic shelters.

The county expects to award a contract in April to have the electrical work done prior to opening of the campground in May. Water and sewer lines are to be installed in the fall of 2005. A contract for the new bathhouse is expected to be awarded by mid-summer... if the price is right. The bathhouse would also be constructed in the fall of 2005.

As part of the upgrades to the park, Polk County will be looking for one or two host couples to help at the park. It will also be looking for a mowing service to provide mowing at all three Polk County parks at Maple Lake.

If interested in providing the mowing service, or if you would like a copy of the host couple job descriptions, please contact the Polk County Highway Department at 218-281-3952. The camping rates for 2005 are also available by calling this number.— **Richard Sanders, Polk County Highway Engineer**

Erickson named to board

Jerry Erickson, a Fertile County representative on the Red River Valley Development Association's board of directors, named to succeed Clayton Engelstad, Fertile, as the Polk

Icy roads required 3 times normal use of salt

The icy roads that developed when mid-winter rains were followed by sub-zero temperatures during the 2004-2005 winter resulted in the use of three times as much salt as normal, according to Polk County Highway Engineer Richard Sanders.

"Typically," he reports, "we use about 200 tons of a salt in a winter. The salt is blended with sand in a 90-10 mix to provide 2,200 tons of sanding material.

"But this year, we used 600

tons of salt from two different suppliers and, because of the extremely cold temperatures that followed the rain in late December, we still had difficulty cutting through the ice that had formed on county roads. The icy conditions were especially bad in the eastern areas of the county and not until the temperatures warmed up were we really able to have ice-free roads."

The county policy for winter road maintenance, Sanders says, is threefold. "First, when

there is a measurable snowfall, we'll go out with our plows to open the county roads. We send plows out whenever a storm occurs. Once that first plowing is completed, we use our trucks to sand intersections, curves and hills.

"Finally, if ice or hardpack snow has developed on the road surface, we try to scrape it off. This year, try as we could, we weren't always able to cut through the ice. Twenty below and colder temperatures following a rain will do that. All

we could do was try to get it off and that wasn't very successful until the temperatures warmed up."

The past winter, Sanders says, "certainly wasn't normal. I can't remember — and some of our people who have been here for 30 years and more don't remember anything like what we had this year. This was a once in 35 years event. You can't plan for that. The only thing you can do is the best that you can."

Polk County Employee Anniversaries in 2005

<u>Hire</u>	<u>Employee</u>	<u>Department-Position</u>
35 Years		
9/4/70	Richard Vaudrin	Public Wrks-maintenance II
30 Years		
5/19/75	Marilyn Egeland	Social Svcs-financial worker
10/3/75	Gerald Kovar	Public Wrks-shop foreman
25 Years		
4/1/80	Clifford Johnson	Sheriff-Maple Lake seasonal
8/4/80	Nicolette Love	Social Svcs-financial asst supr
10/1/80	James Goldsmith	Public Wrks-maintenance II
10/1/80	Carole Juvrud	Auditor-clerk typist cashier IV
20 years		
2/1/85	Larry Ranum	Public Wrks-maintenance II
5/15/85	Margaret Schumacher	Assessor-appr tax off IV
5/20/85	Brian Lindberg	Public Wrks-maintenance II
10/7/85	Debora Strande	Social Svcs-financial worker
11/1/85	Dean Rasmussen	Public Wrks-eng tech IIIC
11/1/85	Ricky Thompson	Public Wrks-eng tech IIIC
15 Years		
1/1/90	Terrie Bangen	Assessor-appraiser tax off IV
1/2/90	Jacqueline Rogers	Social Svcs-financial worker
5/1/90	Scott Bixby	Sheriff-patrolman
5/1/90	Pearl Tandem	Sheriff-Maple Lake Park-temp
5/20/90	Allen Wagner	Sheriff/Emerg Svcs director
8/31/90	Paulette Wagner	Social Svcs-social worker
9/4/90	Patty Frydenlund	Solid Waste/Plan-acct./sec
10/29/90	Patricia Herndon	Social Svcs-social worker
11/19/90	Dan Chapa	Sheriff-sergeant
11/2/90	Alan Erickson	Soild Waste Incin-combstr opr
12/4/90	Randy Couette	Trans Station-loader operator
12/10/90	Don Blasey	Public Wrks-maintenance II
12/10/90	Greg Landa	Assessor-appraiser tax off IV
12/24/90	Betty Gulsvig	Auditor-clerk typist cashier III
10 Years		
1/1/95	Warren Strandell	County Board-commissioner
1/9/95	Wade Burrack	Soild Waste Incin-combstr opr
3/6/95	Mark Johnson	Sheriff-patrolman
3/15/95	Brian Lundeen	Sheriff-patrolman
3/15/95	Jon Steiner	Environmental Svcs-director
3/27/95	Leslie Ball	Soild Waste Incin-combstr opr
4/14/95	Denise Waxler	Sheriff/Emerg Svcs-dispatcher
5/1/95	Marsha Martin	Facilities-custodian I
5/8/95	Mary Kaye Erickson	Facilities-custodian I
5/22/95	Terrie Oliver	Public Health-adm assistant
9/6/95	Linda Gill	Social Svcs-family based prov
12/12/95	Joan Shulind	Social Svcs-sodial worker
12/18/95	Jan Skyberg	Facilities-bldg/grnds supr
5 Years		
1/1/00	Dan Buckmiller	Sheriff/Emerg Svcs-mgmt asst
1/3/00	Trent Stahlecker	Sheriff-patrolman

Weed spraying by private contractor to be continued

The Polk County Ag Department oversaw the spraying of noxious weeds on county and state road right of way in 2004.

In past years, the county maintained and performed its own weed spraying operation but in 2004 that work was done by a private contractor on a trial basis. Since this proved to be more efficient and cost-effective, the county plans continue to contract its weed spraying in three-year increments.

During the past year, the Ag Department inspected over 6,000 acres of property as the result of noxious weed infestation reports by landowners, local weed inspectors, cities and farm service agencies.

Weed violations

From these inspections, it was determined that over 1,170 acres were found to be in violation and the landowners were subsequently penalized. The majority of the infested lands were in the Conservation Reserve Program.

In other work, the Department took over 50 separate certified seed samples from seed distributors throughout the county. These samples were then sent to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to be tested. Tests resulted in three vio-

lations and one warning issued back to seed distributors from the MDA.

Biological controls

Also started were biological control releases at Leafy Spurge-infested sites in the county. In total, 48,000 bio-control agents (beetles) were released at three separate locations. These locations will be monitored in the years to come as we look for a reduction in the density of Leafy Spurge infestations and to observe if the larva is able to survive the winters.

Department duties

The department's duties are to see that all laws and regulations pertaining to noxious weeds and certified seed are carried out within the county.

It works with local weed inspectors, who are the supervisors of each township board and the mayors of cities, to help enforce the noxious weed laws and supervises the spraying of noxious weeds along county and state roads located within the county.

The Ag Department, which is a part of the Polk County Highway Department, also continues to give tests to the public for commercial and non-commercial applicator licenses. — **Polk County Ditch & Ag Inspector Jody Beauchane**

Rural address fees held for year

It's been almost a year since Polk County implemented the new rural residential 911 address system. As part of this system residents received a five-digit address sign that was installed at their location.

The \$25 per sign cost of this installation was to be paid for by special assessment to each resident as a part of the 2005 tax statements. However, due to processing difficulties, this assessment will not be made until the 2006 tax statements are prepared.

In order to make the assess-

ment, all the information regarding each rural address and which parcel it is a part of has to be compiled. When this information is determined, a public hearing will be held to authorize the county auditor to attach the \$25 fee to each parcel.

If you have any questions regarding the rural 911 signs and the installation fee, contact the Polk County Highway Department office at 218-281-3952. — **Richard Sanders, Polk County Highway Engineer**

For both tillable and non-tillable

Land valuations go up in county

The valuation of tillable lands in eastern Polk County will be going up by from 20 to 25 percent while non-tillable lands are set to increase 60 percent countywide. The western side of the county will see varying increases in the tillable values.

But before these landowners — along with most others in the county that will also see adjustments — hit the roof they need to know that property taxes don't increase at the same percentage of valuation increases.

Valuation increases simply increase the tax base upon which levies for the operation of local government units can be applied. There are also many other variables in the property tax system that affect the final tax bill.

Based on sales

The current adjustments, which became necessary based on comparable sales, are the front-runners of land valuation changes that have been made on a number of Polk County properties.

The increases were listed on the Board of Appeals & Equalization Valuation Notices that were mailed out this month. Those mailings gave properties owners at least 10 days notice of the annual Board of Appeals & Equalization sessions that are held annually by local townships and cities.

Tillable land in 11 townships received the 25 percent jump in values. Those

townships are King, Sletten, Chester, Hill River, Brandsvold, Rosebud, Johnson, Gully, Eden, Queen and Columbia.

Land values in 10 townships received 20 percent increases. Those townships are Tilden, Godfrey, Garfield, Grove Park, Woodside, Garden, Badger, Knute, Winger and Lessor.

In western Polk County, tillable land in three townships (Huntsville, Rhinehart and Bygland) was upgraded 13 percent, while land in five townships (Fisher, Roome, Vineland, Hubbard and Gently) went up 10 percent.

Another 12 townships received a five percent jump in valuation. Those townships are Belgium, Fanny, Nesbit, Parnell, Lowell, Crookston, Andover, Fairfax, Hammond, Russia, Scandia and Reis. There were no general valuation increases for tillable lands in the 14 townships located in the far northwest area of the county or for those lands in Kertsonville, Onstad and Liberty townships.

Non-tillable values jump

The valuations of non-tillable lands in the county, which were increased from \$150 to \$300 an acre for "payable year" 2005, are going up to \$500 an acre for 2006. Non-tillable lands include pasture and woodlands. Wasteland, which was valued at \$50 an acre for 2005, will go to \$100 an acre for 2006.

Also for payable year 2006, commercial property owners in Crookston and East Grand Forks may see a change.

"We'll be looking closely at those two cities in our current review," County Assessor Robert Wagner says. "This is something that we have to do on a regular basis so that values fall within the acceptable sales ratio range of what the Department of Revenue would otherwise mandate.

"A valuation that is set by the county", Wagner says, "can be contested at Board of Reviews, while a state-mandated increase cannot be challenged. At least, when the county changes a value, it can be challenged."

Determined by sales

Valuation is determined by the sales of similar classed properties during the past year. "It is what the property would probably sell for as of the assessment date of January 2 each year," he says. "Valuation, by state law must represent from 90 to 105 percent of the actual sale or market value of a property. Increases in valuation build the tax base and as the tax base broadens, the tax burden is spread out," Wagner notes.

In Polk County, Boards of Appeals & Equalization meet on dates between April 1 and mid-May. The time and location of each is noted on the valuation notices.

Computerization of Assessor's Office

CAMA system to improve accuracy, efficiency

Computerization of the Assessor's Office took another step forward during 2004 when the property appraisal records from another 11 township taxing districts were entered into the Vanguard Computer-Aided Mass Appraisal (CAMA) system for the 2005 assessment.

The system now contains the information of properties in 55 of the county's 58 townships and all but two cities. Those two cities — Crookston and East Grand Forks — are in the process of being entered and will likely be added for the 2006 assessment.

Three townships not in system

Property appraisals in the three townships not yet in the system — Andover, Fairfax and Lowell — are being done by a

private assessor rather than by the County Assessor's Office.

"We expect to have Crookston and East Grand Forks properties in the system for the 2006 assessment," Polk County Assessor Robert Wagner says. "And we expect that assessments for the three remaining townships will soon be determined by the system, too."

Equipment for the Vanguard CAMA system, which provides more consistency and equality in determining property valuations, was purchased and installed in 2000. The lengthy and detailed process of entering appraisal information into the system has been ongoing since 2001.

In addition to providing greater accuracy in determining valuations, the equipment

allows assessors to record property information on lap-top computers when in the field and then to electronically transfer that information into the system on their return to the office. In the past, property information had to be collected in longhand on field notes and then copied onto a card system when back in the office. The system allows for a more accurate and equalized assessment.

GIS information

The county is in the process of proofing the GIS parcel mapping that was done in 2004. When this is completed, the Assessor's Office will begin the process of converting land valuations to an automated calculation method based on the new soils study.

Trash Flash: A report from Solid Waste

Municipal Solid Waste Deliveries — We had a great year in 2004 with trash receipts up from 2003. Steam sales to SunOpta (previously Northern Food & Dairy) and MDV (Minnesota Dehydrated Vegetables) were up primarily due to the higher costs of natural gas and continued operation of those facilities. Revenues from the sale of recyclables reached an all time high due to the favorable market prices for scrap iron, aluminum and cardboard.

Tip Fee — The tip fee will remain at \$55 per ton for 2005 and hopefully last well into the future. This is down from \$70 per ton in 2003 primarily the result of paying off the construction bonds. This makes our partner counties very happy. In order to maintain this tip fee the five counties are committed to increase annual MSW tonnages to our facility. The added revenues would offset expense increases and allow us to keep the tip fee at \$55. The contracts with these counties run through Dec 31, 2008.

Stack Testing — We need to perform a major stack test event this year to demonstrate compliance with the revised EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Air Rules. This is a very important test and will require starting up and operating all of the new air pollution control (APC) equipment. The test is scheduled for late March or early April and will measure particulate matter, hydrogen chlorides, lead, cadmium, mercury and dioxin/furans.

Sulfur dioxides will be measured with the continuous emissions monitor (CEM) system and fugitive emissions, and opacity will be observed for compliance.

All of these elements are regulated and have limits under the revised rules. At this same time, we will perform a relative accuracy test on both CEM systems. From the results of previous tests, we hope not to have a problem being in compliance. The waste-to-energy (WTE) industry is the most regulated industry in the U.S. and has reduced stack emissions by over 95 percent.

Steam Customers — Both steam customers continue to process and use our steam. At times we have some excess steam and are currently conducting a study to determine if it is feasible to purchase and install steam-driven turbine/generator equipment to produce electricity for our use or to sell it back to the utility company. WTE facilities now qualify as a renewable energy source making the generation of electricity a more attractive proposition.

Bio-Reactor — The City of Fosston has installed and begun operation of a bioreactor to process the wastewater discharge from MDV and to hopefully solve a sewer discharge problem that has existed for years. This system will be operated by MDV and has the capability of producing methane gas that can be converted to usable energy. MDV and the city are currently evaluating the quantity and quality of the gas to determine future use possibilities.

Up Front Facilities — The Up Front Material Recovery Facility (MRF) facility continues to produce many benefits for the entire operation and we continue to make improvements for a safer and more efficient operation. The Pope/Douglas plant in Alexandria has installed a similar facility and two other plants in Minnesota have submitted grant applications for this type facility. Grant monies are scarce so they are looking for other funding options as they are convinced this type facility has definite advantages for waste-to-energy plants.

Air Rules — The EPA has released revised air emission rules for our size waste combustor and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) may publish their version of the rule in the near future. Regardless of what the MPCA does, we need to have all new and existing air pollution control equipment installed and operational by May 6, 2005 and to demonstrate compliance with the Federal Rule by Dec. 6, 2005. Our planned stack test event this year should allow us to attain compliance within this timeframe. Once we demonstrate compliance we will be required to continue to operate the APC equipment.

Air Pollution Control Retrofit Project — The APC retrofit project primarily included economizers for flue gas temperature control,

which also produced increased steam generation, an ESP upgrade, and equipment for dry injection of a reagent into the flue gas for the control of acid gasses. It is our intent to attain compliance with the revised air rules with this equipment. However, if we experience problems, it may be necessary to remove the ESPs and install a bag-house to clean up the flue gas before it goes up the stack. If a bag-house is necessary, space has been provided in the new building addition or in the space currently occupied by the ESPs.

Turbine/Generator — We are conducting a study to determine if it is economically feasible to install steam-driven turbine/generator equipment to produce electricity. The study looks promising with two options being considered. One is to produce electricity for the plant and reduce what we buy from the City of Fosston. The second would be to sell all of the power back to the Northern Municipal Power Agency grid. There are advantages and disadvantages to each option, which will be sorted out when the study is finalized this spring.

Ash Utilization Project — Last year, we completed a second the ash utilization project and initial results are very positive. Ash was substituted for natural aggregate in a Polk County asphalt paving project on County State Aid Highway 44 leading to the Polk County landfill. Ash replaced approximately 15 percent of natural aggregate for the sub-base and base course over a two-mile distance. As a conservative measure, no ash was used in the top, or wear course.

A quarter-mile section of road leading from CSAH 44 into the landfill was also paved with ash-amended asphalt. The wear course on this section did contain ash. Environmental testing for both projects has shown no negative impacts to the adjacent ditch water and soils as well as construction workers. The structural performance is superior to virgin asphalt.

Further testing will take place on the second project after the frost has gone out this spring. Strength testing of the first project indicated that the ash-amended asphalt is about 22 percent stronger and 18 percent more flexible than conventional asphalt.

Both projects have used a total of 3,000 tons of ash. The WTE plant produces about 5,500 tons of ash in a year. The conclusion is that roads utilizing this ash could have longer life and be more economical. A report will be forthcoming after which Polk County will apply to the MPCA for a Case Specific Beneficial Use Determination (CSBUD). A CSBUD will give Polk County the authority to use the ash at their discretion in future projects and can approach MnDOT to use the ash in state road construction projects.

Landfill — The landfill continues to operate successfully. It has a life expectancy of over 30 years. Without the WTE plant and the MRF, the landfill would be filled to its permitted capacity. Last year, a new MSW cell was added and the MPCA previously approved a vertical expansion for the overall MSW cell facility. The added cell and the expansion should allow the landfill to operate for several years without another MSW cell construction project.

Overview — We are looking forward to another successful year of operation of our facilities, hopefully without any major disruptions. Successful compliance stack-testing will allow us to meet the revised air rules and we may proceed with the installation of a turbine/generator to produce electricity.

Future planning will have us consider replacing the waste combustor boilers or possibly adding cyclone separators in front on the boilers for reduced cleaning frequency and increased burning capacity. Flue gas recirculation may be necessary to meet additional air pollution control requirements. For now we will take it one step at a time.

None of this could be possible without the cooperation and work effort extended by all of our employees, as well as the support given by the Polk County Board and our four partner counties. Our teamwork, facilities, maintenance, safety programs and overall operation are the envy of many other counties and plants around the State. We should be proud of this accomplishment. — **Bill Wilson, Facilities Manager, Polk County Solid Waste**

2005 Commissioner portfolios

Solid Waste Service Fee funds programs

Polk County funds its solid waste programs through the Solid Waste Service Fee that appears in the Special Assessments box on your tax statement.

The Solid Waste Fee is identified on your property tax statement as either a residential based assessment (61101, 61201, etc.) or a non-residential based assessment (SWC-001, SWC-002, etc.).

The monies collected through this Solid Waste fee may only be used to fund solid waste-related programs and activities. Specifically, the Solid Waste fees pay for garbage disposal and recycling, household hazardous waste and special materials collection/disposal programs (appliances, tires, fluorescent bulbs/ballasts, yard waste, etc.), as well as waste education and enforcement activities.

Although the county strives to ensure that Solid Waste Fees correctly reflect the use and/or occupancy of the property, both use and occupancy status inevitably change.

Therefore, if your property use or occupancy status has changed within the last year, please make sure to review the Solid Waste Fee on your tax statement.

If the fee does not reflect the current use/occupancy status, please notify Polk County Environmental Services prior to July 1 to make any necessary changes. Any notices received after July 1 are not able to be considered for that current tax year.

You may contact Polk County Environmental Services at (218) 281-6445 to provide notification of a status change which may affect your Solid Waste Fee, or to obtain more information regarding those solid waste programs that are available to you. — **Jon Steiner, director, Polk County Environmental Services**

As a part of their annual reorganization, Polk County commissioners have determined the portfolios that they will carry during 2005. The assignments, appointments and positions that each holds in local government bodies and state organizations include:

Gerald Jacobson — Polk County Extension Service Committee, Northwest Mental Health Board, Red Lake-Polk County Joint Ditch Committee, Red Lake Watershed-Polk County Judicial Ditch 72 Committee, Lake Agassiz Regional Library Board, Polk County Public Safety Committee, Resource Conservation & Development (Pembina Trail) Commission, Northwest Regional Development Commission, Retired Senior Volunteer Program Board, AMC Environment & Natural Resources Committee (alternate), Northwest Agency on Aging, Tilden Farms Committee, Northwest Council on Aging, Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (delegate).

Warren Strandell — AMC General Government Policy Committee (immediate past state chair), AMC District 3 Board of Commissioners (vice chair), AMC Corrections Sub-Committee, Tri-County Community Corrections Board (chair), Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus (alternate delegate), Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Northwest Regional Development Commission Board (secretary), NWRDC Transportation Advisory Committee (vice chair), NWRDC Area Transportation Partnership (delegate), Grand Forks-East Grand Forks Metropolitan Planning Organization, East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce Community Marketing Task Force, EGF Chamber of Commerce Legislative Committee.

Bill Montague — Minnesota Community Health Board (state chair), Tri-Valley

Opportunity Council (vice-chair), AMC Health & Human Services Policy Committee, Northwest Mental Health Board, Red Lake-Polk County Joint Ditch Committee, Regional Solid Waste Advisory Board, Polk County Public Safety Committee, Northwest Regional Development Commission Enterprise Fund Committee, Polk County Law Library Board of Directors, Judicial Ditch 60 Committee, Solid Waste Advisory Committee (alternate), Household Hazardous Waste Advisory Committee (alternate), Polk County Community Health Board, Crookston Airport Commission, Glenmore Recovery Center Advisory Board.

Warren Affeldt — Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus (delegate and immediate past state chair), Tri-County Community Corrections Board, AMC Environment & Natural Resources Policy Committee, Polk County Extension Service Committee, Red Lake Watershed-Polk County Joint Ditch 72 Committee, Regional Solid Waste Advisory Board, 5-County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, Household Hazardous Waste Advisory Committee, Inter County Community Council Board, Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties, East Polk County Development Achievement Center Board, Joint Beaver Advisory Board, Local Water Planning Board, Polk County Extension Committee, Tilden Farms Committee.

Don Diedrich — East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce board of directors, Joint Powers Board of the Red River Basin in Minnesota, Red Lake-Polk County Joint Ditch Committee, Red Lake Watershed-Polk County Judicial Ditch 72 Committee, Judicial Ditch 60 Committee, Red Lake Watershed Citizen Advisory Committee.

Red Lake Watershed re-elects its officers

The officers of the Red Lake Watershed Board of Managers were re-elected as a part of the organization's January meeting.

Those officers are: President Orville Knott, Red Lake Falls, representing Red Lake County; vice president Dale Nelson, Thief River Falls (Pennington County); secretary Vernon Johnson, Clearbrook (Clearwater County); and treasurer Allan Carlson, Erskine (Polk County).

Starting new three-year terms on the board of managers in 2005 are Arnold Stanley, Grygla (Marshall County), and Lee Coe, Tentstrike (Beltrami County).

Stanley succeeds LeRoy Ose, Thief River Falls, and Coe succeeds Lowell Smeby, Grygla. The other member of the board of managers is Gene Tiedemann, Euclid (Polk County).

Schulstad replaces Syverson on Pembina Trail RC & D

Charles Schulstad, Erskine, has been named to succeed former Polk County Commissioner Rupert Syverson as a member-at-large on the Pembina Trail Resource Conservation & Development Commission.

A retired school principal, Schulstad lives in Woodside Township.

Syverson, rural McIntosh, a county commissioner for 12 years before retiring in 1998, was an original member of the commission when it was formed in 1992. He retired after 13 years on the board.

The commission provides land conservation, community development, water management and environmental enhancement projects in seven northwest Minnesota counties (Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk and Norman).

Other members of the commission from Polk County are Commissioner Jerry Jacobson and Russ Severson, Crookston, and Lawrence Vettleson, Gully, who represent the West Polk and East Polk soil & water conservation districts, respectively. The commission has headquarters in Red Lake Falls.

After 16 years in office

Mattson leaves the County Board

After 16 years as the commissioner from Polk County's Fifth District, Eugene "Jeep" Mattson, rural East Grand Forks, has retired from public service... for the second time.

Mattson, who had served three terms (12 years) on board before not running for re-election in 1996, came back in 2000 to win a fourth term in office. In recognition of his public service, friends, family, colleagues and county employees honored Mattson at a retirement coffee at the courthouse on Dec. 21. The East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce presented him a special Public Service Award on Jan. 13.

About his first retirement in 1996, Mattson says, "It didn't take long for me to find out that I really missed being a commissioner. I have always enjoyed trying to help people with their problems. That's why I came out of retirement to become a candidate again four years later. As a commissioner, you quickly learn that it is best to involve the appropriate department head in finding the solution to any problem right from the start, and that's what I always tried to do."

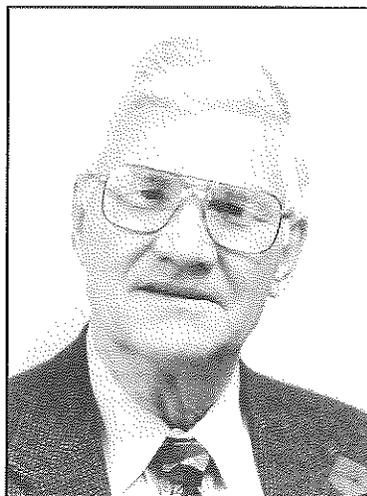
Difficult decision

The most difficult decision in his first 12 years, he says, was to support the Minnesota Department of Transportation's preferred route for eight miles of State Highway 220 improvements south from Alvarado.

"I really would have preferred to have the highway go straight north from East Grand Forks all the way to Highway 1, but that would have meant that Polk County would have had to take over the maintenance of the original state highway. The county just didn't have the money to take on that maintenance and it wouldn't have made much sense to have two hard-surface roads just a mile apart."

By contrast, the completion of other roadwork — especially the reconstruction and paving of both CSAH 20 and CSAH 21 — rank among the most satisfying efforts of his first 12 years, he says. More recently, Mattson promoted the hard-surfacing of CSAH 66, the northern portion of which is to be done in 2007, and complete the project from CSAH 17 to Trunk Highway 1.

Through the county's membership in the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), Mattson served as vice chair of its Transportation and Agriculture Committee for two years (1988-89).



Eugene 'Jeep' Mattson

"This was at a time when metro interests were attempting to put all gas tax monies for transportation needs into one big pot. Had this occurred, outstate Minnesota would surely have lost much of its funding for road construction and maintenance. There was a bitter fight within AMC over this but we were able to hold out. The end result is the current way that gas tax monies are distributed and which some are now trying again to change."

Mattson was first elected to the board in the fall of 1984 when he won a four-way race in the primary and then defeated Jim Mongoven in the general election. He was re-elected to a second four-year term in 1988 when he defeated Henry Vasek, and won a third term in 1992 when he had no opposition. In 2000, he defeated Henry Vasek in the General Election after having finished as the top vote-getter in a four-way race in the primary.

Long interested and involved in water issues, Mattson made that an area of his concentration in his second stint in office. Even after his retirement from the County Board, Mattson's work and respect in areas of water issues led to his election in February as chair of the Red Lake Watershed District's Citizen Advisory Committee.

Many assignments

As a commissioner, Mattson represented Polk County on the boards of directors of the Northwest Mental Health Commission, Tri-County Community Corrections, the East Grand Forks Chamber of Commerce, Tri-Valley Opportunity Council, Northwest Regional Development Commission, Regional Solid Waste Advisory Board, the Joint Powers Board of the Red River Basin, the International Coalition, and several other boards and commissions dealing with water and flood issues.

His community involvements have included serving on the boards of directors of the East Grand Forks Heritage Foundation and Bethany Lutheran Church, rural East Grand Forks.

Mattson and his wife, Mary Ann, have five children: Christine (David) McGaha of Bloomington, Minn., is a property manager; Susan McDowell of Moorhead, is a home decorator; Erick, a mechanic at Reiten & Young Implement, Grand Forks, and his wife, Kathy, live in Grand Forks; Scott, who has taken over the Mattson farming operation, and his wife, Tracy, live north of East Grand Forks; and Rebecca Mattson works for Nokia Internet Communications in Scottsdale, AZ. The Mattson's have eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

From Red Lake County

New commissioner joins Corrections Board

Red Lake County commissioner Brent Strand, Brooks, has joined the Tri-County Community Corrections Board. He succeeds Lee Nielson, Erskine, as one of the two Red Lake County representatives on the board.

Nielson, who retired as a Red Lake County commissioner at the end of 2004, had served on the Corrections Board for 14 years. Strand was elected to succeed Nielson in the 2004 General Election and was then appointed by

the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners to succeed him on the Corrections Board in January.

Other members of the Corrections Board are: Norman County commissioners Warren Olson (vice chair) and Steve Bommersbach; Red Lake County commissioner Ron Weis (secretary); and Polk County commissioners Warren Strandell (chair) and Warren Affeldt.

New Polk County maps still available

Polk County maps showing the street and avenue locations in the rural addressing system are available at the Highway Department and Auditor-Treasurer's Office. The cost is \$2 each.