

Polk County Newsletter

Fall 2012

Montague ending his time as a commissioner

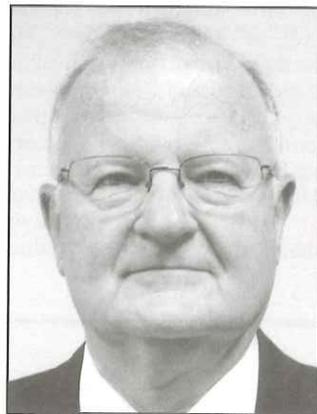
Preliminary county budget 'just preliminary'

The Polk County Board of Commissioners will be dealing with two major financial issues in the final months of 2012 while it also oversees a change in its top-level administrative position.

Business will center on the development of a budget for 2013. The first step in that process occurred on Sept. 4 when the Board approved a "preliminary budget" levy increase of 3 percent. By law, that levy increase can't exceed 3 percent when the budget is finalized in December, but it can — and hopefully will — be reduced.

The other dominant business item will involve salary negotiations with all employee groups (six that are organized and another that is not) in the development of new wage contracts.

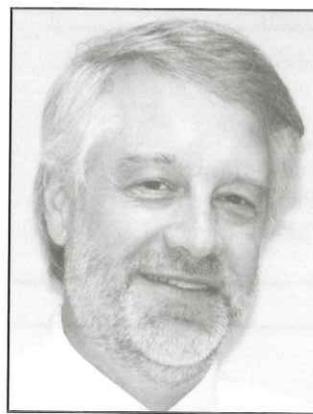
In addition, county staff will be preparing for and dealing



W. R. "Bill" Montague

with an election that with the presidential race, Congressional contests, races in all state legislative districts and the local city, county and school contests promises to attract a very large voter turnout.

The change in the administrator position, which began when



Charles "Chuck" Whiting

Charles "Chuck" Whiting started work on Aug. 20, will be completed on Dec. 31 when John "Jack" Schmalenberg completes his public service career after 41 years, most of them as the top official in the county.

The four-month transition

See Budget, Page 2

Whiting starts work as new administrator

A new era in the administration of Polk County government has begun.

Charles "Chuck" Whiting, with collaboration from retiring John "Jack" Schmalenberg, is on the job as the new Polk County administrator.

Whiting had his first day at work on the job on Monday, Aug. 20, while Schmalenberg, a county employee for 41 years and its top executive for much of that time, probably crossed off the day on his calendar leading toward his effective retirement date of Dec. 31.

"I'm becoming quickly

See Whiting, Page 2

Not an easy letter to write, Schmalenberg says

May 1, 2012

Polk County Board of Commissioners
Honorable William R. Montague,
Chairman

Dear Bill,

I thought this would be the easiest letter I would ever write in my career as the administrative officer of Polk County. It is not. Maybe it is not that the words are so hard to find, as it is the signal to the end of a very special relationship between the Board and myself.

I have one of the best jobs in the county and have had the great pleasure and privilege to work with 20 county commissioners in my tenure with Polk County.

I know as we have talked about the stability of the organization, a little bit of trivia comes to my mind. The Polk County Board of Commissioners has been served by only three clerks over the last 105 years, pretty amazing when you think of it and probably will not be repeated.

As I look back at "how things were when I started" as to "how things are today" it has been an amazing journey this organization has

taken and I am extremely proud to be and have been part of that journey. It is just incredible how fast 41 years have gone by.

We have been, as an organization, very judicious when we have replaced employees, getting people with the desire and dedication to provide a great set of high quality governmental services to the property owners, residents, business owners and visitors to Polk County and our region in a cost effective, courteous and efficient manner.

We have been very deliberate and judicious in exercising our fiduciary responsibility to the taxpayers also.

The county is in good shape, financially sound and should remain so well into the future.

See "Letter," Page 2

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The letter

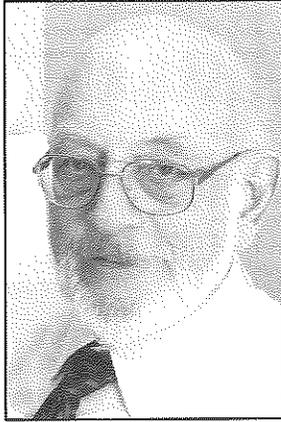
Continued from Page 1

It is this special relationship with the Board, the management team and all county employees that will truly be the thing I miss as my life's career plan takes a turn in a new direction.

I am, with this letter, submitting to you my notice of intent to retire on December 31, 2012. We have already started the search for my replacement and I believe that is proceeding smoothly.

If anything should cause a change in the county's calendar, I am more than willing to work with you to facilitate the transition. It has been a truly wonderful adventure.

Thank you each and every one of you so very much.



John P. Schmalenberg

Very sincerely yours,
John P. Schmalenberg
Polk County
Administrator

Whiting

Continued from Page 1

acclimated to Polk County and am looking forward to living in Crookston, where we have purchased a home," Whiting says.

"In my first weeks, I have been meeting with department heads and staff, who I look forward to working with, and have been visiting the satellite facilities and the other communities in Polk County. I'm really glad to be here and think it will be a good fit."

Whiting, who left a position as city administrator for the city of Faribault, Minn., to come to Polk County, has more than 25 years of experience in city and county government positions. His work history includes being a city planner in Huron, S.D.; city administrator at Janesville, Minn.; town manager at Arundel, Maine;

city manager at Benson, Minn.; city administrator at Mounds View, Minn.; and administrative coordinator for St. Croix County in Wisconsin.

While in St. Croix County, Whiting first answered to a 31-member county board of supervisors, which he helped pare down to a 19-member board in a re-organization effort.

A native of Minneapolis, Whiting earned a B.S. degree in urban studies at the University of Minnesota in 1982, did masters coursework in urban affairs at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (1982-84), and earned a masters of public administration degree at Hamline University, St. Paul, in 1998.

He and his wife, Heidi, have two daughters, Lucy, 12, and Lotte, 7.

Budget

Continued from Page 1

from the distinguished veteran to the promising new administrator was planned by the County Board to allow time for Schmalenberg to pass on much of the knowledge that he has acquired and for Whiting to get his feet on the ground before completely taking over the reins.

With "zero cost of living increases" in the first two years of the current three-year wage agreements, an adjustment in pay is being sought by the employee groups. While the county did keep up with adjustments to cover the health insurance costs to employees during the three years, the about 2 percent salary bump given in the third year — through a "re-opener" feature of the agreements — wasn't a lot over three years.

Good financial shape

Board Chair Bill Montague, who will retire when his term ends in December, notes that the county is in "good shape financially... certainly a lot better than back when I started 12 years ago. That's been because of a group effort on the part of department heads, all the staff and the County Board."

The budget, he says, will dominate the last months of the year. "That will be at the forefront. We've been worrying about state funding cuts for years but the sky hasn't fallen. How long that can last, I'm not sure. The time will probably come when the county will have to cut some services... and do it at a time when an aging population will need more of them.

"Our state and federal governments need to start negotiating... doing what is best for the state and the country and quit following the divisive party lines," he says. "I believe that a big part of the reason why local government has been successful, while state and federal governments have not, is because we at the local level are non-partisan.

Made strides

"As I look back on 12 years as a commissioner, I believe that the County Board has made great strides in the accounting and budgeting processes," he says. "We've had several major building projects. Public Health is now in stable home. We have remodeled the Government Center. We've built the Justice Center and Northwest Regional Corrections Center jail, and now have a Law Enforcement Center renovation about ready to go. And all of this has been done with available funds... without any jump in taxation."

Re-organization in the Government Center to create the Taxpayer Service Center through a blending of the Auditor-Treasurer, Assessor and Recorder offices into a convenient, one-stop center, Montague says, has been very successful.

"The Board has been excellent to work with my whole time," he says. "We haven't always agreed but when we haven't, there was never anything personal. Each commissioner has brought something special to the board... an expertise in a certain area. And the county employees have been very good

making for a great fit.

In good hands

"Jack (Schmalenberg) has been very good to work with, as have all of the department heads. So, I am leaving with things in very good hands. The challenge now is to work with Chuck (Whiting) as he takes over the leadership. I really believe that he is going to be a good fit for Polk County."

Montague will leave big shoes to fill. His work beyond the County Board has included serving on the state board of directors of the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), Minnesota Department of Human Services Legislative Steering Committee on Performance and Outcomes, State Community Health Advisory Board (past state chair), Tri-Valley Opportunity Council (past chair), Northwest Mental Health Board, Regional Solid Waste Advisory Board, County Public Safety Committee, Northwest Regional Radio Board (past chair), County Community Health Board and a number of others boards and committees.

"Carol and I look to travel," he says of plans that he and his wife have. "We plan to be in South Carolina in January, then see friends in Florida and drive through the Gulf Coast on the way to Arizona for February and March. In April, we want to drive up the coast from California to Seattle to visit Carol's sister there and then see our son in Spokane. We plan to spend summers at our cabin on Cass Lake and winters in Arizona."

'Narrowband' mandate to become effective Jan. 1

Polk County is in the process of changing its Dispatch Center and all mobile radio communications systems to comply with the Jan. 1, 2013 mandate by the Federal Communications Commission that public safety units operate on narrowband channels.

A posting on the Public Safety & Homeland Security Bureau explains the mandate this way:

On Jan. 1, 2013, all public safety and business/industrial land mobile radio systems operating in the 150-512 MHz radio bands must cease operating using 25 kHz efficiency technology, and begin operating using at least 12.5 kHz efficiency technology. This deadline is the result of an FCC effort that began almost two decades ago to ensure more efficient use of the spectrum and greater spectrum access for public safety and non-public safety users. Migration to 12.5 kHz efficiency technology (once referred to as "refarming" but now referred to as narrowbanding) will allow the creation of additional channel capacity within the same radio spectrum and support more users.

After Jan. 1, 2013, licensees not operating at 12.5 KHz efficiency will be in violation of the Commission's rules and could be subject to FCC enforcement action, which may include admonishment, monetary fines, or loss of license.

Change is coming

The narrowbanding mandate is a forerunner of more change in which "new generation" computer-based digital technology will replace the 9-1-1 analog radio system that has been in place for many years.

Next generation 9-1-1 (NG9-1-1) is an initiative aimed at updating the 9-1-1 phone service infrastructure in the United States and Canada to improve emergency communications in a wireless mobile soci-

ety. In addition to calling 9-1-1 from a traditional landline telephone, it intends to enable the public to transmit text, images, video and data from a cell phone or other mobile device to a Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP).

That change will be occurring over the next several years.

Pager technology lagging

Some public safety units, such as fire departments and the police departments that serve more confined jurisdictions, will continue to use existing analog equipment during part of this time. That is because the technology has not yet been developed to convert their pagers to receive digital transmissions.

These police and fire department entities don't require the greater coverage that digital systems will provide. That greater coverage capability is needed by Polk County, which is far more expansive.

To accommodate all public safety organizations, Polk County's radio communications capability — in the Dispatch Center, in the Sheriff's Department patrol cars and in other mobile units — is using what the industry calls "Narrowband P25 capable" radios. This will allow dispatchers in the center and officers in the field to communicate with both digital and analog systems.

Dual-band radios

In addition, the Sheriff's Office has been purchasing "dual-band" radios, which enable VHF radio users to communicate with the 800-megahertz (MHz) radio system used by the State of Minnesota.

Minnesota agencies such as the State Patrol, Department of Natural Resources, Emergency Management, Department of Transportation, the Bureau of Criminal Investigation and others are in the process

of converting to or are already using the higher frequency 800 MHz digital communications system.

The move to narrowbanding was ordered by the FCC to clear more space for the growing world of wireless communications.

"We expect to have completed the change to narrowbanding in all county departments by the end of October," Polk County Emergency Management and Dispatch Center Director Nancy Shafer says. "And with dual-band equipment, the Dispatch Center will have interoperability... we will be able to send and receive both digital and analog transmissions. As the conversion to next generation technology proceeds," she says, "all entities will be moving toward digital systems."

County is only PSAP

The County Dispatch Center, which is the only designated PSAP in Polk County, handles all 9-1-1 emergency calls regardless of from where they originate. The Center then 'dispatches' that information to the proper units — to sheriff's deputies, to the call centers in the Crookston and East Grand Forks police departments, and to the appropriate ambulance services and fire departments.

"In the new world of communications, the Center will be able to receive information via texting, voice and photos," Shafer says. "Polk County is working toward putting that infrastructure in place and has initiated talks with city officials in Crookston and East Grand Forks about consolidating services into a single, more efficient dispatch center. The new Next Gen equipment will involve a significant expense — currently estimated to be about \$250,000 — but with a consolidation it wouldn't have to be repeated three times."

Violators to be notified

Encroachment on highway right-of-way not permitted

The considerable amount of farming and fence-line encroachment that is occurring on county highway right-of-way in some areas of Polk County presents a serious problem, according to Polk County Engineer Richard Sanders.

A condition of accepting federal and state aid to construct and maintain highways requires that counties provide maintenance of the road right-of-way and keep it free from

encroachment.

"This applies to all county highways," Sanders says. "Encroachments detract from the efficiency of that section of highway in snow clearing and drainage. They also increase erosion and, in some cases, can even cause a potential hazard."

Cultivation of a road right-of-way is not permitted, he says. Right-of-way that has been cultivated should be restored by shaping and seeding. Violators

will be notified and, if necessary, the right-of-way limits will be marked with steel posts and markers.

"Cultivation destroys the grass cover, reduces efficiency with snow clearing, and changes drainage patterns. In some cases," Sanders says, "culverts have been completely closed from the resulting sediment."

"Since highway right-of-way has been dedicated for public

road purposes and paid for by public monies," he says, "farming and fencing within the right-of-way limits is not allowed."

"The only exception for fencing could be when it might be necessary to provide a lane for cattle passes. Such fencing should not include heavy construction such as using railroad ties for posts that could constitute a hazard to traffic."

Melbye and Folden join Office of Assessment Services as appraisers

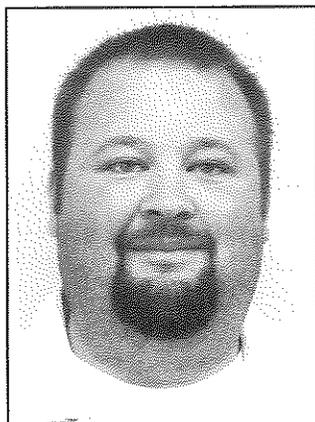
Sam Melbye and Brian Folden have joined the Polk County Office of Assessment Services (formerly the Assessor's Office) as appraisers. They succeed Steve Carlson and Peggy Schumacher.

Carlson, rural McIntosh, who left his position as the lead staff appraiser on June 1 after 15 years with the county, has become the Becker County assessor.

Schumacher, Crookston, retired on April 30 after 27 years with Polk County, 24 of those years with the Assessor's Office.

A Crookston native and 2001 graduate of Crookston Central High School, Melbye attended the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh and worked for Digi-Key in Thief River Falls before earning a degree in mass communications from the University of Phoenix last year.

He made the in-house move from across the hall of the Government Center on June 25 having previously served as a clerk in the Polk County

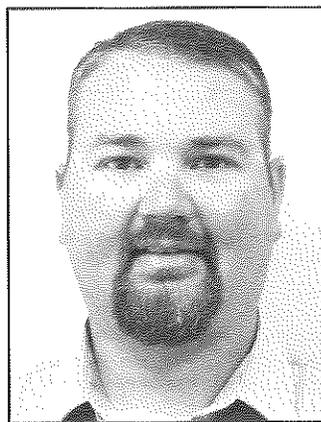


Sam Melbye

Taxpayer Service Center.

Melbye married Marley Hanson in Crookston on July 7. Marley is the SPF SIG (Strategic Prevention Framework State Incentive Grant) coordinator for Polk County Public Health.

A native of Fargo where he graduated from Fargo North High School in 1992, Folden played hockey in the U.S. Junior Hockey League at Waterloo, Iowa, for two years before earning a degree in business administration at



Brian Folden

North Dakota State University in 2000.

He worked as a closer in residential real estate in the Twin Cities before moving to Crookston. Folden, who also began work for Polk County on June 25, had been a stay-at-home dad for the past eight years.

His wife, Judie, is the chief pharmacist at Thrifty White Drug in Crookston. They have three children, Jameson, Brynne and Ericah.

Polk County Attorney's Office

Activity Summary
Jan.-June 2012

Felony & Gross Misdemeanors

Complaints prepared	178
Sentencing hearings	161
Committed to state prison	32
Probation violation hearings	239
Committed to state prison	22
Total committed to prison	54
Jury/Court trials	6/0
Cases with convictions	6/0

Misdemeanors

Guilty pleas	38
Trials	2

Appeals

Polk County Attorney Office	4
Minnesota Attorney Gen. Office	0

Juvenile Cases

Delinquency petitions	15
Child in need of protective services (CHIPS) petitions	39
Delinquency hearings	205
EJJ probation	1
CHIPS hearings	135

County Welfare

Commitment petitions*	11
Commitment hearings	18
Guardianship petitions	4
Guardianship hearings	10

* Mentally ill and/or inebriate

Child Support

Child support hearings	75
Paternity hearings	137

To eliminate county lines

Polk and Norman-Mahnomen health units to collaborate

Polk County Public Health and neighboring Norman-Mahnomen Public Health are planning to join forces in January 2013 in an effort to provide better public health services for their constituents.

In the plan, the two organizations — the Polk County Board of Health and the Norman-Mahnomen Board of Health — will enter into a joint powers agreement to form a combined community health board “for the purpose of establishing and maintaining a cooperative system of community health services under local administration.”

Polk County Public Health has operated independently while Norman and Mahnomen counties have operated as a joint health entity for several years.

“By eliminating county lines to capitalize on the resources and expertise of the nurses and staff in the two separate public health departments,” Bill Montague, chair of the Polk County Board of Commissioners and a member of the State Community Health Advisory

Board, notes, “we will be able to make the most efficient use of specialty skills and training for each unit. It will also eliminate some travel.”

Montague and Commissioner Craig Bunes represented Polk County in the discussions about collaboration that began in July 2011 and led up to the decision earlier this year to move forward with collaboration.

Also key in those talks for Polk County were Public Health Director Sarah Reese, Polk County Administrator John “Jack” Schmalenberg, and Minnesota Department of Health Regional Nurse Consultant Wendy Kvale.

Representing Norman-Mahnomen Public Health in the planning were Norman County commissioners Steve Bommersbach and Marvin Gunderson, Mahnomen County commissioners Karen Ahmann and David Geray, and Norman-Mahnomen Community Health Services Director Jamie Hennen.

“Our goal,” according to Reese, “is to form one community health board from the two sep-

arate local public health departments. This will allow residents of the three-county area to benefit from a more efficient delivery of local public health services and provide the foundation for a strong local public health system.”

The new seven-member community health board will have the operating name of Polk-Norman-Mahnomen Community Health Board. It will be made up of:

- One county commissioner from each of the three counties;
- One commissioner appointed by each of the Polk and Norman-Mahnomen community health boards and;
- One community member appointed by each of the Polk and Norman-Mahnomen Community Health boards.

The board members are to serve three-year terms. They will not be permitted to serve more than three consecutive terms. Each of the parties in the joint powers agreement will be able to withdraw from the arrangement on one year's notice when given prior to Jan. 1.

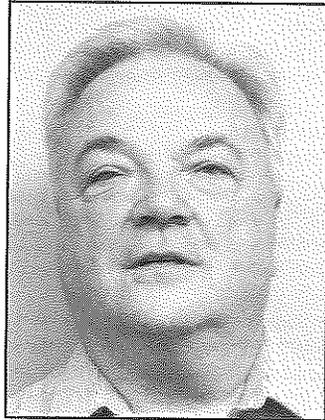
Nov. 6 General Election ballot to have a twist for voters in the District 5 commissioner race

On Nov. 6, Polk County voters in District 5 will see the names of two persons on the General Election ballot as choices for county commissioner even though one of them has formally announced that he has withdrawn as a candidate.

The name of Randall Gust, East Grand Forks, who made the decision to withdraw as a candidate in early September, will be on the ballot even though he is no longer seeking the position. By law, persons can only withdraw as a candidate in the first two days following the end of the filing period (in July). Should they fail to do so within that two-day window, their names will appear on the ballot.

Gust, who recently retired as East Grand Forks fire chief, has accepted a position in the private sector and doesn't believe that he would have the time to serve as a commissioner. His decision to bow out of the race effectively reduces the field in District 5 to one candidate — incumbent Commissioner Don Diedrich, rural Warren. Diedrich is seeking re-election to a third term.

Ironically, Gust was the top vote getter in a light turnout of voters in the Aug. 14 Primary Election. He received 213 votes then to Diedrich's 208.

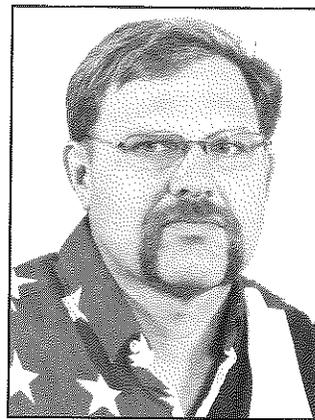


Nick Nicholas

The third candidate in that contest, Ragnar Bergendahl, East Grand Forks, received 25 votes and was eliminated from advancing to the General Election ballot. A Primary Election is required to reduce the field of candidates to two in the commissioner districts races.

In Commissioner District 3, Nick Nicholas and Dean Adams, both of Crookston, advanced to the General Election ballot on the basis of finishing first and second in the primary.

Five candidates had filed for the position, which will become open in January. The other three candidates were Gerald



Dean Adams

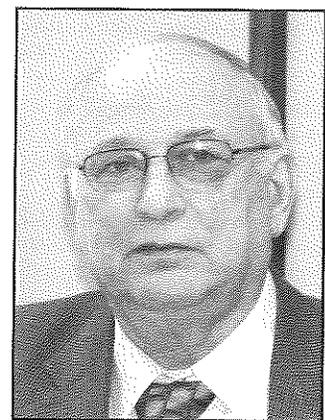
Reitmeier, Clayton Briggs and Ray Ecklund, all of Crookston.

Current board chair W. R. "Bill" Montague, Crookston, the District 3 commissioner, is not seeking re-election to a fourth term.

Nicholas is the current chair of the Crookston School Board and a management partner in Dee, Incorporated. He is giving up his position on the school board.

Adams is a self-employed contractor and rental properties owner.

District 1 Commissioner Craig Bunes, Crookston, is unopposed in his bid for re-election to a second four-year



Don Diedrich

term.

Countywide, only 2,465 voters out of 15,952 registered voters, or 15.45 percent, cast ballots in the Primary Election. There were 74 voters who registered on election day.

Primary Election Voting District 3

Nick Nicholas316
Dean Adams130
Gerald Reitmeier73
Clayton Briggs72
Ray Ecklund65

District 5

Randy Gust213
Don Diedrich208
Ragnar Bergendahl25

Johnson leaves business world to be 4-H coordinator

Kristina Johnson, a native of the Pelican Rapids, Minn., area where she grew up on a dairy farm, is the new 4-H Program coordinator for Polk County. She assumed the job on June 7.

The position, which had been vacant for several months following the resignation of Emily Esperson in the fall of 2011, was increased to fulltime earlier this year by action of the County Board.

"I'm excited to be back in the area and to be working with and getting to know more and more 4-H families and volunteers in Polk County," she says of her first months on the job.

Those months included

involvement in the Polk County Fair.

Johnson's immediate supervisor, Karyn Santl, the 4-H Extension educator based in the regional office at Roseau, says of Johnson, "Kristina has worked and interned at a variety of positions and places across the nation. This has given her great experiences to be successful in this position. She takes pride in her work and knows the importance of developing relationships with program participants."

After graduating from Pelican Rapids High School in 2003, Johnson worked at a dairy farm in Maine for two years before starting her own business as a

professional cattle fitter (groomer). She operated that business in Maine for several years before returning to the area in 2008 to attend the University of Minnesota-Crookston where she earned a B.S. degree in animal science with a minor agriculture education in May 2012.

To be accessible to residents, Johnson will work about three days a week from the office in McIntosh and about two days from the Valley Tech Park facility in Crookston.

Her interests beyond work include photography and her two dogs, a Boxer and a Cocker Spaniel.



Kristina Johnson

Reitmeier becomes executive director of Mental Health Center

Shauna Reitmeier is the new executive director of the Northwestern Mental Health Center operations that are based in Crookston. She succeeded Dan Wilson in that capacity on May 29.

A non-profit corporation, the Center, which is owned by Kittson, Marshall, Mahnomen, Norman, Red Lake and Polk counties, provides services that are designed to prevent the emergence of mental health problems, provide early intervention, limit the impact of mental health issues, and treat serious mental health problems.

The Center has a \$6.5 million annual budget and a clinical staff of 95 persons. Services are provided at seven sites in northwestern Minnesota.

Crookston grad

Reitmeier, the daughter of Mary Thibert and Leroy Reitmeier, grew up in Crookston and graduated from Crookston Central High School in 1990. She attended North Dakota State University before working at Minneapolis groups homes with individuals who had developmental disabilities for five years. Reitmeier then also worked at the Northwestern Mental Health Center.

She earned a bachelors degree in social work at the University of North Dakota in 2002 and a masters degree in social work with a focus on management and mental health at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 2003.

After completing those studies, Reitmeier held several administrative and leadership positions with Washtenaw Community Health Organization over the next eight years. That work focused on mental health service delivery.

In Washington

Most recently, she had worked with the



Shauna Reitmeier

National Council of Community Behavioral Healthcare in Washington, D.C., providing technical assistance and support in a partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA) for demonstrating the integration of primary and behavioral healthcare in 64 community behavioral healthcare organizations across the nation.

Reitmeier has also studied Aikido, a Japanese martial arts form, for 10 years. She likes horses and gardening.

Teamwork

A transition team had worked on selecting the new executive director. That team included three members of the board of directors (Polk County Commissioner Bill Montague, Marshall County Commissioner Curtis Carlson, and Dr. Rolf Hanson), two county social service directors (Kent Johnson, Polk County, and Kathy Johnson, Kittson County) and three staff members (Don Christie, Dr. Thea Rothman and Dr. Michal Jorgens).

A board of directors acts as the governing body for the center. That board is made up of two county commissioners from Polk County and one each from the other five counties, two at-large members, and a representative of the county social service departments in the six-county area. Montague and Don Diedrich are Polk County's commissioner representatives on the governing board.

Wilson had joined the Northwest Mental Health Center in March 1973 as its developmental disabilities coordinator. He became the assistant director in 1976. Wilson left the agency 1981 to serve as director of the Polk County Development Achievement Center for five years and then returned to begin serving as its executive director in 1986.

Value of Polk real estate increased to \$3.735 billion

As determined by the Polk County director of assessment services for the purpose of assessing property taxes that will be payable in 2013, the valuation of real estate in the county now totals \$3,734,627,800.

This new total amount of valuation represents an increase of \$304,237,900 over 2012, or about 8.8%.

Of the new total valuation amount:

- 51.5% is for tillable agricultural lands.
- 9.4% is for all other agricultural property.
- 27.6% is for residential properties.
- 5.2% is for seasonal recreational properties.
- 3.3% is for commercial properties.
- 1.4% is for industrial properties.
- 3.7% is for building sites (rural homes and garages on 1 acre).
- 1.5% is for "all other" property classifications.

New construction accounted for \$18,454,500 of the total valuation increase. The balance of the increase is the result of the revaluation of existing properties.

The figures above are based on the 2012 Spring Mini Abstract. Last year's figures were based on the 2011 Fall Mini Abstract. The 2012 Fall Mini Abstract is not yet available due to programming for the special session changes.

Note — The valuations total does not take into account railroad or utility values.

County Board Meeting Times

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

10:30 a.m. on the 3rd Tuesday

8:30 a.m. on the 4th Tuesday

All meetings are open to the public

Polk County Commissioners

Dist. 1 — Craig Bunes, vice chair

Dist. 2 — Warren Strandell

Dist. 3 — Bill Montague, chair

Dist. 4 — Warren Affeldt

Dist. 5 — Don Diedrich

Bergh recognized for childhood immunizations

Polk County Public Health Nurse June Bergh, RN, has been recognized by the Minnesota Department of Health for her work with childhood immunizations. She is one of nine nurses statewide who were nominated for the organization's new Childhood Immunization Champion Award.

Bergh, a public health nurse for Polk County for 30 years, has been at the forefront with parents, public health nurses, the county's three Women, Children's and Infants (WIC) clinic sites, seven school districts, two colleges, three Head Start programs, medical clinic providers, and area hospital staff in promoting the need for childhood immunizations.

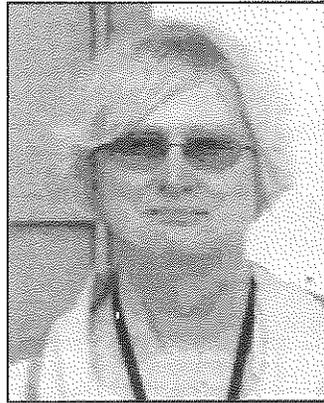
In her work, she has become an expert on vaccine dosage, the age at which vaccine can be given, the combination of vaccines, time intervals between dosages, storage and handling of vaccines, and immunization registry questions.

"For the 25 years I have worked at Polk County Public Health, June has been our leading expert on immunizations," Linda Hanson, nursing supervisor, says.

Mission never ending

"June's mission is never ending because there will always be a new generation of children who need to be immunized," Hanson says.

In addition to working in the area of childhood immunizations, Bergh also coordinates the county's Disease Prevention and Control Division, tuberculosis case management, vaccine management, immunization practice improvement clinics, influenza vaccine ordering and planning, school vaccination clinics, the monthly immunization clinic in Crookston, blood pressure clinics



June Bergh

in Crookston and Climax, and site screenings (blood sugar, blood pressure, cholesterol). She also serves as back-up to the jail nurse.

Across state line

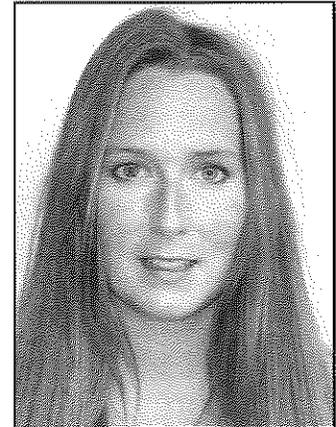
Since Polk County borders North Dakota and some county residents have medical homes at clinics of parent medical clinics in Grand Forks and/or Fargo, Bergh reaches across state borders for collaboration. She keeps current with both Minnesota and North Dakota immunization recommendations and is familiar with both state immunization registries. She has served on the Greater Grand Forks Immunization Coalition since 1994.

Prior to coming to Polk County Public Health, Berg worked in critical care both in a metropolitan and a rural setting in Minnesota. She received her education at Northwestern Hospital in Minneapolis in 1969.

June organized two Immunization Action Teams in the county in the mid 90s. In 2009 during the H1N1 Flu Pandemic, Bergh was designated as Polk County Public Health's Logistics Chief.



Kathy Girdler



Angel Korynta

Polk nurses representing region on state bodies

Polk County Public Health nurses Kathy Girdler and Angel Korynta represent the northwestern area of Minnesota on task forces of the Minnesota Department of Health.

Girdler serves on the Minnesota Maternal & Child Health Advisory Task, a newly formed statewide work group and Korynta is on the Maternal Child Health Advisory Task Force's Family Home Visiting Committee.

Provide direction

According to Linda Hanson, Polk County Public Health nursing supervisor, the task force groups provide direction and advice to the commissioner of health and to Minnesota Department of Health staff.

Girdler and Korynta, who both earned B.S. degrees in nursing from the University of North Dakota, are registered nurses and public health nurses.

The Mental Health & Child Health Advisory Task Force group on which Girdler serves is defining statewide priorities and planning activities to support children and youth with special health needs.

Girdler has eight years of work

experience with Polk County Public Health in serving 0-5 aged children with special needs.

Visits families

Her work in the county includes coordinating the Follow Along Program and making home visits to families with high risk newborns, to children receiving protective services, and to children with developmental concerns.

Korynta's work group, which has been meeting since March of 2012, is providing direction and guidance on issues related to family home visiting, Hanson notes.

The group is sharing ideas on how to expand and integrate evidence-based home visiting programs in Minnesota's health and early childhood systems.

A member of the Family Health Division of Polk County Public Health since 2008, Korynta's work includes making home visits to families before and after a baby is born using a curriculum called Growing Great Kids. She serves primarily the Crookston area and is on a number of early childhood committees.

Polk County veterans received \$12.4 million in earned benefits

Polk County veterans received more than \$12,293,000 in earned benefits during 2011, according to

Polk County Veteran Service Officer Les Goodwin.

That total, which was \$885,000 more than received

in 2010, included \$6,159,000 for pensions and compensations, \$704,000 for vocational rehabilitation programs,

\$438,000 for life insurance policy pay-outs, and \$4,992,000 for medical care at hospitals and clinics.

Stadstad heads up human resources/special projects

Linsey Stadstad has become Polk County's new human resources special projects coordinator. She succeeds Tangee Bouvette, who left in April for a position with the City of Grand Forks.

A native of Manvel, N.D., Stadstad had been a staff member of the Human Resources Department at Altru Health System in Grand Forks.

A 2002 graduate of Grand Forks Central High School, Stadstad attended Mayville, N.D., State College for a year before earning a B.S. degree in business management at the University of North Dakota in 2006. She then worked in visual merchandising at Nordstrom's in Bloomington, Minn., for a time before earning a masters degree in public administration at UND in May 2011.



Linsey Stadstad

Stadstad, who came to work for Polk County in May, is to marry Brandon Rood on Sept. 28. That is the same day that Rood will graduate from the School of Business at the University of Minnesota with a degree in business administration.

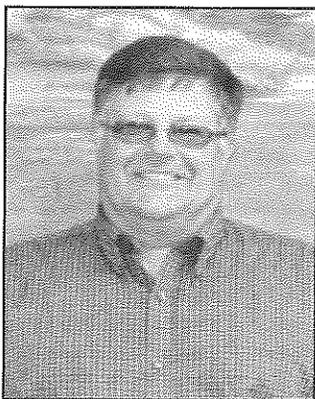
Swenson joins board of Sand Hill Watershed District

Philip Swenson, who grew up on the family farm near Rindal and farms southeast of Fertile, has succeeded Harold Vig, Fosston, as a member of the board of managers of the Sand Hill Watershed District.

Vig, a retired farmer who had served on the board of managers since 1994, did not seek reappointment when his term ended in May.

Swenson had been a member of the Sand Hill Watershed District Advisory Committee and has served on the Garden Township Board. During the off-season, he drives school bus for the Fertile-Beltrami School district. He and his wife, who reside in Fertile, have three sons.

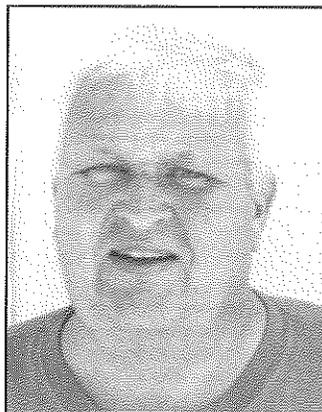
The reappointment to the board of Scott Balstad, rural Fosston, for a three-year term was approved in May. Balstad, a farmer, was first appointed to the board in 2010 to complete the term of Gordon Sonstlie, who died on April 3, 2010.



Philip Swanson

Balstad is the current vice chair.

Other members of the board of managers are: Chairman Stuart Christian, Fertile; Roger Hanson, Beltrami; and Bill Brekke, Nielsville. Dan Wilkens is the administrator. The district has its office in Fertile.



Wayne Melbye



Osmund Moe

Melbye and Moe named to posts on Planning Commission

Osmund Moe, Bygland, and Wayne Melbye, Crookston, are new members of the Polk County Planning Commission.

Moe, who represents Commissioner District 2, was a longtime Bygland Township official. He was appointed to complete the term of Earl Beiswenger, who was ill and died June 20. The three-year term continues through Dec. 31, 2013.

Melbye, a member of the Crookston City Council, succeeds former Crookston Mayor Don Osborn, who retired. Melbye serves as the representative of Crookston Mayor David Genereux.

Other members of the Planning Commission are: Don Wright, Mentor (representing Commissioner Dist. 1); Courtney Pulkrabek, Crookston (Dist. 3); Kerry Winkleman, Fosston, (Dist. 4); Barb Hangsleben, East Grand Forks (Dist. 5); East Grand Forks Council member Wayne Gregoire

(representing East Grand Forks Mayor Lynn Stauss); Rolland Gagner, Erskine, (representing Union Lake Sarah Improvement District); Dennis Yell, Mentor, (representing the Maple Lake Improvement District); and Delores Myerchin, Crookston, (representing Polk County townships).

The findings of the Planning Commission are forwarded as recommendations to the County Board, which makes the final decision.

The Planning Commission members who represent the five commissioner districts (Wright, Moe, Pulkrabek, Winkleman and Hangsleben) also serve on the Board of Adjustment. This board makes the final decision on requests to vary from the county's zoning rules.

Winkleman serves as chair of both the Planning Commission and the Board of Adjustment.

Social Service Board changes

Commissioner Warren Strandell, East Grand Forks, became chair of the Polk County Social Service Board in July when he succeeded Commissioner Craig Bunes, Crookston.

Commissioner Don Diedrich, Warren, is new the vice chair. The position of chair rotates annually among the five county commissioners.

Lay-Board member Cathy Gutterud, Lengby, is the new secretary of the board. The secretary position alternates annu-

ally between the two lay-board members, Gutterud and Paula Walters, Crookston.

In addition to the five county commissioners, the make-up of the Social Services Board includes two lay-board members. Gutterud's reappointment to the board for another two-year term was recently approved by the Minnesota Department of Human Services.

Bissonette's position at Tri-County Corrections increased to deputy director

Paul Bissonette's role with Tri-County Community Corrections (TCCC) has been expanded from facilities supervisor to that of deputy director.

The agency operates the Northwest Regional Correction Center jail facility, the Red River Valley Juvenile Center and the Probation and Community Service programs for Polk, Red Lake and Norman counties.

In the new position, Bissonette supervises the administrative business office and financial administrative staff. He now works with the agency in budgeting and pro-

vides oversight of grant fiscal management while continuing oversight of the Red River Valley Juvenile Center, the Transition Program and vendor contracts.

Annette Erickson, who had been a financial clerk, is now the administrative accountant in the business office.

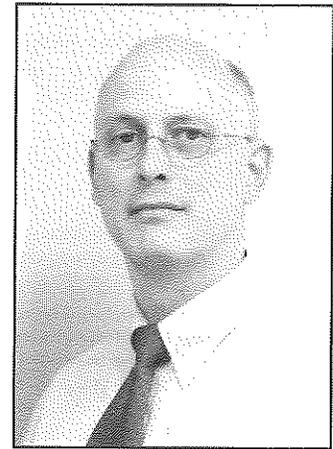
In other re-arrangements of responsibilities, Tami Lieberg's title has been changed from director of community services to that of chief probation officer and Erik Ness has been advanced from senior probation agent to probation supervisor. Ness is responsible

for oversight of all TCCC probation agents.

In another internal re-organization that has taken place, Jail Administrator Andrew Larson has also assumed management of the Sentence to Service (STS) program that allows inmates to reduce jail time by performing maintenance and other services for local government agencies and programs.

Larson continues to manage the corrections officers in the operation of the jail along with the Adult Basic Education program and other program staff.

The titles of the five shift supervisors who manage the



Paul Bissonette

corrections officers at the jail (Catherine Barstad, Chad Johnson, Joey Pederson, Michelle Olson and Phil Schroeder) have been changed to correctional sergeants.

With collections for 2010 & 11

Gravel tax generates \$309,436 for county, townships

The Polk County Highway Department and the townships where gravel pits were active in 2010 and 2011 are sharing \$309,436.64 in Aggregate Material Taxes.

The tax — \$144,334.67 in 2010 and \$165,101.97 in 2011 — was collected from gravel operators working in the county.

New record amounts

The amount of tax collected in 2010 set a new single year record only to be topped by the total collected in 2011. The previous single year record was the \$124,766.29 collected in 2009.

The increased tax collections in the last three years are due to changes in the tax rate that were made by the Legislature. Currently, 32 counties statewide use the tax as a way to help maintain roads. By law, the tax rate is set at 21.5 cents per cubic yard or 15 cents per ton of aggregate material excavated.

Active pits

For townships, the method of distribution of the gravel tax is based on the number of "active" pits within a township rather than by the number of

miles of road that are affected by the hauling.

After the deduction of a 5 percent fee for the county to administer the program, the aggregate material tax was distributed 42.5 percent each — \$58,275.18 for 2010 and \$66,659.88 for 2011 — to the Township Road & Bridge Fund and to the County Road & Bridge Fund. The remaining 15 percent was placed in the Reserve Fund for Pit Restoration.

Distribution

The following 12 townships shared the \$58,275.18 that was earmarked for the Township Road & Bridge Fund in 2010. The settlement for the number of active pits and dollar amount sent to each township for that year included:

Belgium, 1 pit, \$2,158.34; Brandt, 1 pit, \$2,158.34; Chester, 8 pits, \$17,266.72; Gentilly, 3 pits, \$6,475.02; Grove Park-Tilden, 2 pits, \$4,316.68; Gully, 1 pit, \$2,158.34; Hill River, 3 pits, \$6,475.02; Kertsonville, 2 pits, \$4,316.68; Liberty, 2 pits, \$4,316.68; Onstad, 2 pits, \$4,316.68; Parnell, 1 pit,

\$2,158.34; and Woodside, 1 pit, \$2,158.34.

The 2011 collection of \$66,659.88 for the Township Road & Bridge Fund was distributed to 10 townships in this manner:

Belgium, 1 pit, \$3,174.28; Chester, 5 pits, \$15,871.40; Gentilly, 3 pits, \$9,522.84; Grove Park-Tilden, 1 pit, \$3,174.28; Gully, 1 pit, \$3,174.28; Hill River, 3 pits, \$9,522.84; Kertsonville, 2 pits, \$6,348.56; Liberty, 2 pits, \$6,348.56; Onstad, 2 pits, \$6,348.56; and Woodside, 1 pit, \$3,174.28.

Started by Bernie Lieder

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

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

History of Gravel Tax collections

1997	\$3,325
1998	\$78,035
1999	\$77,655
2000	\$90,678
2001	\$90,391
2002	\$73,975
2003	\$86,007
2004	\$72,362
2005	\$104,077
2006	\$98,377
2007	\$66,497
2008	\$64,299
2009	\$124,766
2010	\$144,335
2011	\$165,102

Rural Addressing Maps Available

Polk County maps showing the streets and avenues in the rural addressing system are available at the Highway Department and at the Taxpayer Service Center in the Government Center (former County Courthouse).

The cost is \$2 each.

SOLID WASTE UPDATES

Changes in Recycling:

The major change for 2012 — which impacted many other areas of the Polk County Solid Waste Program — occurred within the Recycling Program.

A fundamental change was made in how recyclable materials are collected from Polk County businesses and residents, and how those materials are managed, transported and processed.

Prior to 2012, Polk County operated its recycling program in a manner commonly referred to as "source separated recycling" (where the business or resident separated and dropped off clean paper loads into a paper-only container, clean cardboard loads into a cardboard-only container, etc.).

This required the individual business or resident to have multiple containers for each type of material they wished to recycle. This took up a lot of space and required a less efficient organized collection method.

Starting in January, Polk County switched to "single stream recycling." This allows a business or resident to place all of the materials Polk County accepts for recycling into a single container at their home or business, and for those recyclable materials to be placed into a larger single container for hauling to the processing facility.

The change from separated to single stream recycling should make recycling easier and more convenient for those that recycle, more efficient for organized collection, and hopefully result in more participation in the recycling program.

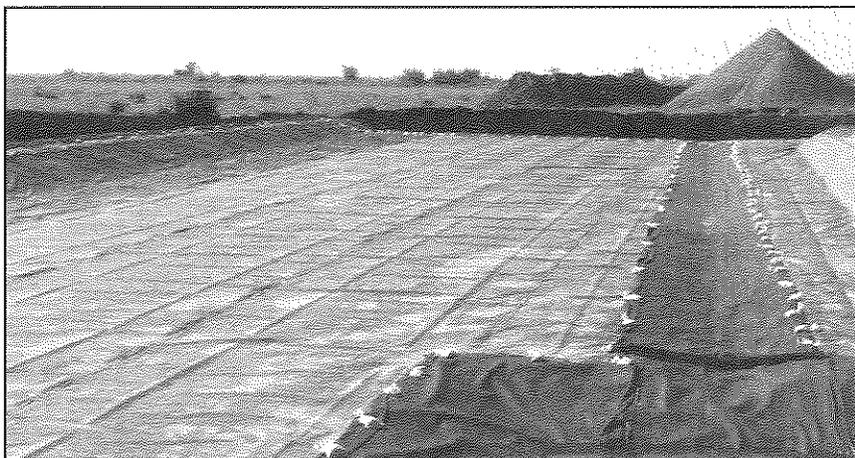
Polk County still accepts the same materials for recycling in 2012 that it did in 2011. Those materials are as follows:

- Cardboard
- Mixed paper (white, office, newspaper and magazines)
- Plastic containers (only containers displaying either #1 or #2 inside the recycling symbol)
- Aluminum beverage cans and bottles
- Tin/steel containers
- Glass containers (clear, green and amber)

However, because single stream recycling utilizes more mechanical separation rather than manual/hand separation, it is more vulnerable to contamination of the recyclable materials.

Contamination can result in decreased revenues received from markets, rejection/disposal of contaminated loads, and unnecessary expenses for the program.

Those who use the recycling program are asked to remember that there are things you can do to help ensure your recycling program is running as effectively



The poly liner for the new 2-acre MSW cell at the Polk County Landfill near Gentilly keeps any liquid that comes into contact with the waste (leachate) from seeping into the groundwater. Once the distribution media is in place, the leachate collection pipes will be installed. Waste will be placed in the new cell starting in October

as possible, and that those materials set out for recycling are actually recycled. Those things are:

1. Break-down (flatten) your cardboard to ensure container space is maximized and reduce our transportation costs;
2. Remove any packing peanuts, styro-foam packaging, bubblewrap or air pillow packaging from any cardboard placed in the recycling container as that is a contaminant that cannot be recycled and slows down processing and results in those boxes being not recycled;
3. Only place plastic containers in the recycling bins — Polk recycles only plastic grades #1 and #2. Items like rubber maid totes, plastic toys, deli food containers, kitty litter pails, etc. may have a recycling symbol on them, however they are a different grade of plastic and our plastic recycling markets will not accept them in our loads.
4. Remove your recyclable materials from any plastic bags used to transport them in — the plastic bags are a contaminant and results in slower processing time, rejected recyclable material and lower recycling revenues at market;
5. Shredded paper is the only item that should be left in a plastic bag if being placed in a recycling bin. Recycling staff can remove bagged shredded paper without slowing down the processing speed, and the paper will be baled and marketed separately. Due to its small size of the cut, any loose shredded paper is lost in the processing line as a waste contaminant.

Changes at the Landfill:

Due to the dry weather and projection of waste flows to the Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) Sanitary Landfill cell, it was decided to construct the new cell in 2012 rather than 2013 as originally planned.

The project was awarded to R.J. Zavoral & Sons of East Grand Forks. Construction started in July and is scheduled to be completed by the end of September.

This new cell will be the start of a new row in the landfill's permitted development and is therefore the first corner cell of the new row. As such, several issues in the design and permitting approval process required the county to modify its previous landfill development schedule.

Because the next cell is the first in the row, the capacity is small.

Therefore, Polk County modified the landfill development plan to construct the next cell as a 2-acre cell rather than a 1-acre cell. Building a 2-acre cell at this time increases the lifespan projection from 1.5 years to 7 years at the current waste flow rates before a new cell would need to be constructed.

In addition, due to changes in state permitting guidelines for landfills, Polk County was required to modify how the landfill is physically constructed to operate. The County modified its landfill phase development plan to go from a gravity-fed leachate collection system to a pressure leachate collection system.

The cost of modifying how the leachate is collected increased the construction cost considerably. However, much of this

See SOLID WASTE Page 11

Solid Waste Updates – Continued

expense is a one-time cost occurrence, as several future cells will be able to simply tie-in to this pressure system without the infrastructure investment of this new cell.

On the positive side of the new design, the new cell, and all future cells, will benefit from being able to use the natural topography to gain airspace and capacity.

In addition to the new MSW cell, Polk County is in the process of obtaining quotes on the installation of a truck scale system at the Landfill. Should a favorable quote be obtained and a scale installed this fall, the county will switch the billing method for Landfill disposal from volume to weight. This change would be implemented over the next several months should a scale be installed this year.

Changes at Transfer Station:

The Transfer Station in Crookston operated without incident from Jan. 1, 2012 to date. Most programs and tonnages at the Transfer Station remain unchanged.

However, there were a few changes that occurred with the Recycling Center, which is located across from the Transfer Station in Crookston. The first change was in how the recycling program was staffed and the other is in how the recyclable materials are transported.

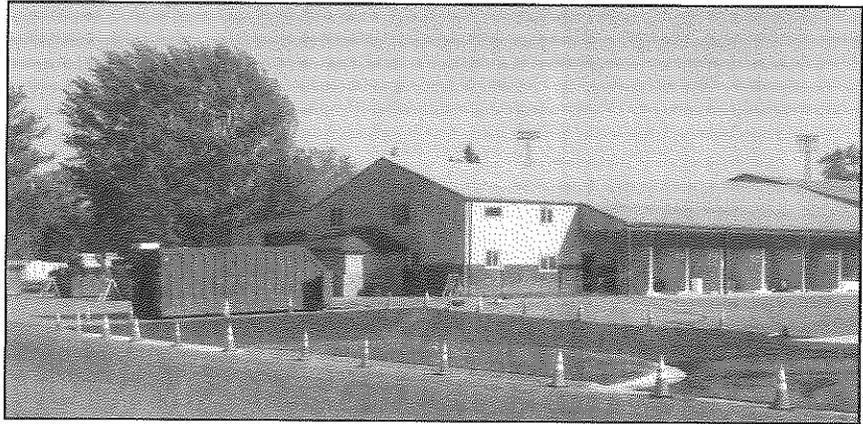
Prior to 2012, the Occupational Development Center (ODC) provided all of the staffing for the recycling program. All recyclables dropped off at the Crookston or Fosston recycling centers and those collected in the smaller communities were brought to the Crookston Recycling Center and processed and prepared for market by the ODC.

Starting in 2012, the Crookston Recycling Center changed from being a staffed collection and processing site to being an unstaffed drop-off site. Recyclable material processing and marketing no longer occurs in Crookston.

Instead, all recyclable materials collected throughout Polk County (except within the City of East Grand Forks) are shipped to and are processed and prepared for market at the Fosston site.

Starting in January, all recyclable materials dropped off at the Crookston Recycling Site are now placed in the 20-cubic-yard blue roll-off recycling bins located along the west side of the recycle building.

In July, a large hydraulic compactor was installed at the north end of the recycle building, which feeds a brown 40-cubic-yard roll-off receiver box. The blue 20-yard roll-offs for recyclables are now emptied inside the building, the contents fed into the compactor, and loaded into a 40-yard brown compactor receiver box. Approximately 6–10 of the blue 20-yard roll-offs are crammed into a single brown 40-yard compactor receiver and shipped to Fosston to await processing.



Polk County Recycling Facility and Material Drop-off Site nearing completion at the former Stenberg Building in Fosston. The site will open this month upon installation of compactor and fencing.

This has significantly reduced the number of loads shipped, the fuel consumed, and the cost of moving the recyclables between locations.

Changes at the Incinerator:

The Incinerator in Fosston has undergone significant operational changes as a result of those changes that occurred in the Recycling Program. Again, these changes to the recycling program have larger impacts on other aspects of the combined Fosston waste and recycling programs and those to all of Polk County.

In the fall of 2011, Polk County acquired the former Stenberg Welding & Fabricating building located on land abutting the Incinerator property. The recycling program in Fosston was relocated in January from its long-standing location across from the Incinerator to the new location adjacent to the Incinerator lot.

Significant modifications to the building and lot were required to make the transition successful. Many of those changes have been completed, including significant lot work, extension of the roof-line to shelter collected materials from precipitation, installation of concrete pads for compactors, construction of an asphalt approach for burnable (bagged) waste drop-off and extension of utilities.

The improvements will conclude with the installation of a compactor unit for placing burnable (bagged) household waste and the required fencing around the drop-off area.

Once completed this fall, there will be no waste drop-off at the Incinerator lot. This is to comply with new State and Federal Industrial Stormwater Permit requirements. A covered area along the west side of the building has been constructed for the placement of various waste and recyclable materials during operational hours.

The hours for drop-off of special wastes

and materials at the new location will be as follows: Mondays — 7:00 a.m.–7:00 p.m. and Tuesdays– Fridays — 7:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m..

In addition to processing burnable waste at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF) to remove objectionable and some recyclable materials prior to incineration, the MRF now processes the incoming single stream recyclables from Polk County.

The MRF processes the recyclable materials one morning each week, usually for only a few hours before switching back to processing waste materials prior to incineration.

This service has been expanded to include receipt of recyclables from Norman County. Other communities have inquired about Polk County processing their recyclable materials as well. As the popularity of single stream recycling continues to increase, so does the interest in Polk County's ability to process these materials for them at the MRF in Fosston.

Tip Fee Changes for 2013:

Because of decreased steam sales in both 2011 and 2012, and the decrease in recyclable material sales from the last quarter of 2011 to date, revenues are substantially down at the Incinerator.

Due to projections for 2013, Polk County is in the process of evaluating a tip fee increase for Municipal Solid Waste (MSW) at the Incinerator and Landfill for 2013.

Polk is completing year four of a six-year contract at the Incinerator. The original contract price was \$65 a ton, and has not been raised to date.

Any projected tip fee increase for 2013 would be between \$70 - \$72.50 per ton. Should the tip fees be raised, Polk County does not anticipate raising its residential and business Solid Waste Fee Assessments for 2013. — **Jon Steiner, Environmental Services administrator**



Erin Goltz



Andrew Johnson

Goltz, Johnson join County Attorney office

Erin Goltz and Andrew Johnson have joined the Polk County Attorney office as assistant county attorneys.

They fill one position that was opened by the recent retirement of Joe E. Judd and another that was created to meet the increasing caseloads that are being handled by the department. Judd had served as an assistant county attorney since 2007.

A native of Brooklyn Park, Minn., Goltz earned her undergraduate degree at St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minn. She then worked for St. Olaf's TRiO Upward Bound Program in St. Paul Public Schools where she was an academic advisor for students who were low income and potentially first-generation college students.

Goltz received her law degree from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul in May 2011. She and her husband, Caleb

Goltz, who is a University of Minnesota graduate student, are currently living at Hendrum.

"This is a great job and the area is a great place to live," she says. "I'm really excited to be here."

Johnson, who grew up at Wausau, Wis., received his undergraduate degree at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. He worked in various jobs for 10 years, most of them in technical support at Thomson Reuters, a legal publishing firm in Eagan, Minn.

He received his law degree at Hamline University School of Law, St. Paul, in May 2011.

Johnson is living in Climax. "I really like the job and it's nice being back in the country. I'm a country kid; I grew up in the country. I had been living a pretty tough neighborhood in the Cities, so this is really nice," he says.

Old jail space to be converted for other uses

Work is scheduled to begin this fall on a project at the Polk County Law Enforcement Center to replace the building's roof, upgrade the heating and cooling systems, and remove the jail cells and convert the former secure jail area of the structure into more usable space.

The original 36-year-old building, much of it a fortress built to serve as a county jail, houses the Polk County Sheriff's Office and its Emergency Management Division.

An addition was constructed in 1996-97 to house the Polk County Dispatch Center and the Red River Valley Juvenile Center.

Richard Rude Architectural, Bemidji, designed the scope of the project. The work will convert one cellblock into space for secure evidence storage and another to be a training room.

Other former jail cell space will be converted to house the Emergency Management Division and the Sheriff's Department's Drug Task Force.

The former Adult Basic Education program classroom will become a public meeting room. Other space will be cleared of the jail cells but left unfinished for future use.

Considering the solid construction of the building, Rude advised the County Board during planned deliberations that with the planned upgrades to the roof and to heating and cooling systems, the building "will be very functional for another 50 years or more."

By contrast, if not maintained, the option to some day have to remove it, he said, would be very expensive because of the secure construction that was built into the structure.

Truck weight education ongoing

Polk County is working with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn DOT), the University of Minnesota, and the Alexandria Technical and Community College to educate residents about truck weights and the proper axle configurations,

Two classes were held in April but, due to the early harvest, classes scheduled in East Grand Forks on Aug. 29 and in Crookston on Aug. 30, had to be cancelled.

A class will be held in East Grand Forks at 9 a.m. on Oct. 31 at the Polk County Human Service Center. Registration is at 8:30 a.m.

A class is also planned in Crookston but the date has not yet been set.

Information on classes offered throughout the state by the University of Minnesota is available online at: <http://www.mnltap.umn.edu/training/topic/customized/truck-weight>.

Overlays dominated county's road work plan

Most of our money was spent this year on overlaying existing bituminous roads to make them smoother and stronger. We are seeing a lot of rutting and damage due to overweight trucks on pavements that weren't built to handle that weight.

Road projects that were completed this summer include:

- CSAH 5 from CSAH 8 to CSAH 6 – bituminous overlay;
- CSAH 17 from CSAH 20 to TH 75 – bituminous overlay;
- CSAH 23 from 4 miles east

of Angus to county line – bituminous overlay;

- CSAH 37 from CR 210 to CSAH 34 – reclaim and bituminous surfacing;
- CSAH 46 from TH 2 to CSAH 11 – bituminous overlay;
- CSAH 70 – bridge over Judicial Ditch 1;
- CR 252 from TH 75 to CSAH 13 – bituminous overlay;
- City streets in Trail – bituminous overlay
- Township bridge replace-

ments throughout Polk County.

This work was completed using state and federal gas tax funds, and Township Bridge Funds.

About \$100,000 was also spent patching bituminous roads. We are also trying to stabilize some gravel roads using Base One as a stabilizing product. This will save money on blading and graveling, while more time and effort is spent on blading other roads.

We received over \$500,000 in Town Bridge Funds this year.

This compared to the \$100,000 we regularly receive. We have several bridge plans submitted and approved but they are waiting funding.

If townships have bridges that are structurally deficient, hydraulically deficient, or functionally obsolete (too narrow for today's equipment), they should talk with us so that we can look at surveying and replacing them.

— **Richard Sanders, county engineer**