

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES – SUBJECT TO CORRECTIONS
LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, MARSHALL, MN
January 20, 2009

9:00 a.m. - Meeting called to order by Chairman Goodenow. Members present: Fenske, Ritter, Goodenow, Nelson, Stensrud, County Administrator Stomberg, County Attorney Maes, Auditor / Treasurer VanOverbeke.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag

Approve Agenda

Ritter moved, seconded by Goodenow to approve the agenda. All voted in favor.

	Per Diems	Expenses
Fenske	\$150.00	-----
Nelson	-----	\$21.45

Goodenow moved, seconded by Nelson to approve the consent agenda. All voted in favor.

Consent Agenda:

1. Approve Minutes from January 6, 2008
2. Approve Commissioner Warrants 114992–115086 in the amount of \$168,715.28 dated 1/21/09.
3. Approve Auditor Warrants 114941-114971 in the amount of \$1,451,261.51 dated 1/8/09 and 114972–114991 in the amount of \$237,352.44 dated 1/15/09.
4. Approve Per Diems & Expenses

Resolutions and Contracts

Approve and authorize Chair to sign an application for withdrawal of wetland credits

Stensrud – How many acres do we have left? Anderson – Isn't it 10.9. Stensrud –This is the first one. Goodenow moved, seconded by Ritter to approve and authorize Chair to sign an application for withdrawal of wetland credits. All voted in favor.

Resolution setting 2009 Commissioner salaries and per diems

Ritter moved, seconded by Goodenow to approve and authorize the Chair to sign a resolution setting the 2009 Commissioner salaries and per diems. All voted in favor. The salaries and per diems remained the same as 2008.

Jim Hubley, VSO

Hubley – There were 4,293 contacts. In 2007, the value of VA direct payments was approximately \$5 million dollars. Three things that are happening that have an impact on this region. On January 24 and 25 there is a family support academy. About a year ago the VA started the Rural Health Care Initiative. The purpose is to develop models for improving outreach in the rural areas. They want to use existing services. They don't plan to build any more buildings as it is too expensive. The largest number of Veterans using the VA system are Vietnam Veterans. There are more people emailing me now. There has been an increase in the claims part nationally. Ritter – On that Montevideo is getting a new home or clinic? Hubley – No they are not getting one. There are people there that want. That isn't just a local thing it is a federal thing. It is a long lengthy process. The VA's position is not to build buildings but to use existing buildings. Nelson – About these grants that come from the Veteran's Affairs. I see Lyon County didn't get any or didn't apply? Hubley – We got a grant for technology. A group of us was going to buy radio time. Nelson – Some of these grants are pretty extensive. LeSueur County got \$150,000. 63 counties out of 87 got it. Did we apply? Stomberg – We did apply and receive for the computer system. Nelson – I think we should keep abreast on that anyway. Board thanked Hubley.

Jail Update

Splett – Good Morning. We are on schedule. They are going to be pouring the entire topping today. We got the segregation pod done. Stomberg – Once they get the second floor topped will they be done pouring concrete for awhile? Splett – For at least a month or so. The second floor will be done as of today. We have power throughout the building now. Fulda Electric is starting to pull wire. Bisbee is there getting all of their carriers set. Stensrud – Is the new generator hooked up? Splett – Yes but it is not operational yet. Next week they will be on the second floor doing cell fronts. Nelson – Anymore out of the contingency? Discussion.

Part Time Dispatcher Position

Mather – This position is actually a position that is new to us. We are paying out overtime for any shifts that cover vacation or holidays. Stomberg – A part of the increase in the overtime is we have

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Alyson Bossuyt working part-time in the Civil Process Position and Dispatch position. She is working in the civil process position to replace Mary Jo Zimmer who has submitted her resignation. Discussion. Goodenow – Are we approving the position or the actual hire? Goodenow moved, seconded by Nelson to approve hiring Sherri Schwisow for the part time dispatcher position at a starting salary of \$13.81 per hour and an effective date of hire of February 2, 2009. All voted in favor.

Ritter – What is being used now for a vehicle? Mather – One of the Sergeant's Cars. Stomberg – There has been a choice to not put collision on some vehicles. For about \$175 per year per vehicle we could do that. Nelson – Was this a single car deal? No one was hurt? Mather - A single car and no one was hurt. I would like to see it covered for at least the first three years. Goodenow – It was a board policy decision when you add up the cost of coverage and the number of accidents. And maybe somewhere in between it is where we should put on the new ones. Discussion.

Appropriations

Stomberg – We had the discussion at the last meeting in December. We said they were all tentative. I did receive a phone call from the Historical Society. I wasn't willing to release any funds until I spoke to this board. The public health is still out there. The most questionable at this point would be the Enterprise Corporation with the vacancy there and the SW Initiative Foundation. Stensrud – Are they looking at replacing that position with the Enterprise Corporation? Discussion. Nelson – With the library, is that a contract? Goodenow – It is based off of library users. So if we accept their figure then ours would be? Stomberg - \$263,000 divided by 12. Stensrud – Did they freeze the salaries? Goodenow – The Library Board meets on Friday and that is on the agenda. The biggest thing that hit the library was the health insurance went up. They need at least their monthly if we are not willing to make a decision. Stensrud – We could pay at the 2008 rate. Goodenow – Some are used to getting their quarterly check. Nelson – I think RCA and Area 2 are quarterly. Fenske – I have a question on Soil and Water Conservation, they reduced staff, why are they asking for an increase in budget? Stensrud – That is part of the budget cuts. They looked at this and whether they were going to get it all or not. Nelson – If you stick with the same as 2008 and the ones that get it quarterly. Ritter – I would like to wait until the Governor comes out with his budget. Goodenow – How is Soil and Water as far as cash flow? I know Public Health is okay. Stomberg – The only one that has been released was the library. Nelson – What is the impact of the Historical Society's move? Goodenow – Rent wise it should be the same but there are some moving expenses. Stensrud – I think other than the fact if we get a big slash we are going to have to make some cuts. Nelson – It is probably a good idea to see what the budget comes out as. Goodenow – Even the library has some reserve. Stensrud – Soil and Water has some reserve. Ritter moved, seconded by Goodenow that Lyon County wait until February 3, 2009 to pay out any appropriations except for the Historical Society which will be paid the first quarter at the 2008 rate of \$6,000. All voted in favor.

Out of State Travel – Drug Court Training

Maes – We are requesting out of state travel. There is a drug court team that has been put together. They are going to Oklahoma City April 19 through 24. This is no cost to the county. The fifth district said they would cover anything that the federal grant does not cover. Judge Bush, Tricia Zimmer, and Eric Wallen and a Community Outreach Coordinator, BC Thompson is going. This gives the county the opportunity to get the training. Goodenow moved, seconded by Nelson to approve the out of state travel for drug court training for Tricia Zimmer and Eric Wallen to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma from April 19th through April 24th, 2009. All voted in favor.

Public Health Management Contract

Sorenson – What you have before you now is the same management contract but it does not include the integration portion. Human Services position has been the scaled economies and risk mitigation for the two agencies. Goodenow – The legal ease of this is it is for the Health Services Board and the Human Services Board to enter into the agreement. You don't technically need our approval. Nelson – This is the Health Board's decision to hire an Administrator. Goodenow – We could take a vote of support but we are not approving it. Nelson – On page 2 it talks about non-union employees moving to the Minnesota Merit System. Sorenson – They handle some of the technical portions especially for some of the smaller counties that don't have a full time human resources position. Discussion. Nelson – Our course of action here is? Stensrud – Support or to not support. There was a mention on one page about a laptop computer. I believe it is on page 3 of 4. Sorenson – There wouldn't be any new equipment purchased. Stensrud – And the cell phone? Sorenson - There wouldn't be any new purchases. Ritter moved, seconded by Nelson for the Lyon County Board of Commissioners to support the management contract with Lincoln Lyon Murray Pipestone Public Health Services and Lincoln Lyon Murray Human Services with the okay of the Human Services Board. Fenske – Is LLMPH on the compensation okay with that? This contract is locking in the salary increase? Stensrud – No action was taken on it because it was just handed out and everyone wanted to review it. Nelson – Is this a one year term? All voted in favor.

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10:00 Meeting Recessed

10:15 Meeting Called Back to Order

Consider Resolution modifying Retiree Health Insurance Benefits for Individuals not currently retired

Stomberg – In August we had a motion to suspend policy pending changes. Since then we had a meeting with employees to gather input. We have four meetings left before April 1. This resolution drafts some history and at the end it says therefore be it resolved and it is blank. Stensrud – Anyone have any suggestions or comments? Goodenow – I asked to have this back on for discussion. I don't think status quo is an option. I think we need to do something. One extreme is to drop it out of the policy all together. And I would rather do that then not do anything at all. Maybe there is some room to do some modification to that but we haven't explored that. At the same time we have the budget thing coming from the governor. One option is to drop it out of the policy. There are other modifications at one time it was 3%. We could look at dropping it back to 3% or 2%. There is also missing in our policy the definition of retirement. This is a reward for long term employment with the county when you retire. There are all sorts of extremes. Fenske – I am looking at modification. I am thinking of cutting the number of years and also a dollar figure. If you cut it to 3% you still don't know they might live another 25 years. I am looking at a number of years. Nelson – I would like to show the Board a few things that I have come across in relation to what our exposure is. This is where it is at now and the second chart shows the inflation rate. When you are under 65 that average increase changes very slightly. The average increase of the cost of health and dental. This is out of the actuary and I talked to the gal on the phone and I asked her some questions. If you total the subsidized payments it will come to about \$22 million dollars and that is based on the 2007 picture window we looked at. That would take a \$7.3 million dollar trust fund earning 4.5%. We would have to start assessing \$600,000 to \$690,000 a year to cover this. These figures came from the actuary Jill Urdahl. Goodenow – Isn't that the high point the \$600,000? When you talk the \$12 million figure that is assuming you are earning. To answer a little with the inflation. My position has changed in the last six months as the economy has changed. We talked informally about setting up a health savings account. Once you put that amount in there then we would be done. They would buy their own health insurance out of that fund and then there would be a cap on it. What changed for me is the economy. Any plan along that line we are going to have to budget for. We just don't have that chunk of cash. We do have the risk of inflation and that cost. On the other hand we don't have to pay that money up front. My best solution may not be the one we can afford to do. Nelson – Back in 1985, I don't know what the cost of insurance was but it was very reasonable compared to what it is. Who would know what it cost. Stensrud – Anyone have any comments? Nancy Boogaard – Is the Board considering meeting with the group of employees? Stomberg – Who are the representatives? Stensrud – I thought we wanted to do it in front of the whole board. Goodenow – After our last group meeting I felt it wouldn't do any good until there was something to discuss. Discussion. Fenske – Stensrud early on you had come up with some figures? Stensrud – I would like if we are going to open up to have a discussion. I think there are some things for presentations. Tammy VanOverbeke – We came up with quite a few different things. Fenske – One of the things I was disappointed with last time is there was no proposals. Stensrud- Maybe there should be some things. The number comes about how are we going to fund this? Dan Sorenson- Do you plan on sticking to the April 1 deadline? Stensrud – I think we have to. Jeanine Barker – When you talk about discussing it I think the Board needs to bring proposals. I think it is awful to ask us to cut our own throats. In 1985 they were in the same place then. The problem is the same now 25 years later. Until you put a proposal together to bring it to us why should we say we want it changed? Why should we lose our compensation? We can take figures and throw them around. I would recommend the Board come up with a couple proposals. Discussion. Stensrud – Yes I would like to have the input of some of the employees. Steve Johnson – I thought according to the retiree manual the retiree was capped at what you paid for the employee. Discussion. Goodenow – There is that cap. It creates an economic situation. Mark Mather – I think that it would be reasonable for the employees to have a proposal back on the table by February 3. At least just to get discussion moving forward. I have employees that are really stuck in the middle whether they should bail out now. Nelson – I don't think we will change the April 1. Barker – I know the last time employees met and Mather wasn't there the consensus of the group then was to wait for proposals from you. It was the policy manual said this and the Commissioners had the right to change the policy manual and they needed to agree to the change. It would be very hard for us to come with proposals that we agree on because there are so many of us compared to you. Discussion. Rick Anderson – In the policy manual we have a definition of retiree. I think we need to start with what a definition of retiree is. Fenske – We do have some retirees that are not 65 yet and we are paying the full amount on their health insurance. Nelson – And the only limiting factor is the cafeteria contribution. Johnson – I think as a group we all know the situation. Stensrud – I would like to have another discussion on this in February. Discussion. Stensrud set 11:00 a.m. to discuss retiree insurance on February 3, 2009.

Financial Information

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VanOverbeke – This is the ending of December. This is just where the interest is at. This is a report you will be getting on a monthly basis. Ritter – On that Human Services money what bank is that in? VanOverbeke – Checking is Bremer and Magic is US Bank. Discussion. VanOverbeke - I am part of the Drainage Committee for the MACO Association. We are trying to give some clarification on the wording of the drainage statutes. The other sheet of paper is just some more things we will be working on.

Discussion on Ordinance Revisions

Biren – Before you today is some action regarding some changes to our Zoning Ordinance. We did not have anyone show up to the public hearing on January 13, 2009. Within the packet there was a summary proposed that would be included with the minutes and that would fulfill our publishing requirements. It distinguished between an area and use variance. Ritter – Basically just some housekeeping. Biren – I didn't have a single phone call on it. Ritter moved, seconded by Goodenow to accept the changes of the ordinance revisions of the planning and zoning effective February 9, 2009. All voted in favor.

Reviewed Meeting Schedule

Commissioners Reports

Goodenow – Friday the Library Board is going to meet to discuss plans for the construction project. Plum Creek meets tomorrow. The EDA process is ongoing. We had an Executive meeting.

Ritter – At our next meeting you will have a proposal for carts on recycling.

Stensrud –Has there been any news on the gas study?

Fenske reported on the Area 2 regional meeting and transit advisory committee. One of our busses was about destroyed. I got a complaint from someone in Grandview Township. Looking at the budget reports VanOverbeke gets us. I think we need to complement our Department Heads for coming in under budget. I don't know who handles central services but that and the Sheriff are under.

Nelson reported on Area 2 annual meeting.

Committee Appointments

The Chair presented the Committee Appointments for discussion and appointed the following:

Board	Appointee	Term Length	Appointed	End of Term
Airport Commission - Marshall	Steve Ritter	3 yrs	1/20/2009	Jan-12
Airport Zoning Board - Tracy	Phil Nelson	Indefinite		
Extension Committee	Denise Tekrony	3 yrs	1/20/2009	Jan-12
	Scott Riddlemoser	3 yrs	1/20/2009	Jan-12
	Steve Ritter	3 yrs	1/20/2009	Jan-12
JTPA - CEOB	Bob Fenske		1/20/2009	Indefinite
Library Board	Mark Goodenow	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
Library System - Plum Creek	Mark Goodenow	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
Area II Water Project alternate	Phil Nelson	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Rodney Stensrud	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
LLM&P Public Health	Mark Goodenow	3 yrs	1/20/2009	Jan-12
	Rodney Stensrud	3 yrs	1/22/2008	Jan-11
Advance / DAC	Mark Goodenow	3 yrs	1/20/2009	Jan-12
Fairgrounds / Ag Society	Phil Nelson	2 yrs	1/20/2009	Jan-11
Lyon County Alliance alternate	Steve Ritter	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Loren Stomberg			Indefinite

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Law Library	Mark Goodenow	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
Library Board - Jt Powers	Mark Goodenow	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Steve Ritter	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
LCEDC	Mark Goodenow	2 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-11
Park and Recreation Board	Michelle Schultz	3 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-12
	Betsy Desy	3 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-12
	Kevin Henkel	3 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-12
	Ronald Prorok	3 yr	1/2/2009	Jan-12
Water Plan Advisory Committee	Phil Nelson	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Mark Goodenow	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Harlan Manguson	2 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-11
	Chauncey Muedeking	2 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-11
Planning & Zoning Board	Richard Vroman	3 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-12
	Michael Buesing	3 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-12
	Steve Ritter	3 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-12
Planning & Zoning - Marshall	Mark Goodenow			Indefinite
	Phil Nelson			Indefinite
Regional Landfill Board alternate	Rodney Stensrud	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Bob Fenske	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
Safety Committee	Bob Fenske	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
SW Regional Solid Waste Comm. alternate	Steve Ritter	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Rodney Stensrud	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
SW Regional Dev. Comm.	Bob Fenske	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
P & Z Board of Adjustment	Same as P&Z Board			
Zoning Appeal Board	Same as P&Z Board			
RCRCA alternate	Phil Nelson	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Rodney Stensrud	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
Human Services Board	Steve Ritter	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Robert Fenske	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
Weed Inspector Deputy	Todd Hammer	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Roger Schroeder	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
WCA Transportation Advisory Committee	Bob Fenske	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
Western Mental Health Center - Board Alternate	Rodney Stensrud	3yrs	1/16/2007	Jan-10
	Steve Ritter	3 yrs	1/20/2009	Jan-12
Yellow Medicine River Watershed	Rodney Stensrud	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Tim Buysse	3 yrs	1/16/2007	Jan-10
Joint LEC Management Board	Mark Goodenow		1/20/2009	
	Phil Nelson		120/2009	
	County Administrator			Indefinite
	Sheriff			Indefinite
County Policy Advisory Committee	Bob Fenske	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Board Chair (Stensrud)			

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MN River Basin Joint Powers Board	Phil Nelson		1/20/2009	Indefinite
Historical Society Liaison	Mark Goodenow		1/20/2009	
SWCD Board (ex-officio)	Rodney Stensrud	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
Rural Energy Task Force alternate	Steve Ritter		1/20/2009	Indefinite
	Rodney Stensrud		1/20/2009	Indefinite
Union Labor-Mgmt Committee	Bob Fenske		1/20/2009	Indefinite
	Steve Ritter		1/20/2009	Indefinite
	Sheriff		1/20/2009	Indefinite
	County Administrator			Indefinite
Resource Conservation & Development (RC & D) Alternate	Rodney Stensrud		1/20/2009	Indefinite
	Phil Nelson		1/20/2009	Indefinite
IEIC - SW/WC Service Coop	Rodney Stensrud		1/20/2009	Indefinite
Land Use & Environment Adv. Task Force	Robert Fenske		1/20/2009	Indefinite
PrairieNET WAN alternate	Mark Goodenow	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Rodney Stensrud	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Loren Stomberg		2/6/2007	Indefinite
Regional Radio Board alternate	Phil Nelson	1 yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
	Rodney Stensrud	1yr	1/20/2009	Jan-10
Audit Committee	Steve Ritter		1/20/2009	
Capital Expenditures	Steve Ritter		1/20/2009	
	Rodney Stensrud		1/20/2009	
Amateur Sports Committee	Steve Ritter			

Biren – We have had some discussion on working on a level 3 feedlot inventory. One thing we could explore doing is becoming a delegated county. The delegation agreement comes with \$80 per feedlot. I would like to talk to a couple of Commissioners about it. The date that would work for Rock County to come up here would be January 29th. Stensrud – I think Nelson should be on that.

Fenske – What about the proposals? Are we supposed to do something before the next meeting? Stensrud - I think we need to come with an idea of our own. Stomberg – From the discussion I heard earlier. We had a thought to eliminate, a thought to reduce percentage earned, a thought to change the definition and a thought to reduce the time. Fenske – A buyout and put a certain amount of money in each account and we really can't do it now. My thought is to do it when they retire but not do anything right now. That will spread it out. Stensrud – If you can convey what you are thinking with Stomberg and he can put it down. Nelson – Another thing that should be included is if Obama comes with universal health care that clause should be in there anything we do should be null and void. It should be put in there.

Stensrud adjourned until February 3, 2009 at 9:00 a.m.

 Rodney Stensrud, Chairman

 Attest: Loren Stomberg
 Lyon County Administrator