

UNOFFICIAL MINUTES – SUBJECT TO CORRECTIONS
LYON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
LYON COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, MARSHALL, MN
December 1, 2009

7:00 p.m. - Meeting called to order by Chairman Stensrud. Members present: Fenske, Ritter, Nelson, Stensrud, County Administrator Stomberg, and Auditor / Treasurer VanOverbeke. Absent: County Attorney Maes and Commissioner Goodenow

About 14 members of the public were present.

Stomberg – The handout on the table that is the summary of the budget that we are looking at. Stomberg reviewed the budget summary. Concerned Citizen - In department 112 the revenue is off about \$100,000. Do you have space available in the courthouse for rent? Stomberg - Yes, Minnesota West gave us notice they will be moving out. Stensrud – We will finalize this December 15 at our meeting. In 2010 the .2% is our maximum levy. Paul Knoblauch – On the general revenue is that normally run that \$220,000 increase, is that normal every year? Stomberg- No. A lot of that difference is in that loss of interest income. We were looking at \$500,000 in interest in 2009. We are hoping to get \$150,000. Concerned Citizen – Do you go through 310 and 325 highway administration? Discussion. Concerned Citizen – Knowing the economy will turn around and 2011, can you tap the reserves instead of raising taxes for that year? VanOverbeke – We need six to eight months of reserves. Stomberg- We do have some reserves and yes it could be used. It could be done but it becomes a policy decision. Concerned Citizen – I know the governor has been critical of school districts and cities of having such a high carryover. Knoblauch – On wind energy, I did hear the state was going to try and get some of that. Stensrud – That was their statement to us about what it was going to be. Stomberg- This is the first year that Lyon County is being certified. Concerned Citizen- Does the county know how much the county collects and how much you send in and how much you get back, how do you know how much you send in? Stomberg – I am not aware of any report. I do believe the state has some statistics on that. The tax that comes back to us is not based on what is collected in an area it is based on another area. Concerned Citizen – We could be sending more in than we receive? Knoblauch – We get better then the cities with what we pay in. Concerned Citizen – Is all of that gas tax going to counties or does it go to townships? How many comparables were you able to use this year versus last year on residential, agricultural, and commercial? Champine – Just about everything residential was down. Each town we look at. If you have at least six sales you have to use them to set the average. Stensrud – Any other questions? The budget will be adopted at the December 15 meeting. Concerned Citizen – What are you going to do when land prices go down? Champine- It follows what happens with the sale. We have to look at the sales county wide when setting the ag. Nelson – Sometimes we have farmers with more than one parcel and if they split it? Champine – If one person buys it is one sale.

7:50 p.m. Stensrud adjourned the meeting.

Rodney Stensrud - Chairman

Attest: Loren Stomberg
Lyon County Administrator