

**MINUTES OF THE
OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Otter Tail County Courthouse
Commissioners' Room, Floor 1-B
Tuesday, February 27, 2001
9:30 a.m.**

Call to Order

The Otter Tail County Human Services Board convened Tuesday, February 27, 2001 at 9:33 a.m. at the Otter Tail County Courthouse with Commissioners Roger Froemming, Chair; Dennis Mosher, Vice-Chair; Syd Nelson, Malcolm Lee, and Bob Block present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mosher, second by Lee, to approve the Board agenda of February 27, 2001 with the following changes:

Cancel Respite Care Program Update
Cancel Year 2000 Human Services Annual Report
Add Highway Engineer at 11:45 a.m. - Approval of Contracts
Add Approval to Pay Bills at 11:55 a.m.
Highway Committee Meeting - 2:00 - 2:10 p.m.
Central Lakes Trail Discussion - 2:10 p.m.

Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Nelson, second by Mosher, to approve the Human Services Board minutes of February 13, 2001 as presented. Motion carried.

Proposed Legislation

Court Services Director, Chuck Kitman, reported that the state is supposed to reimburse County Probation Officer (CPO) counties 50% of the probation officers salaries; however, counties are not being reimbursed the full 50%. Proposed legislation will be going to the Corrections Budget Committee in the House to consider the full 50% reimbursement. Mr. Kitman briefed the Board regarding proposed cuts to the juvenile placement grants of 1.7 million dollars. He provided a spreadsheet showing each counties net benefit or reduction as a result of the Red Wing Juvenile Facility proposal.

Public Health Labor Management Committee

Public Health Director, Diane Thorson, presented an organizational chart for the Public Health Department for commissioners' review and comment. Discussion followed. The Public Health Director will present the chart to the Community Health Services Advisory Committee on Thursday after receiving employee and other comments/concerns.

New Commissioner Video Conference

Motion by Lee, second by Nelson, to approve the attendance of Commissioners Bob Block and Dennis Mosher at the New Commissioners Video Conference on March 23rd in Alexandria. Motion carried.

Fraud & Collections Annual Report

Fraud Investigator, J. Allan Anderson, and Fraud Prevention Specialist, Sandra Holo, briefed the Board regarding fraud prevention statistics and welfare fraud statistics for year 2000. Collections Officer, Susan Ulschmid, provided statistics regarding collection referrals and dollars collected during year 2000.

Children's Mental Health LAC Annual Report

Jodi Wentland, Supervisor for Children's Mental Health in the Human Services Department and Eldon Linscheid, Psychologist at Lakeland Mental Health Center, provided an annual report for CY 2000 from the Otter Tail County Children's Mental Health Local Advisory Council (CMH-LAC) as required by Minnesota Statute.

Meal Reimbursement for Volunteer Drivers

Ms. Wentland reported that the volunteer drivers have been reimbursed for their meals based on Otter Tail County's personnel policy. When the personnel policy was recently updated, the meal reimbursement based on the County's policy was not the same as the Medical Assistance guidelines. She reported that there will be a dual rate system to accommodate this difference. For non-MA trips (which are the majority of the trips in the transportation program) the personnel policy will be used and for MA trips, the MA guidelines will be used for purposes of meal reimbursement.

Family Services Collaborative

Human Services Director, John Dinsmore, reported that the County entered into a contract in 1998 with the State and the Family Services Collaborative to manage Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS) funds. The State has requested that an addendum is signed reflecting a statutory change that requires LCTS data to be sent to the State within 20 days or the funds will be delayed for one year. This reporting deadline has been met and has not been an issue except for one school district, and those funds do not have a significant impact. Motion by Block, second by Nelson, to authorize the Chair's signature to execute an addendum to the 1998 contract with the State of Minnesota, County of Otter Tail, and Otter Tail Family Services Collaborative as described above. Motion carried.

Bills & Claims

Motion by Nelson, second by Block, to approve the Human Services bills and claims as presented. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 11:05 a.m., Chair Froemming declared the meeting of the Otter Tail County Human Services Board adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 13, 2001.

Dated: _____ OTTER TAIL COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

By: _____
Roger Froemming, Human Services Board Chair

Attest: _____
Larry Krohn, Clerk

Call to Order

The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners convened Tuesday, February 27, 2001 at 11:13 a.m. at the Otter Tail County Courthouse with Roger Froemming, Chair; Dennis Mosher, Vice-Chair; Syd Nelson, Malcolm Lee, and Bob Block present.

Approval of Agenda

Motion by Mosher, second by Lee, to approve the County Board agenda of February 27, 2001, with the additions previously approved at 9:30 a.m. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Nelson, second by Lee, to approve the County Board minutes of February 20, 2001, as mailed. Motion carried.

BioControl Grant Funds

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Wetland Manager, Kevin Brennan, has written a grant and received \$20,000 for the purpose of biocontrol for invasive plants. Because Otter Tail County already has a process in place for biocontrol on private lands, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife has developed a cooperative agreement to expand what the County has already completed in this area. Motion by Nelson, second by Lee, to authorize the Chair's signature to execute a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Otter Tail County to establish biological controls for invasive/exotic plants on private lands in the County. This agreement provides the grant funds of \$20,000 that could be used for personnel, equipment, etc. to obtain the goals. Motion carried.

Ditch No. 63

Ditch Inspector, Tiny Holm, reported that new tile is being installed to restore a wetland in Ditch No. 63 in Elizabeth Township on the Tom Lee property. All neighbors are in agreement with the plan. Motion by Mosher, second by Block, to approve the wetland project in the Ditch No. 63 system as presented and recommended by the Ditch Inspector. Motion carried with Lee abstaining.

Introduction of New Staff

Extension Educator, Steve Handegaard, introduced District Extension Director, Lee Raeth and Otter Tail County's new Extension Educator, Vince Crary. Discussion took place regarding the collaboration involved between the County and the University of Minnesota and Board members welcomed Mr. Crary to Otter Tail County.

Approval of Highway Contracts

Motion by Lee, second by Mosher, to authorize the Chair's signature to execute a contract between the County of Otter Tail and Mark Sand & Gravel Acquisition Co. to provide the WOT Seasonal Supply of Hot Mix Bituminous Material for the CY 2001 construction season. Motion carried.

Motion by Nelson, second by Mosher, to authorize the Chair's signature to execute a contract between the County of Otter Tail and Sherbrooke Asphalt, Inc. to provide the North Otter Tail Seasonal Supply of Hot Mix Bituminous Material for the CY 2001 construction season. Motion carried with Lee abstaining.

Motion by Froemming, second by Mosher, to authorize the Chair's signature to execute a contract between the County of Otter Tail and Mark Sand & Gravel Acquisition Co. for completion of an

overlay project on CSAH No. 71 and County Highway No. 141, S.A.P. 56-671-04 & Etc. Motion carried.

Approval of Final Payment

Motion by Froemming, second by Nelson, to authorize final payment per estimate No. 6, in the amount of \$10,222.95, payable to Quam Construction Company, Inc, for completion of S.A.P. 56-650-05, Utility Improvements and Street Reconstruction. Motion carried.

Approval to Pay Bills

Motion by Nelson, second by Block, to approve the bills per Attachment A of these minutes which includes the following lodging payments:

Shooting Star Casino
Sheraton Inn
(reimbursable by MCCC)

Assist. Detention Facility Administrator, Allan Keller
Sheriff, Gary Nelson

Motion carried.

Recess & Reconvene

Closed to the Public for Performance Evaluation

At 12:10 p.m., Chair Froemming declared the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners recessed for lunch break and a committee meeting. At 1:11 p.m., Chair Froemming declared the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners closed to the public for the purpose of evaluating the performance of Human Services Director, John Dinsmore, pursuant to M.S. §471.705 Subd. 1d(d). All five seated commissioners were present. A summary of performance conclusions will be provided at the next regular County Board meeting. Upon conclusion of the performance evaluation, Chair Froemming opened the meeting to the public for the remainder of the agenda items.

Central Lakes Trail Discussion

Highway Engineer, Rick West, began discussion regarding the Central Lakes Trail and specifically, the asphalt surfacing of the trail in Otter Tail County. The Pelican Rapids to Maplewood trail project has ceased to exist by action of the Pelican Rapids City Council. This action has freed up federal enhancement dollars in the amount of \$664,000. Those funds are available and it appears that Otter Tail County is in line for the funds with second choice for placement being Douglas County. Mr. West introduced Brad Monson of MnDOT, who works with transportation partnership project schedules and transportation improvement programs. Others in attendance included Stephanie Hoff and Steve Emerson representing the Fergus Falls Chamber of Commerce; Ron Spangler, Trail Committee member; Al Leifort, Douglas County Public Works Department; Mark Jorgenson and Brian Armstrong, OCTA members; and Bruce Winterfeldt in charge of trails for the DNR.

Mr. West provided a handout with four options for the County Board to consider. The funds are federal enhancement dollars available in CY 2001 which means that the funds must be encumbered by April 15, 2001. This requires the project plans to be in the MnDOT central office by April 15, 2001. Mr. West reviewed the four options as follows:

- 1) Proceed with project utilizing Enhancement Funds (\$664,000) and local matching funds (\$166,000) from Fergus Falls. County provides engineering and future maintenance. Trail remains under local control.

- 2) Proceed with project utilizing Enhancement Funds (\$664,000) and local matching funds (\$166,000) from the City of Fergus Falls. The County provides engineering and future maintenance. Trail remains under local control until legislation is passed transferring the trail to the DNR.
- 3) Support approval of legislation transferring trail to the DNR. The County would take no action in surfacing of the trail.
- 4) Do Nothing

Commissioner Lee emphasized the importance of using these funds in Otter Tail County. Commissioner Block questioned the local match of \$166,000. Stephanie Hoff, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, provided a memo guaranteeing the local match through available funding options. Lengthy discussion followed regarding the benefits of paving the trail, the dual use of the trail with snowmobiles and bikers/hikers, ingress to the trail, current pending legislation to transfer ownership of the trail to the DNR, and studs on snowmobiles.

Commissioner Mosher stated that this trail is all in the third district and he expressed concern that he hasn't had an opportunity to learn his constituents' opinions and does not want controversy between snowmobilers and hikers/bikers. Brian Armstrong of OCTA addressed several snowmobile issues and requested better communication between the Central Lakes Trail Committee and the snowmobile clubs.

Motion by Block, second by Lee, to approve Option No. 1 (as previously stated) to utilize the enhancement funds to pave the Central Lakes Trail in Otter Tail County with the understanding that this would change to Option 2 (as previously stated) if the proposed legislation is passed to transfer ownership of the trail to the DNR. Chair Froemming called for a roll call vote:

Commission District Five	Commissioner Block	Yea
Commission District Two	Commissioner Lee	Yea
Commission District One	Commissioner Nelson	Yea
Commission District Four	Commissioner Froemming	Yea
Commission District Three	Commissioner Mosher	Nay

Labor Contracts

Motion by Lee, second by Nelson, to authorize the Chair's signature to execute three Collective Bargaining Agreements with the Sheriff's Department unions. Motion carried.

Adjournment

At 3:28 p.m., a motion was offered by Block and seconded by Lee, to declare the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners adjourned until 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, March 6, 2001. Motion carried.

Dated: _____ OTTER TAIL COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

By: _____
Roger Froemming, Human Services Board Chair

Attest: _____
Larry Krohn, Clerk

