

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

**Otter Tail County Courthouse
Commissioners' Room, Floor 1-B
Tuesday, June 5, 2001
9:30 a.m.**

Call to Order

The Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners convened Tuesday, June 5, 2001, at 9:31 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 Nelson, second by Mosher, and unanimously carried to approve the County Board agenda of June 5, 2001, as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Lee, second by Block, and unanimously carried to approve the County Board minutes of May 22, 2001, as mailed.

West Central Initiative (WCI) Update

WCI Fund Development Director, Wes Binner, briefed the Board on the projects WCI has been working on the past year as well as the loans and grants obtained for these various projects throughout the region. A portfolio of program information was provided. Mr. Binner noted that the work of WCI could not be done without the help and support of a number of local government organizations. Last year, WCI was third in the state for grant and loan activities. The Initiative Fund is working with the rural health network and provides a host of programs and activities for rural farmers. EDA Planning Specialist, Mike Schreiner, briefed the Board on the Picture Painted Program; WesMN.net, a telecommunications planning effort; and e-commerce training. He noted that a new program will begin this fall to gather information on a regional level to help identify the needs for cities and to educate policy-makers for the need for additional funding. Mr. Schreiner requested approval of the year 2001 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy.

**Resolution in Support of
2001 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
for West Central Minnesota
Otter Tail County Resolution No. 2001 - 31**

Commissioner Lee offered the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, West Central Initiative has prepared a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) for the region containing Becker, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, Traverse, and Wilkin Counties of Minnesota (west central Minnesota); and

WHEREAS, the CEDS contains analysis, economic data, economic development projects, and goals and objectives for the betterment of the region; and

WHEREAS, Availability of an approved CEDS and related annual updates are a condition for qualifying for grants for local economic development projects from the Economic Development Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners of Otter Tail County, Minnesota, approves the 2001 Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy for west central Minnesota.

Commissioner Nelson seconded the motion, and upon being put to vote, was unanimously carried.

Adopted this 5th day of June, 2001.

Dated: _____ OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Roger Froemming, County Board Chair

Attest: _____
Larry Krohn, Clerk

Mr. Binner requested consideration for future funding from Otter Tail County. He stated that a letter was sent to County Coordinator, Larry Krohn, requesting \$76,061 over a five year period between 2002 - 2006 which would be matched by McKnight dollars. The letter sent to Mr. Krohn will be referred to the Budget Committee.

Final Plat - "Loll's Lakeshore"

Motion by Froemming, second by Lee, and carried with Mosher abstaining, to approve the final plat of Duane & Mary Loll known as "Loll's Lakeshore" located in Section 12, Township 134, R. 41 in Maine Township on Pickerel Lake (56-475).

Approval to Pay Bills

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

Comfort Suites

Maintenance Lead Worker, Doug Cannell

Motion carried.

Software for E-911 System GeoCom Software for Mapping

Chief Deputy, Mark Morris, and GIS Addressing Coordinator, Brian Armstrong, requested purchase of software from GeoCom to provide a map location when a 911 call is received. The cost is \$25,000 for two licenses and some hardware upgrades may be necessary. The cost will be paid from tariffs collected from phone bills. Motion by Lee, second by Block, and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of the GeoCom mapping software for E-911 purposes in the amount of \$25,000 as presented.

Motion by Lee, second by Mosher, and unanimously carried to approve the purchase of a software upgrade for the current E-911 system through Independent Emergency Services (IES) and CML in the amount of \$8,000 to be paid from tariff phone funds.

Proposed Canine Unit Program

Chief Deputy, Mark Morris, and Officer, Scott Koenicke, briefed the Board on the money already raised as well as pledges for the proposed Canine Program. The dog will be purchased and a vehicle outfitted with a kennel, etc. Training for the officer and dog will be next September. Mr. Morris noted that the program may require County financial support to get started until all of the

pledges are received. Commissioners gave general consensus to support the program.

Underwood Municipal Water System

Underwood Mayor, Carlton Mortensen, requested a letter of intent from Otter Tail County to cooperate with the rural development. The City of Underwood is applying for funding and the County wants to coordinate street work along with the underground work. Motion by Mosher, second by Block, and unanimously carried to authorize the Chair's signature on a letter of intent to coordinate City/County work on County Road No. 35 and to proceed jointly with this project in the City of Underwood when the City has the funding required.

Recess and Reconvene

At 10:42 a.m., Chair Froemming recessed the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners for a short break. The meeting was reconvened 10:50 a.m.

Coalition of Lake Associations (COLA) Water Booklet

COLA Environmental Officer, Gary Cruff, presented the 2000 Ottertail County COLA booklet of water statistics. Mr. Cruff reviewed several areas of the book including Sechi Transparency data, Ordinary High Water Levels (OHWL), and TSI Index of a number of lakes in Otter Tail County. Commissioners thanked Mr. Cruff and will study the data presented.

Concerns Expressed

Lakeshore Owner, Joe Honrud, expressed concern that a permit is required to build an 8 x 10 shed that is moveable. The requirement is not a state requirement but is regulated in the Otter Tail County Shoreland Management Ordinance. He stated that the Land & Resource Department should be more of an educational department and less enforcing. He expressed concern with the interpretation of the SMO laws. County Attorney, David Hauser, stated that the main function of the Land & Resource Department is to provide orderly development on our lakes. Discussion took place regarding inspections and the need for a plan to be presented to the Land & Resource Department before the inspector's go on-site. Land & Resource Director, Bill Kalar, clarified when site permits, grade & fill permits, etc. are required. Chair Froemming requested that Mr. Honrud present his concerns in writing and requested that he appear at the public hearing when changes to the Shoreland Management Ordinance are considered.

Approval of Licenses

Motion by Nelson, second by Mosher, and unanimously carried to approve the following applications for license:

John Miller Big Pine Resort	On/Off-Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor
**Jodie Collins Collins Landing	Off-Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor
*Douglas J. Trana Doug and Mary's Rest.	On/Off-Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor
*Elmer Neumann Elmer's Texas Bar-B-Q	On-Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor
*Allen Chase Ethel Beach Resort & Rest.	On-Sale Wine On-Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor

*Mary J. Wallace Hamburger Hollow	On/Off- Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor
Marvin Heisler Heisler's Country Store	Off-sale 3.2 Malt Liquor
*Craig Ronning Hidden Acres	On/Off-Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor
Marlene Brown Huckleberry's Bar & Grille LLP	Tobacco
Ted and Joan Van Grinsven T.J.'s on the Lake Inc.	On-Sale Liquor Sunday Liquor
*Gail Suko Ye Olde School House	On/Off-Sale 3.2 Malt Liquor
***Tom Hanson Zorbaz of Little Pine Lake, Inc.	On-sale Liquor Sunday Liquor

*Subject to the approval of the County Attorney's office.

**Subject to the approval of the County Attorney's office and to the approval of the Star Lake Township.

***Subject to the approval of the township.

Approval of Application for Exempt Permit

The Holy Cross Church in New York Mills, MN has submitted an Application for Exempt Permit for an event scheduled for September 9, 2001, at the Holy Cross Church Parish Hall. Motion by Nelson, second by Mosher, and unanimously carried to authorize the County Auditor to acknowledge the application as submitted and to note that Otter Tail County approves the application with a 30-day waiting period, and allows the Gambling Control Board to issue a permit after 30 days.

Approval to Obtain Estimate for Sealing a Well

Motion by Nelson, second by Froemming, and unanimously carried to authorize the County Auditor to obtain quotations for the sealing of an unused well located on tax forfeited property in the Northwest of the Northwest of the Southwest Quarter, Section 11, Township 137N, Range 38W, of Corliss Township in Otter Tail County.

Approval of Credit Card

Motion by Mosher, second by Nelson, and carried with Block and Lee opposed, to approve an application for an Otter Tail County Credit Card for Assistant Land & Resource Director, Tim Griep. This credit card is the 50th card to be issued to employees. Commissioners expressed that they did not wish to explore changing the policy to exceed the 50 credit cards.

Recess & Reconvene

At 11:50 a.m., Chair Froemming recessed the meeting of the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners for a Budget Committee meeting and lunch break. The County Board meeting was reconvened in open session at 1:16 p.m.

Phelps Mill Bridge

Maine Town Board Chairman, Gerald Kusnierek, presented an Engineer's report completed by Interstate Engineering, Inc. in Fergus Falls entitled "Rehabilitation or Replacement of Maine Township Bridge LO885 near Phelps Mill in Otter Tail, Minnesota. Mr. Kusnierek requested that Otter Tail County take over the Phelps Mill Bridge project because the residents of Maine Township shouldn't pay for a bridge that everyone in the County shares. Lengthy discussion took place regarding the ownership of the bridge. Chris Schuelke from the Historical Society noted that the historical value and location of the bridge are the key reasons to try to keep the bridge, possibly as a pedestrian walkway. Highway Engineer, Rick West, noted that ISTEPA funding may be available for historical structures. Liability issues were discussed. Commissioners directed the County Attorney to research ownership, liability, etc. and return to the Board regarding the bridge in two weeks.

Bid Opening - Snowplow Trucks

Motion by Nelson, second by Lee, and unanimously carried to postpone the bid opening for two snowplow trucks to 1:00 p.m. on June 20, 2001.

Approval of Agreement for Shared Highway Equipment

Motion by Lee, second by Nelson, and unanimously carried to authorize the Chair's signature to execute an agreement for equipment exchange between the County of Otter Tail and County of Becker.

Approval of Amendment to the Supervisory Essential Unit Labor Agreement

Motion by Lee, second by Froemming, and unanimously carried to authorize the Chair's signature to execute an amendment to the Labor Agreement between the County of Otter Tail and the Sheriff's Department Supervisory Essential Unit.

Approval of Sentence to Service (STS) Contract

Motion by Mosher, second by Froemming, and unanimously carried to authorize the Chair's signature to execute a State of Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement between the State Corrections Department and the County of Otter Tail which provides the County funding for FY02 and FY03 for the Sentence-to-Service Program.

Independence Day Parade Approved

Motion by Mosher, second by Lee, and unanimously carried to approve the annual Independence Day parade on July 1st at 1:00 p.m. on the west side of Otter Tail Lake. This approval is subject to the approval of the Sheriff's Department, proof of insurance, and that Otter Tail County is held harmless relative to liability.

County Board of Commissioners Meeting Location Changed

Motion by Froemming, second by Mosher, and unanimously carried to change the location for the County Board of Commissioners' meeting on August 14, 2001, from the Commissioners' room in the Otter Tail County Courthouse to the New York Mills offices. The meeting will convene at 9:30 a.m., the regularly scheduled time.

Adjournment

At 2:17 p.m., Chair Froemming declared the Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners meeting adjourned until Tuesday, June 12, 2001.

Dated: _____

OTTER TAIL COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

By: _____
Roger Froemming, County Board Chair

Attest: _____
Larry Krohn, Clerk

CB/kd

Enc.