

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 21st day of July, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Chairperson J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Galen "Tweet" Tveit, Brian Napstad, Laurie Westerlund, Paul Bailey, County Administrator Patrick Wussow, and Central Services Secretary Nicole Visnovec.

CALL TO ORDER

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Tveit and carried, all members voting yes to approve the July 21, 2009 amended agenda.

APPROVED AGENDA

Motion by Commissioner Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to acknowledge the July 14, 2009 meeting minutes.

ACKNOWLEDGE MINUTES

Motion by Commissioner Tveit seconded by Commissioner Westerlund carried, all members voting yes, to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: Correspondence File: July 14, 2009 – July 20, 2009; B) Approve Minutes: July 7, 2009 Board; C) Approve Auditor Warrants – Sales and Use Tax – General Fund \$1,219.27, Road & Bridge \$1,408.96, Health & Human Services \$4.55, State \$7,605.50, Trust \$46.15, Forest Development \$51.72, Long Lake Conservation Center \$70.66 for a total of \$10,406.81; D) Approve Commissioner Warrants – General Fund \$217,837.20, Road & Bridge \$79,639.34, Health & Human Services \$1,093.35, Ditch \$200.00, State \$695.00, Trust \$7,186.93, Forest Development \$11,308.09, Long Lake Conservation Center \$10,247.71 for a total of \$328,207.62; E) Approve Duplicate of Lost Warrant – Refund Check #27539 – Aitkin Sno Drifters in the amount of \$3,426.30; F) Approve Separation Agreement with Brenda DeMars; G) Removed from Consent Agenda; H) Approve ATV Grant Request – "65 Loop" Trail; I) Donation Request – Hay Probe to Aitkin Public Schools; J) Approve Purchase of NAS Device – Computer Memory Expansion; K) Letter of Support for Mille Lacs Energy Grant.

CONSENT AGENDA

Under the consent agenda a motion for a resolution by Commissioner Tveit, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following ATV Grant Request – "65 Loop" Trail:

**RESOLUTION 072109-72
ATV GRANT REQUEST "65 LOOP" TRAIL**

WHEREAS, Aitkin County is the sponsor of the Redtop ATV grant, and

WHEREAS, this new trail would connect the South Soo Line ATV trail to the Redtop trail in a loop, and

WHEREAS, the new ATV grant would connect the ATV trail to the City of McGrath and to businesses along Hwy 65 thereby adding gas stop and food service areas for the ATV riders without causing the riders to be off the trail,

BE IT RESOLVED, that Aitkin County supports the addition of an ATV trail along Hwy 65 as proposed in the enclosed grant application.

Under the consent agenda a motion for a resolution by Commissioner Tveit, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following letter of support for Mille Lacs Energy Cooperative as included in the Board packet.

APPROVE LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR MLEC

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following Resolution Restoring the Partnership for

American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System:

WHEREAS, experts from across the political spectrum agree that America’s health system is “broken” and unsustainable in its present configuration; and

WHEREAS, families in Aitkin County are experiencing this crisis right now, confronting the high cost of health care that threatens their financial stability, leaves them exposed to higher premiums and deductibles, and puts them at risk for a possible loss of health insurance; and

WHEREAS, employer-sponsored health insurance premiums have nearly doubled in recent years making it increasingly difficult for employers, including county governments, to provide health insurance coverage for their employees and retirees; and

WHEREAS, millions of Americans do not have health coverage, or have inadequate coverage and as our economic challenges multiply, the problem of health care access grows, further straining counties’ capacity to provide care for the uninsured, underinsured and medically indigent; and

WHEREAS, county officials are elected to protect the health and welfare of their constituents: and

WHEREAS, Aitkin County pays in excess of \$600,000 for behavioral health, non-grant funded public health, jail health, non federal/state share of Medicaid, etc.; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties (NACo) Health System Reform Working Group, appointed by President Don Stapley in July 2008 and chaired by President-Elect Valerie Brown, has held three regional hearings to explore the health crisis and to hear what county officials believe should be done about it and has summarized its findings in *Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System* [See Attached 3 pages] which was approved and adopted by resolution of the NACo Health Steering Committee and Board of Directors on March 9, 2009.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Aitkin County endorses NACo’s health reform principles, as summarized in *Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System*; namely, that reform legislation should

1. restore the partnership between county and federal governments;
2. provide access to affordable, quality health care to all;
3. invest in public health, including health promotion and disease and injury prevention;
4. stabilize and strengthen the local health care safety net system, especially Medicaid and disproportional share hospital (DSH) payments;
5. invest in the development of the health professional and paraprofessional workforce;
6. ensure that county health agencies have the resources to meaningfully use health information technology;
7. enable elderly and disabled persons to receive the services they need in the least restrictive environment; and
8. reform the delivery and financing of health services in the jail system.

**RESOLUTION
072109-73
RESOLUTION
RESTORING THE
PARTNERSHIP
FOR AMERICAN
HEALTH:
COUNTIES IN A
21ST CENTURY
HEALTH SYSTEM**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board strongly urges the 111th Congress of the United States to enact NACO *Restoring the Partnership for American Health: Counties in a 21st Century Health System*.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Aitkin County is not taking an official position regarding the current healthcare reform debate in Washington D.C.

The Board heard a presentation from Lori Grams, Aitkin County Treasurer on the 2nd Quarter 2009 Investment report.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Bailey and carried, all members voting yes to approve Out of State Travel for Doug Pearson, Environmental Health Specialist to attend the National Environmental Health Association’s fall conference located in Okoboji, Iowa from September 20th – 24th.

Motion by Commissioner Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Tveit and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following increase of water lab sample fee to \$50.00, fee to increw September 1, 2009.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Bailey and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following, administrative amendments to pool ordinance and lodging ordinance as presented in the board packet.

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator reviewed the 2nd quarter (January – June 2009) revenues and expenditures report.

During the meeting, the Board heard updates on the following committees: i) CMCC, ii) HRA, iii) Planning and Zoning, iv) ACAT, v) MHB, vi) MRCC, vii) Lakes and Pines, viii) ARDC, ix) Park Board.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 10:26 a.m. until Tuesday, July 28, 2009 at 9:45 a.m.

J. Mark Wedel, Chairperson
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

**2ND QUARTER
REPORT**

**OUT OF STATE
TRAVEL**

**INCREASE WATER
LAB FEE**

**ADMINISTRATIVE
AMENDMENTS TO
POOL & LODGING**

**2ND QUARTER
REVENUES AND
EXPENDITURES**

**COMMITTEE
UPDATES**

ADJOURN