

AITKIN COUNTY BOARD

March 9, 2010

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 9th day of March, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. with the following members present: Chairperson Paul Bailey, Commissioners Galen "Tweet" Tveit, Laurie Westerlund, J. Mark Wedel, County Administrator Patrick Wussow, and Deputy Recorder Sue Bingham. Commissioner Brian Napstad was absent.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Tveit and carried, all members voting yes to approve the March 9, 2010 agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Tveit, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to acknowledge the February 23, 2010 County Board minutes.

Motion by Commissioner Tveit, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Correspondence File: February 23, 2010 – March 8, 2010; B) Approve County Board Minutes: February 9, 2010; C) Approve Committee of the Whole minutes: February 9, 2010; D) Approve Resolution for Off Sale Liquor License for Willey's Sports Shop & Spirits; E) Approve Resolution for Exempt Permit – Form LG220 – of the NWTF Dead Moose River Longbeards; F) Approve 2011 Fire Protection Contract-City of Palisade for Unorg Twsp 50-26, 51-25, 49-27, 50-27 and 50-25 G) Approve Equipment Purchase for Road & Bridge; H) Approve Resolution for Grant Contract to conduct the CVSO Veterans Service Enhancement Project; I) Approve Request to Gather Quotes for Possible Replacement of Motor Pool Vehicles; J) Approve February Manual Warrants: General Fund \$62,820.83, Road & Bridge \$7,284.78, Health & Human Services \$1,157.43, State \$33,722.26, Trust \$11,839.96, Agency \$71,944.00, Long Lake Conservation Center \$982.46 for a total of \$189,751.72; a) Approve Auditor Warrants – Gas Tax Allocation: Agency \$282,732.54; b) Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Fund \$137,987.02, Road & Bridge \$42,828.10, Health & Human Services \$1,313.52, State \$278.87, Trust \$15,382.07, Forest Development \$589.88, Agency \$97.08, Long Lake Conservation Center \$8,429.46, for a total of \$206,906.00; c) Approve Resolution for Permit – LG240B – Busy Beavers 4-H Club

Under the consent agenda a motion for a resolution by Commissioner Tveit, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Off Sale Liquor License for Willey's Sports Shop & Spirits:

BE IT RESOLVED, The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the following liquor license for a period ending December 31, 2010:

"OFF" Sale:

Minnewawa Partners LLC., dba **Willey's Sports Shop & Spirits** – Shamrock Township

This establishment has an address of 46026 State Highway 65, McGregor, MN 55760

Under the consent agenda a motion for a resolution by Commissioner Tveit, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to approve Exempt Permit – Form LG220 – of the NWTF Dead Moose River Longbeards:

BE IT RESOLVED, The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the Application for Exempt Permit – Form LG220 – of the NWTF Dead Moose River Longbeards, at the following location – Jackson's Hole, which has an address of 36232 Kestrel Ave., McGregor, MN 55760 – Salo Township. (Note: Date of activity for Raffle – April 24th, 2010)

CALL TO ORDER

**APPROVED
AGENDA**

**ACKNOWLEDGE
MINUTES**

**CONSENT
AGENDA**

**RESOLUTION
030910-24 LIQUOR
LICENSE
WILLEY'S SPORTS
SHOP & SPIRITS**

**RESOLUTION
030910-25
EXEMPT PERMIT –
NWTF DEAD
MOOSE RIVER
LONGBEARDS**

Motion by Commissioner Tveit, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to approve the purchase of the following Road & Bridge equipment:

Ford 4WD extended cab pickup truck in the amount of \$22,150.00 and a Ford crew cab pickup truck in the amount of \$24,367.00 - both from Aitkin Motors.

Under the consent agenda a motion for a resolution by Commissioner Tveit, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to approve the FY10 CVSO Veterans Service Enhancement Project Grant.

BE IT RESOLVED by **Aitkin County** that the County enter into the **Grant Contract** with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the following project: **FY10 CVSO Veterans Service Enhancement Project**. This grant must be used to enhance the operations of the County Veterans Service Office under Minn. Stat. 197.608 Subd. 4(a), and should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by **Aitkin County** that the County Veterans Service Officer, **Penny Harms** be authorized to execute the Grant Contract for the above-mentioned project on behalf of the County.

Under the consent agenda a motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo - Form LG240B - of the **Busy Beavers 4-H Club**:

BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners agrees to approve the Application to Conduct Excluded Bingo - Form LG240B - of the **Busy Beavers 4-H Club**, at the Rice River Town Hall, which has an address of 32270 State Highway 65, McGregor, MN 55760 – Rice River Township. (Note: Dates of activity for Bingo – March 21, 2010 & March 28, 2010).

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Tveit with all members voting yes to approve holding a Public Hearing for the Spencer Township Road Exchange. The hearing date is expected to be set at the March 23rd County Board meeting.

John Welle, County Engineer discussed with the Board the seasonal road restrictions and the Road and Bridge construction items.

Final payment of S.A.P. 01-605-11 was tabled until a later date.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Tveit with all members voting yes to approve the Change Order for S.P. 01-610-21.

Terry Neff, Environmental Services Director presented to the Board the 2009 Environmental Services Annual Report.

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following Designating Operating Reserves:

**EQUIPMENT
PURCHASE FOR
ROAD & BRIDGE**

**RESOLUTION
030910-26
FY10 CVSO
VETERANS
SERVICE
ENHANCEMENT
PROJECT GRANT**

**RESOLUTION
030210-23
EXCLUDED BINGO
BUSY BEAVERS
4-H CLUB**

**SPENCER
TOWNSHIP ROAD
EXCHANGE**

**SEASONAL ROAD
RESTRICTIONS**

**FINAL PAYMENT
S.A.P. 01-605-11**

**CHANGE ORDER
S.P. 01-610-21**

**ENVIRONMENTAL
SERVICES 2009
ANNUAL REPORT**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 375.18 provides the power of the County Board to manage county funds and business and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles allow counties to designate unreserved fund balance;

WHEREAS, The Minnesota State Legislature and various members of the executive branch have discussed utilizing city, township, and county fund balances as part of the solution for the \$4.6 billion state deficit;

WHEREAS, During the last state audit the Office of the State Auditor recommended to the County Auditor and County Administrator that Aitkin County should designate around 6 months of undesignated fund balance for county operations;

WHEREAS, On March 31, 2003 the Office of the State Auditor released their “Statement of Position on Fund Balances for Counties”;

WHEREAS, The Office of the State Auditor’s official position stated that counties should have an amount of unreserved fund balance in the general and special revenue funds between 35 and 50% of fund operating revenues or no less than five months of operating expenditures;

WHEREAS, On December 31, 2009 Aitkin County had an unrestricted fund balance of \$12,343,159 or 45% of the adopted 2010 operating budget of \$27,267,033;

WHEREAS, On December 31, 2009 Aitkin County had an unrestricted fund balance of \$12,343,159 or 5 months and 25.8 days of the adopted 2010 operating budget of \$27,267,033;

WHEREAS, Aitkin County taxpayers have paid property taxes that contribute to the appropriate level of Aitkin County fund balance;

WHEREAS, Aitkin County receives no local property tax payments or state aid payments prior to May of each calendar year therefore it is necessary for county government to maintain around 5 months of fund balance for operations between January and May of each year;

WHEREAS, Aitkin County believes it is appropriate and the counties fiduciary responsibility to comply with the recommendation of the Office of the State Auditor, to protect the financial well being of Aitkin County, and to protect the money of it’s citizens;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Aitkin County hereby reserves \$12,343,159 of its unrestricted fund balance for the purpose of maintaining the operations of the County and complying with the recommendation of the Office of the State Auditor’s recommendation on

**RESOLUTION
030910-27
DESIGNATING
OPERATING
RESERVES**

fund balances. This amount equals 45% of the 2010 operating budget or 5 months and 25.8 days of operations

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Tveit and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following Designating Reserve Fund Balance:

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 375.18 provides the power of the County Board to manage county funds and business and Generally Accepted Accounting Principles allow counties to designate unreserved fund balance;

WHEREAS, The Minnesota State Legislature and various members of the executive branch have discussed utilizing city, township, and county fund balances as part of the solution for the multi- billion dollar state deficit for 2003 and 2009;

WHEREAS, Aitkin County taxpayers have paid property taxes that contribute to the appropriate level of Aitkin County fund balance;

WHEREAS, The Office of the State Auditor’s official position stated that counties should have an amount of unreserved fund balance in the general and special revenue funds between 35 and 50% of fund operating revenues or no less than five months of operating expenditures;

WHEREAS, Aitkin County believes it is appropriate and the counties fiduciary responsibility to comply with the recommendation of the Office of the State Auditor, to protect the financial well being of Aitkin County, and to protect the money of it’s citizens;

WHEREAS, Aitkin County already designated reserves \$12,343,157 of its unrestricted fund balance for the purpose of maintaining the operations of the County and complying with the recommendation of the Office of the State Auditor’s recommendation on fund balances. This amount equals 45% of the 2010 operating budget or 5 months and 25.8 days of operations.

WHEREAS, The County Board has determined it has several long term Capital Projects that need funding dedicated by the County Board,

WHEREAS, These long term projects will have significant beneficial effects on the long term well being of the County and its residents,

WHEREAS, The projects and reserve amounts are suggested as follows:

Great River Road	\$3,000,000.00
Public Safety Communication	\$3,800,000.00
Courthouse Building 20 Year Plan	\$5,000,000.00
Loss of State Aid	\$500,000.00

**RESOLUTION
030910-28
DESIGNATING
RESERVE FUND
BALANCE**

Economic Development \$500,000.00

WHEREAS, These Reserve designations along with the operating reserve Resolution #030910-027, do not include the restricted fund balances from the Land Department, Health and Human Services, Solid Waste, Road and Bridge, Debt Services funds as examples.

WHEREAS, These funds are reserved for these projects, however County Board Action is required prior to any major expenditure in addition to verifying a need for any expenditure, additionally these figures will be reviewed annually,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Aitkin County hereby reserves and the following for long term capital projects to maintain the smooth operation of the County

Great River Road	\$3,000,000.00
Public Safety Communication	\$3,800,000.00
Courthouse Building 20 Year Plan	\$5,000,000.00
Loss of State Aid	\$500,000.00
Economic Development	\$500,000.00

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator discussed with the Board the upcoming AMC Legislative Conference scheduled for March 24th and 25th.

Break 10:19 to 10:29.

During the meeting, the Board heard updates on the following committees: i) Library, ii) Economic Development, iii) Sobriety Court, iv) Mille Lacs Fishery, v) Onanegozie, vi) H&HS, vii) MRCC, viii) Airport, ix) Historical Society.

The Board discussed future Sentenced to Serve funding options.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Tveit and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 11:22 a.m. until Tuesday, March 23, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

Paul Bailey, Chairperson
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator

**AMC
LEGISLATIVE
CONFERENCE**

BREAK

**COMMITTEE
UPDATES**

STS

ADJOURN