

# AITKIN COUNTY BOARD

July 6, 2010

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 6th day of July, 2010 at 9:02 a.m. with the following members present: Chairperson Paul Bailey, Commissioners Galen "Tweet" Tveit, Laurie Westerlund, J. Mark Wedel, Brian Napstad, County Administrator Patrick Wussow, and Administrative Assistant Sue Bingham.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Tveit and carried, all members voting yes to approve the July 6, 2010 agenda.

**APPROVED  
AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Tveit, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to acknowledge the June 22, 2010 County Board minutes.

**ACKNOWLEDGE  
MINUTES**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows: A) Correspondence File: June 22, 2010 – July 5, 2010; B) Approve County Board Minutes: June 8, 2010; C) Approve Board of Equalization Minutes: June 15, 2010; D) Approve Auditor Warrants: Tax Settlement Payments - Agency \$2,818,824.62; E) Approve Commissioner Warrants: General Fund \$254,969.53, Road & Bridge \$375,681.56, Health & Human Services \$14,205.40, Trust \$11,750.01, Forest Development \$20,317.02, Long Lake Conservation Center \$3,303.12 for a total of \$680,226.64; F) Approve Resolution Appointing Election Judges for the Mail Balloting Precincts for the 2010 Primary and General Election; G) Approve Duplicates of Lost Warrants: Check #32049 - City of Palisade \$19,583.88 and Check #30647 - Beaver Township \$4,919.60; H) Approve Resolution – 2010 Boat & Water Federal Safety Enforcement Supplemental Agreement – Equipment/Supplies Grant - \$4,799.00

**CONSENT  
AGENDA**

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following resolution for Appointing Election Judges for the Mail Balloting Precincts for the 2010 Primary and General Election:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners appoints the following persons to serve as Election Judges for the Mail Balloting Precincts for the 2010 Primary and General Election:

**RESOLUTION  
070610-054  
ELECTION  
JUDGES**

**Head Judges:**

Jacqueline Armstead  
Carla Emons  
Denise Lee  
Jolene Ganson  
Pamela Carlson  
Debra Goble

**Election Judges:**

Lucille Franzen  
Becky Sovde  
Marcia Hills  
Kay Despard  
Kate LeClair

Sue Bingham  
Sarah Nelson  
Alan Monroe  
Kara Hagen  
Nancy Eddy  
Judy Blomberg

Under the consent agenda, motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following resolution for 2010 Boat & Water Federal Safety Enforcement Supplemental Agreement – Equipment/Supplies Grant:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners approve the 2010 Federal Boating Safety Enforcement Supplemental Agreement – Equipment/Supplies Grant file in the Office of the County Auditor and authorize the Aitkin County Sheriff, County Board Chair and County Auditor to sign the agreement in the amount of \$4,799.00 for the term of July 1, 2010, through September 14, 2010.

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator, recognized employees for their years of service.

Mike Dangers, County Assessor discussed large tract land adjustments and land classifications with the Board.

Mark Jacobs, Land Commissioner discussed the Patnode/County Land Exchange with the Board. He advised the Board that as soon as two contingencies are finalized, the exchange can proceed. Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the following resolution for the Patnode/County Land Exchange:

**WHEREAS**, a proposal for a land exchange has been received from Jeff Patnode of 108 Air Park Dr. Aitkin, Mn. 56431 for the following parcels of land:

**COUNTY OWNED:**

That part of Government Lot 10, Section 24, Township 47, Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of said Government Lot 10; thence North 89 degrees 19 minutes 53 seconds East, assumed bearing, 611.40 feet along the south line of said Lot 10 to the point of beginning of the tract to be described: thence South 89 degrees 19 minutes 53 seconds West 85.23 feet along said south line; thence North 02 degrees 44 minutes 46 seconds West 205.14 feet; thence North 87 degrees 17 minutes 45 seconds East 45.00 feet; thence North 02 degrees 44 minutes 46 seconds West 60.00 feet; thence North 87 degrees 17 minutes 45 seconds East 40.17 feet; thence South 02 degrees 44 minutes 46 seconds East 268.17 feet to the point of beginning.

Said tract contains 20,011 square feet, more or less.

**PRIVATELY OWNED:**

That part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 47,

**RESOLUTION  
070610-055  
EQUIPMENT/  
SUPPLIES GRANT**

**EMPLOYEE  
RECOGNITION**

**LAND  
CLASSIFICATIONS  
& COUNTY LAND  
APPRAISAL  
PROCESS**

**RESOLUTION  
070610-056  
PATNODE/  
COUNTY LAND  
EXCHANGE**

Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota, lying westerly of a line parallel with and 126 feet easterly of (as measured at right angles) the west line of said Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, AND lying southerly of a line which is 200 feet northerly of

(as measured at right angles) and parallel with the centerline of the now abandoned Soo line Railroad Company’s railroad main track, as the same was located across said Section 24.

AND

The east 106 feet of that part of Government Lot 10 of Section 24, Township 47, Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota, which lies southerly of a line which is 200 feet northerly of (as measured at right angles) and parallel with the centerline of the now abandoned Soo line Railroad Company’s railroad main track, as the same was located across said Section 24.

AND

The north 15 feet of that part of Government Lot 10 of Section 24, Township 47, Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota, which lies southerly of a line which is 200 feet northerly of (as measured at right angles) and parallel with the centerline of the now abandoned Soo line Railroad Company’s railroad main track, as the same was located across said Section 24 and which lies east of a line 611 feet east of the west line of said Government Lot 10.

Said entire tract contains 79,998 square feet, more or less.

**WHEREAS**, the County Board is by law designated with the authority to enter into this land exchange,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, After a hearing held on the 27<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2010 at 1:00 PM for the purpose of hearing for or against said land exchange, this hearing being held in the Courthouse in the City of Aitkin, Minnesota,

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the appraisal of the lands involved in this exchange and the exchange itself are hereby approved.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any and all mortgages, liens, etc. against the private land involved in this exchange be paid and the documents showing such payment and satisfaction be recorded with the Aitkin County Recorder before completion of this land exchange.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the lands exchanged hereunder are subject to the Zoning Ordinances adopted by the County Board and all lands are subject to railway and highway easements, power and pipeline easements and subject to all flowage rights.

**County Owned LAND**

**DESCRIPTION**

**Appraised Value**

That part of Government Lot 10, Section 24, Township 47, Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota, described as follows: Commencing at the southwest corner of said Government Lot 10; thence North 89 degrees 19 minutes 53 seconds East, assumed bearing, 611.40 feet along the south line of said Lot 10 to the point of beginning of the tract to be described: thence South 89 degrees 19 minutes 53 seconds West 85.23 feet along said south line; thence North 02 degrees 44 minutes 46 seconds West 205.14 feet; thence North 87 degrees 17 minutes 45 seconds East 45.00 feet; thence North 02 degrees 44 minutes 46 seconds West 60.00 feet; thence North 87 degrees 17 minutes 45 seconds East 40.17 feet; thence South 02 degrees 44 minutes 46 seconds East 268.17 feet to the point of beginning.

Said tract contains 20,011 square feet, more or less. \$60,033.00

**Private LAND**

**DESCRIPTION**

**Appraised Value**

That part of the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 24, Township 47, Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota, lying westerly of a line parallel with and 126 feet easterly of (as measured at right angles) the west line of said Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter, AND lying southerly of a line which is 200 feet northerly of (as measured at right angles) and parallel with the centerline of the now abandoned Soo line Railroad Company's railroad main track, as the same was located across said Section 24.

AND

The east 106 feet of that part of Government Lot 10 of Section 24, Township 47, Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota, which lies southerly of a line which is 200 feet northerly of (as measured at right angles) and parallel with the centerline of the now abandoned Soo line Railroad Company's railroad main track, as the same was located across said Section 24.

AND

The north 15 feet of that part of Government Lot 10 of Section 24, Township 47, Range 27, Aitkin County, Minnesota, which lies southerly of a line which is 200 feet northerly of (as measured at right angles) and parallel with the centerline of the now abandoned Soo line Railroad Company's railroad main track, as the same was located across said Section 24 and which lies east of a line 611 feet east of the west line of said Government Lot 10.

Said entire tract contains 79,998 square feet, more or less. \$59,998.50

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator advised the Board of three minor modifications needed on the new East Central Regional Library Joint Powers Agreement. Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Tveit and carried, all members voting yes to accept the new Joint Powers Agreement with the three modifications as presented in the Board packet.

Motion for a resolution by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried (4-0-1 Tveit abstained), to approve the following resolution supporting the purchase of wild rice farm:

**WHEREAS**, the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has been established to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife

**WHEREAS**, Article XI, Section 15 of the Minnesota Constitution dedicates funding to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife

**WHEREAS**, a cultivated wild rice farm has been in operation for several decades in sections seventeen and nineteen, McGregor Township, Aitkin Minnesota, and the property is adjacent to the Grayling Wildlife Management Area

**WHEREAS**, said wild rice farm discharges water into the Sandy River which flows into Big Sandy Lake, a Mississippi Headwaters Reservoir, and then into the Mississippi River

**WHEREAS**, said wild rice farm utilizes many thousands of pounds of fertilizer, containing

**EAST CENTRAL  
REGIONAL  
LIBRARY**

**RESOLUTION  
070610-057  
LESSARD SAMS  
OUTDOOR  
HERITAGE  
COUNCIL  
FUNDING**

phosphorous, applied directly to the water surface during ice-on conditions including 120,400 pounds in 2010 alone

**WHEREAS**, additional aerial applications of nitrogen rich urea occur annually including 50,000 pounds in 2010 alone

**WHEREAS**, Big Sandy Lake has been listed as Impaired by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for excess nutrients

**WHEREAS**, long term water monitoring of the Big Sandy River downstream of the wild rice discharge area has indicated high levels of excess nutrients

**WHEREAS**, the owners of the wild rice farm have applied for Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding to completely discontinue agricultural practices including the application of fertilizers and transfer ownership of the property to the State of Minnesota

**WHEREAS**, State ownership of the wild rice farmland will stop fertilizer applications and will result in the immediate restoration, protection, and enhancement of said farm, the Sandy River spawning area, Big Sandy Lake, and the Mississippi River for fish, game, and wildlife habitat

**WHEREAS**, said farm would become open to the public for the purposes of the taking of fish, and game during open season according to Minnesota Laws

**WHEREAS**, said farm would be open to the public for hiking, berry picking, and bird watching including the yellow rail, listed as a species of special concern, known to inhabit the area

**WHEREAS**, Aitkin County recognizes the positive environmental, economic, and social benefits justify public ownership of what is presently privately owned property

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Aitkin County Board fully supports and endorses the application for Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding and encourages the council to positively recommend the application for funding

Break from 10:20 a.m. to 10:29 a.m.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to approve the request to hire Hitesman & Associates – Health Insurance Specialists for a maximum of \$8,000.00.

Patrick Wussow, County Administrator presented a Personnel Committee recommendation to fill a PT Instructor/Naturalist position. Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Tveit and carried, all voting yes to fill the PT Instructor/Naturalist position.

During the meeting, the Board heard updates on the following committees: i) Snake River, ii) Economic Development, iii) Historical Society, iv) Sobriety Court, v) Onanegozie, vi) HRA, vii) BWSR, viii) BSLA, ix) JP Natural Resources, x) AMC, xi) Aitkin Airport

**BREAK**

**HITESMAN & ASSOCIATES**

**AUTHORIZE FILLING POSITION**

**COMMITTEE UPDATES**

**ADJOURN**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to adjourn the meeting at 11:58 a.m. until Tuesday, July 13, 2010 at 9:00 a.m.

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Paul Bailey, Chairperson  
Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

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Patrick Wussow, County Administrator