OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD OF NOBLES COUNTY, MINNESOTA

The County Board of Nobles County met in regular session this 23rd day of August, 2011, in the Board of Commissioners Room, at the Nobles County Government Center, Worthington, Minnesota. The following Commissioners were in attendance: Marvin Zylstra, Diane Thier, Robert Demuth Jr., Vern Leistico and David Benson.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

On a motion by Marvin Zylstra, seconded by Vern Leistico, it was duly passed to approve the agenda as amended.

On a motion by Robert Demuth Jr., seconded by David Benson, it was duly passed to approve the Official Proceedings of the August 2nd, 2011 County Board meeting**.**

Nicole Names, Human Services Director, introduced Janet Howard, Health Supervisor, to the Board.

Garrett Backes, Development and Communications Specialist, presented the Board with an update on activities of the Southwest Initiative Foundation.

Scott Johnson, Southwestern Mental Health, presented the Board with a site plan and revenue figures for a new office facility. The Board was asked to consider a cash, low interest or deferred loan of $739,000.00 toward the project. The Board took the request under advisement.

Jon Ramlo, Rock-Nobles Community Corrections Director, presented the Board with the Rock-Nobles Community Corrections 2012 Budget Plan. Included in the budget was a levy amount of $125,204.00

Brad Chapulis, Director of Community/Economic Development, presented the Board with the 2011 Worthington Economic Development Strategic Plan developed by the Economic Development Ad-Hoc Committee. The committee identified four challenges: job creation, housing, community image, community assets and established goals and objectives to meet these challenges. Mr. Chapulis also requested the Board appoint the County Administrator and two Commissioners to serve on the Economic Development Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee with representatives of the City and Independent School District 518 to discuss tax abatements to meet housing objectives. The Board took this request under advisement.

Kent Wilkening, Nobles County Sheriff, presented the Board with information and a recommendation in the area of an amendment to a grant contract.

On a motion by David Benson, seconded by Vern Leistico, it was duly passed to authorize the County Board Chair and Sheriff to sign, on behalf of Nobles County, an amendment to the grant contract with the State of Minnesota for interoperability with the ARMER system in Osceola County. A copy of the amendment was before the Board and is made a part of this resolution by reference.

Stephen Schnieder, Public Works Director, presented the Board with information and recommendations in the area of Public Works.

On a motion by David Benson, seconded by Marvin Zylstra, it was duly passed to pursue entering into an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation for State Trunk Highway turnback funding for a section of old Trunk Highway 60 in the City of Bigelow.

Wayne Smith, Environmental Services Director, presented the Board with information and recommendations in the areas of conditional use permits.

On a motion by David Benson, seconded by Robert Demuth Jr., it was duly passed to approve Conditional Use Permit #14-2011 to the City of Worthington, Worthington, MN for construction of approximately 2.7 miles of new overhead 115kv transmission line, and rebuilding approximately 1.0 miles of existing 69 kv transmission line to 115 kv standards to be located in Sections 13 and 14, Township 102, Range 40 (Worthington Township) as recommended by the Nobles County Planning Advisory Commission.

On a motion by Vern Leistico, seconded by Marvin Zylstra, it was duly passed to deny Conditional Use Permit #15-2011 to Tru Shine Truck Wash, Worthington, MN for operation of a waste disposal site located in the NE ¼ of Section 1, Township 101, Range 41 (Ransom Township) as recommended by the Nobles County Planning Advisory Commission.

On a motion by Vern Leistico, seconded by David Benson, it was duly passed to approve Conditional Use Permit #16-2011 to Wegs Blue & White Dairy, Bigelow, MN for the expansion of an existing livestock site to include a 110' x 244' livestock barn to be located in the NW ½ of the NW ¼ of Section 24, Township 101, Range 41 (Ransom Township) as recommended by the Nobles County Planning Advisory Commission.

On a motion by Robert Demuth Jr., seconded by Marvin Zylstra, it was duly passed to approve Conditional Use Permit #17-2011 to Whitetail Run, Pipestone, MN for expansion of an existing livestock site to include construction of a 61' x 272' gilt development barn to be located in the S 675' of N 1475' of E 950' of the NE ¼ of Section 32, Township 104, Range 43 (Leota Township) as recommended by the Nobles County Planning Advisory Commission.

Sharon Balster, Auditor-Treasurer, presented the Board with information and recommendations in the areas of forfeited property and current reserve designations.

On a motion by Marvin Zylstra, seconded by David Benson, it was duly passed to provide notice (via county web-site) that the County Board will consider classifying the following tax forfeited land as conservation or non-conservation at 9:00 a.m. at the November 8th, 2011 County Board meeting: Parcel #21-0029-000, Lot 8, Block 3, City of Adrian, Parcel 27-0163-500, West 50' of East 150' of North 120" of Lot 6, City of Lismore and Parcel #31-0964-000, West 25' of Outlot 11 and all of Outlot 10, City of Worthington.

On a motion by Vern Leistico, seconded by David Benson, it was duly passed to approve the 2010 reserves and designations as compiled by the County Auditor-Treasurer and that the reserve designations be incorporated in the 2010 county audit. A copy of the amounts of the reserves and designations were before the Board and are made a part of this resolution by reference.

On a motion by Marvin Zylstra, seconded by Robert Demuth Jr., it was duly passed to direct the County Auditor-Treasurer to discontinue the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) reserve designation; and further, that the current reserve of $72,698.69 be classified as unreserved undesignated within the General Fund.

On a motion by Marvin Zylstra, seconded by David Benson, it was duly passed to amend Administrative Policy-Article 5 Use of Facilities/Grounds. A copy of the amended policy was before the Board and is made a part of this resolution by reference.

On a motion by Marvin Zylstra, seconded by Robert Demuth Jr., it was duly passed to appoint David Benson and Vern Leistico to the Southern Prairie Health Purchasing Alliance committee; and further, to authorize the payment of per diem and expense reimbursement for attendance at assigned committee meetings.

On a motion by Vern Leistico, seconded by David Benson, it was duly passed to approve county department and board travel expenses for August 12th, 2011. A summarized copy of the expenses was before the Board and is made a part of this resolution by reference.

On a motion by Diane Thier, seconded by Marvin Zylstra, it was duly passed to approve to end the facility energy assessment contract with Energy Service Group (ESG) ; and further; to authorize a the County Administrator to enter into a contract with Vetter-Johnson Architects for services in developing a 5-year capital improvement plan for mechanical, electrical and architectural modifications to County facilities.

On a motion by David Benson, seconded by Robert Demuth Jr., it was duly passed to appoint Marvin Zylstra and Vern Leistico to the Capital Improvement Committee; and further, to authorize the payment of per diem and expense reimbursement for attendance at assigned committee meetings.

On an amended motion by David Benson, seconded by Vern Leistico, it was duly passed to appoint Robert Demuth Jr. to the Regional Radio Board and Marvin Zylstra to the Joint Dispatch committee replacing Commissioner Dave Benson on both; and further, to authorize the payment of per diem and expense reimbursement for attendance at assigned committee meetings.

On a motion by Marvin Zylstra, seconded by David Benson, it was duly passed to approve the following claims for payment:

Auditor's Warrants:	
July 27, 2011	$667.71
July 28, 2011	$7.00
July 29, 2011	$35,753.06
August 2, 2011	$461.50
August 3, 2011	$14,395.44
August 4, 2011	$84.00
August 5, 2011	$29,915.22
August 8, 2011	$137.50
August 9, 2011	$609.24
August 10, 2011	$2,049.85
August 12, 2011	$52,605.07
August 15, 2011	$1,481.13
Commissioners' Warrants:	
General Fund	$243,722.44
Public Works Fund	$171,234.55
Family Services Administration	$10,872.73
Family Services Social Services	
July 28, 2011	$11,545.62
August 5, 2011	$12,180.64
August 12, 2011	$86,140.68

The Board recessed at 12:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

County Administrator Melvin J Ruppert, reviewed with the Board, county department budget requests totaling $26.9 million and a levy totaling $10.5 million correlating to a 7.3% increase in levy from 2011. The major budget items for 2012 included financing of a public safety ARMER system totaling $300,000 and the proposed loss of $700,000 in State aid to the County. The Board also received information on the impact of the change from homestead market value credit with the State payments of $741,650 to homestead market value exclusion enacted during the 2011 legislative session along with the decertification of a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) in the City of Worthington.

Discussion took place on the potential of additional wind energy production tax revenues; use of reserves to fund the ARMER system; no COLA's in 2012; 4% increase in group health rates; county cafeteria contribution; offer an optional $5000 deductible health plan; capital improvement plan/financing for library and mental health office facilities.

Consensus of the Board was to use reserves to fund the ARMER system; continue to use County Program Aid (CPU) to fund building and county road capital program; and, to establish the not to exceed levy at between a 5.9 percent and 8.0 percent increase for 2012.

There being no further business, the Board adjourned sine dies.

Attest:

_____ _____

Chairperson County Administrator