

Committee of the Whole meeting summary minutes, August 11, 2009.

Present were: County Attorney John Carlson, Commissioner Curt Rossow, Coordinator LeBrun, Chairman Montbriand, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Chaffee, Commissioner Hallan, Erika Fornengo, Kurt Schneider, Cathy Clemmer, Tom Barnick, Judith Tengwall, Linda Cassman, Tammy Tricas, Renee Holmes-Holt, Tim Ballis, Sherry Johnson, Terryl Arola, Anita Jensen, Russ Barron, Kevin Newman, Ed Melzark, Ruth Blahnik, Todd Booker, Dave Stevens, Matt Ludwig, Carole Samuelson, Deb Gray, Jenny Mansavage.

Chairman Montbriand turned the meeting over to County Attorney Carlson to provide background on the county's health insurance. County Attorney Carlson stated that an insurance committee has been formed, and from that, an insurance sub-committee met with members of Resource Training and Solutions and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Minnesota. Resource and BCBS members present today are Dan Wier and Pam Lovaas who are available to answer any questions staff may have at this time. Mr. Weir provided background on Resource and explained their functions as it relates to Pine County's health insurance. Mr. Weir stated that currently Pine County offers three plans (which is the maximum amount of plans to offer) that are extremely similar as far as out of pocket expense to the employee. Coordinator LeBrun asked that Mr. Weir explain the Health Savings Account (HSA) option that the county could not opt for. With the HSA plan the employee also has the option to contribute to the savings account as is not the case with the VEBA Health Care Savings Account. Mr. Weir stated if the county would like to explore other options for plans for the 2011 year, informational sessions could take place within the next year by representatives of Resource and BCBS. Single Plus One coverage was questioned. Mr. Weir stated this is not an option we are allowed. Ms. Lovaas stated that employees can monitor their claims via their website and will provide brochures explaining further. Legislation regarding healthcare was discussed. Mr. Weir stated legislation is being sought to change beneficiary language for VEBA account holders currently. County Attorney Carlson stated that a survey will be prepared and sent to all county employees regarding their particular choice of healthcare plans. Coordinator LeBrun thanked Ms. Lovaas and Mr. Weir for presenting to the full committee. Coordinator LeBrun stated that in the past employees, felt they were not fully informed of their choices or plans and stated this will be helpful for members of the insurance committee as they will be the voice for their respective bargaining units. County Attorney Carlson thanked the representatives for their assistance and time to present to the committee.

Chairman Montbriand called for a ten-minute recess.

Chairman Montbriand reconvened the committee meeting.

Coordinator LeBrun provided an update from the recent Personnel Committee meeting stating the Deputy Treasurer will be performing Collection duties under the supervision of Tom Barnick, Fiscal Supervisor.

Emergency Management duties compensation was discussed with compensation for said duties being paid to the Sheriff as HSEM Director and to the Chief Deputy as HSEM Coordinator from the HSEM grant monies. Discussion was held regarding other employees taking on additional responsibilities without additional compensation. Coordinator LeBrun stated the compensation would not be a salary increase for the Sheriff and Chief Deputy but compensation for assuming the duties and responsibilities of the HSEM Director and HSEM Coordinator. Recommendation and possible action will be made to the full board at the next board meeting.

Dispatch request to fill full-time vacancy. Additional information was requested from the Dispatch Supervisor. Chairman Montbriand stated there are three part-time employees who all working near full-time (1.0 FTE) hours plus overtime currently. Discussion was held regarding regional dispatch centers with surrounding communities. Coordinator LeBrun stated the E911 Coordinator duties were also questioned and further information will be provided on that as well.

Jail staffing, revenue and costs were discussed. More information will be gathered regarding options.

Coordinator LeBrun led discussion regarding county facilities. Coordinator LeBrun stated he heard via a local media source that the city of Pine City was not interested in negotiating with the county for the use of the vacant jail building, but may now be interested in discussing options to lease space within the vacant courthouse. Chairman Montbriand stated quotes and/or additional information should be received for the following options:

Fixing the water issues within the vacant courthouse

Relocating staff from the John Wright Collaborative Building

Demolition of the vacant jail building to convert the lot to additional parking should the courthouse be utilized.

Coordinator LeBrun suggested the Board establish a building fund for maintenance and upkeep of all county buildings.

With no further matters for discussion, Chairman Montbriand adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by, Coordinator Mark LeBrun, P.E.