

## **Committee of the Whole meeting summary minutes, September 29, 2009.**

Present were: County Attorney John Carlson, Commissioner Curt Rossow, Coordinator LeBrun, Chairman Montbriand, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Chaffee, Commissioner Hallan, Coordinator Office Manager Erika Fornengo, Land/Zoning Administrator Kurt Schneider, Sheriff Mansavage, Chief Deputy Ovick, Jail Administrator Boland, Recreation Director Rod Williamson, and Probation Director Terryl Arola

Probation Director Arola presented to the Committee to inform them of the county having been approved to receive the Recovery Act Grant that was applied for by Probation and the Jail division of the Sheriff's office. Jail Administrator Boland explained how the grant would be allocated between the departments and Rec. Director Williamson explained further the programs and equipment to be purchased. Jail Administrator Boland added that a Mental Health Professional will be contracted who would be able to prescribe the necessary medication, which prior would involve a jail staff member to drive the employee to the Mental Health Professional to be evaluated and prescribed the necessary medications. Jail Administrator Boland stated that in addition to the time savings for appointments, they expect to purchase ITV equipment that will also aid in receiving time from facilitators who are hard to coordinate with. Jail Administrator Boland thanked the Board for authorizing the request to send Rec. Director Williamson to grant writing training as it was invaluable in receiving these grant funds. Chairman Montbriand concurred and thanked all of those who presented.

Brief discussion was held regarding the use of All Terrain Vehicles on county roads. Coordinator/Engineer LeBrun stated that he will compile a list of concerns to be presented to the Board. Chairman Montbriand asked that the following staff meet with all parties that could possibly be involved, including cities within the county, Coordinator/Engineer LeBrun, Zoning Administrator Schneider, County Attorney Carlson, and Sheriff Mansavage

Chief Deputy Ovick introduced presenters Scott Wiggins, Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Communications Network, Bill Bernhjelm, Advisor to the North East Minnesota Regional Radio Board and Advisory Committee and Jim Fregan, Consultant to the Project from the firm Federal Engineering. The presenters discussed the three possible options for the county and the costs and benefits associated with each. Discussion was held regarding minimum coverage stating that a minimum of 95% was projected but areas that have made the conversion are currently seeing 97% coverage. Discussion regarding tower land acquisition and specific placement was discussed as well as the timeline of tower erection and commitment to the conversion. Chairman Montbriand thanked the presenters for their time and information.

Chairman Montbriand called for a 10-minute recess.

Chairman Montbriand reconvened the Committee meeting.

Coordinator LeBrun led discussion on the matter of taking county vehicles home for those who are authorized to do so. Sheriff Mansavage stated the long-standing policy of the Sheriff's Office is to allow such use. Sheriff Mansavage stated that one member of the Emergency Response Team is allowed to take their vehicle to their home two miles outside the Minnesota border as it is a policy for such members. Sheriff Mansavage stated that members of the ERT would have restrictions should the matter go beyond a minimal distance outside the county. Discussion was held on cost and advantages of the presence throughout the county.

Coordinator LeBrun stated he has met with the City Administrator and a Council Member of the City of Pine City to discuss lease options for occupying the old courthouse facility. The County Attorney's staff has prepared a draft agreement for a 10-year lease for the city to occupy the main floor of the building to include the use of the garage. Lease terms examined. Coordinator LeBrun presented a memo including costs for building improvements. Coordinator LeBrun also included costs for the demolition of the old jail building and the creation of a parking lot on that site.

Coordinator LeBrun stated a discussion was held at the most recent Management Team meeting to begin monthly recognition of employees based on years of service. This will begin during the upcoming Board meeting by adopting a resolution to do so and honoring the employees with 30 and more years of service.

County Attorney Carlson presented a memorandum along with a revision of the last draft presented to the Board for review regarding the proposed Salvage Yard Ordinance. The revisions include all that was concurred upon during its last presentation; Section 3, Section 8 and Section 9 as outlined in the memorandum. Lengthy discussion was held regarding the matter. Coordinator LeBrun questioned whether the matter should be looked at as two separate matters suggesting that it could begin with shorelands regulation. Chairman Montbriand asked that the ordinance, as presented, be reviewed and that further suggestions and amendments be brought forth for further review by the Committee.

With no further matters for discussion, Chairman Montbriand adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

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