

Committee of the Whole meeting summary minutes, July 14, 2009.

Present were: State Representative Tim Faust, County Attorney John Carlson, Commissioner Curt Rossow, Coordinator LeBrun, Chairman Montbriand, Commissioner Carlson, Commissioner Chaffee, Commissioner Hallan, Erika Fornengo, Kurt Schneider, Cathy Clemmer, SWCD Board members, JJ Waldhalm, Skip Thomson, Doug Odendahl, Paul Olesen, and District Manager Jill Carlier

Chairman Montbriand welcomed Representative Tim Faust who presented to the Committee to discuss recent legislation regarding the use of tax-forfeited land funds. Representative Faust stated that the amount the county was cut in government aid could be reimbursed by way of the TF fund should the county board pass a resolution to do so. Budget committee member Commissioner Hallan thanked Representative Faust for adding an additional tool to the county's use regarding budget matters. Representative Faust stated the legislation expires December 31, 2010 but the county may draw the amount to leave in its reserves. Coordinator LeBrun questioned the time constraints. Representative Faust stated the unallocated amount from December 2008 would not be reimbursable as legislation only provided six months. Chairman Montbriand stated the board's appreciation of Representative Faust for his time and efforts relating to Pine County.

Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Corporate Commission representatives presented to discuss proposed rail issues. Sara Trieber stated the Casino has funded its own studies on ridership, which was not incorporated in the TEMS study. This information included a stop at Grand Casino Hinckley. Commissioner Carlson questioned the representatives asking if their studies would be provided to the rail alliance. Legal counsel present for the group stated that some information may be shared if not proprietary. Discussion was held regarding environmental studies. Chairman Montbriand thanked the group for presenting.

Sheriff Mansavage presented to discuss the 2010 rate for policing contracts. Currently there are the cities of Pine City, Hinckley and Sandstone along with Windemere Township contracting for services at a 2009 rate of \$36.75/hr. Sheriff Mansavage stated the actual cost of staffing plus equipment is near \$75/hr. and would like to see rates set at 55% of that. Coordinator LeBrun stated that surrounding counties charges for contract police services are from 75 – 100% of actual costs and added that the county is subsidizing nearly 40% for those contracting. Lengthy discussion was held and an amount of \$42.00 per hour for contracting policing services will be presented to the full board for further discussion and action at its next regularly scheduled meeting.

Soil and Water Conservation District Board and staff were present to discuss relocating the district office to vacant space in the "old land building" in Sandstone. Coordinator LeBrun answered questions and concerns District Manager Carlier had regarding space, supplies, computers and equipment usage. Reconfiguration of office space was discussed. Coordinator LeBrun stated that the wall in the front "reception" area could be

removed but the central office would remain as shared space for the Land/Zoning Sheriff and Veterans Offices.

At 12:10 p.m. Chairman Montbriand excused himself for a Law Library meeting and turned over the Committee of the Whole meeting to Vice Chairman Carlson to conduct in his absence.

SWCD Supervisor Paul Olesen asked that the district be allowed usage of the large conference room at the Public Health building for after hours meetings. It was agreed this would be acceptable. Discussion was concluded and the SWCD Board was to convene its own meeting following the Committee of the Whole discussion to make a decision on the matter. District Manager Carlier to follow up with Coordinator LeBrun subsequently.

Brent Jahnz, Jail Programmer and Rodney Williamson, Recreation Director presented to the Committee to discuss a new program being proposed within the jail named Release Advance Planning (RAP).

Chairman Montbriand returned to the Committee of the Whole meeting at 12:30 p.m. Vice Chairman Carlson turned the meeting back to the Chairman to conduct.

Programmer Jahnz explained the contingencies of qualifying for the program beginning with Pine County residency. Jahnz explained goals of the program and staff that would be involved. Jahnz also stated that no funds, aside from county staff time, would be allocated for the program. Discussion was held on other counties who are utilizing the program. Jahnz stated he has not heard any negativity from those counties regarding the program. Commissioner Rossow stated his appreciation to Jahnz and Williamson for their presentation. Jahnz stated that data will be evaluated and statistics will be provided the board for review. Chairman Montbriand thanked both for their presentation.

With no further matters for discussion, Chairman Montbriand adjourned the meeting at 1:06 p.m.

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