

**SYNOPSIS OF COUNTY BOARD MEETING**  
**December 1, 2009**

Members present: Seeboth, Berg, Dove, Lochner, and Potter along with County Administrator Enter and County Attorney Hinnenthal.

M/Berg, S/Lochner, to accept the Minutes of 12-1-09 as revised and authorize publication of the Synopsis of same as revised, carried.

M/Potter, S/Lochner, to schedule a Closed Session for labor negotiation strategy planning to be held in the Commissioners Room 204 of the Brown County Courthouse, New Ulm, MN at approximately 10:00 AM this date 12-1-09 for the Law Enforcement Labor Services, Inc. (LELS) Locals #94 and #98 and for the two (2) AFSCME Collective Bargaining Units (Courthouse and Highway) pursuant to MS 13D.03, carried.

M/Lochner, S/Potter, to authorize the payment General Government claims as revised in the amount of \$71,693.53, carried.

M/Berg, S/Dove, to authorize two (2) Drainage Ditch Repair requests, carried.

At 9:08 AM, Auditor/Treasurer Helget provided an update on the JD #10 B&BE Joint County Drainage Authority teleconference that was held at 8:50 AM this date 12-1-09 with Brown County Commissioners Deb Dove, Jim Berg, and Dick Seeboth present, and with Blue Earth County Commissioner Will Purvis participating in the meeting by telephone. M/Purvis, S/Dove, to approve the 11-17-09 JD #10 B&BE Joint County Ditch Authority Meeting Minutes concerning an Easement agreement and the removal of Bridge #23 in Section 35 of Cottonwood Township, carried. Thereafter, M/Seeboth, S/Dove, to authorize JD#10 B&BE Joint County Drainage Authority Chairman Berg to sign the Order to execute the Grant of Access Agreement and to construct a private road over the easement area in a manner suitable for farm vehicles; and following construction of the private road, Bridge #23 shall be removed, carried.

Upon completion of the update, M/Berg, S/Potter, receive and order filed the update on the JD #10 B&BE Joint County Drainage Authority teleconference that was held this date concerning an Easement agreement and the removal of Bridge #23 in Section 35 of Cottonwood Township, carried.

M/Lochner, S/Potter, to declare, pursuant to Minnesota Statute 373.01, a Brown County Heartland Express 1999 Ford ElDorado Bus as excess property allowing for disposition, and authorize to accept sealed bids and set a bid-opening date for 9:00 AM on 12-22-09 at the Office of the County Administrator (Room 211), Brown County Courthouse, carried.

M/Berg, S/Dove, to accept the recommendation of the Brown County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) to place the interest accumulated in the Landfill Fund and the Landfill Trust Fund into the Landfill Fund, carried.

M/Lochner, S/Potter, to approve 0% increase to the 2010 recycling contract rates for Braun and Borth Sanitation in the total amount of \$120,680.25 and for Waste Management in the total amount of \$183,468.84 as recommended by the Brown County SWAC, carried.

M/Berg, S/Seeboth, to approve renewal of the contract as revised with Mathiowetz Enterprises, Inc. to operate the Brown County Sanitary Landfill from 4-1-10 until 3-31-13, carried.

M/Lochner, S/Berg, to authorize the purchase of ten (10) PET Recycle Bottles from Presence From Innovation in the amount of \$69.95/bin (plus sales tax and S/H) as recommended by the SWAC, carried. An additional quote was received from ACUA for PET Recycle Bottles.

M/Lochner, S/Dove, to approve the use of SCORE funds in the amount of \$595.00 for the publication of an educational newspaper insert on recycling, waste and other environmental topics that affect the citizens of Brown County, carried.

M/Potter, S/Lochner, to approve Res. No. 2009-24 for the Middle Minnesota Watershed Septic Loan Amendment (SRF0172) authorizing Brown County to enter into an Agreement with the MPCA for the septic funds available for the Middle Minnesota Watershed, carried.

M/Berg, S/Potter, to approve Res. No. 2009-25 to enter into an agreement with the MPCA for the septic funds available for the Cottonwood River Phosphorus TMDL Continuation Project, carried.

M/Potter, S/Lochner, to approve the MPCA Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement #SRF0208 in the loan amount of \$200,000 for the Cottonwood River Watershed Phosphorus TMDL Continuation Project, carried.

M/Potter, S/Berg, to adopt the Cottonwood River Watershed Phosphorus TMDL Continuation/Brown County resolution relating to the MPCA Clean Water Partnership; Authorizing the County to borrow money from the MPCA and to lend money to eligible participants and eligible lenders to fund Projects for the Control and Abatement of Water Pollution, carried.

M/Lochner, S/Potter, to approve the General Obligation Note (MPCA) for the Cottonwood River Watershed Phosphorus TMDL Continuation/Brown County, carried.

M/Berg, S/Lochner, to accept and file the information presented on the possible construction of a cremation columbarium at the New Ulm Soldiers Rest and to support further study of the cremation columbarium concept, and understanding that VSO Peterson will serve as the liaison between the County Board and New Ulm Monuments and Cemetery Commission for Soldiers Rest related topics, carried.

M/Potter, S/Lochner, to accept and file the information provided by VSO Peterson on new contractual requirements of the MN Dept. of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) Office of Grant Management that requires County Boards to adopt a Resolution authorizing the County to enter into a grant contract for the specific project proposed in the CVSO Enhancement Grant Application, carried.

At 10:00 AM, Chairman Seeboth convened a Closed Session for Labor Negotiation Strategy Planning, pursuant to M.S.13D.03, for the LELS, Inc. Locals #94 and #98 Sheriff's Dept. Collective Bargaining Units; and for the AFSCME Courthouse and Highway Collective Bargaining Units. This session was attended by Commissioners Seeboth, Berg, Dove, Lochner, and Potter, along with County Administrator Enter, County Attorney Hinnenthal, Sheriff Hoffmann, Highway Engineer Stevens, Personnel Director Crabtree, and Attorney Frank Madden via telephone (from 10:08 AM-10:35 AM). The Closed Session adjourned at 11:07 AM.

M/Lochner, S/Potter, to accept the resignation of Lynn Cook as a Regular PT HHA/Homemaker effective 11-24-09 and authorize posting the position at a later date if deemed necessary, carried.

M/Berg, S/Lochner, to accept the retirement of Harriet Urberg, FT Social Worker/DD on 3-11-10 and authorize posting the position vacancy according to policy, carried.

M/Potter, S/Dove, to approve renewal of consulting services 2010 contract with Frank Madden & Associates, Attorneys at Law, Plymouth, MN for assistance as needed to address union labor contract matters, carried.

The County Board completed an initial review of the 2010 Committee Memberships and by consensus, agreed to further review the draft listing at a future County Board meeting.

M/Berg, S/Lochner, to suspend the rules to consider a letter of support for continuation of the South Central Children's Mental Health Initiative, motion to suspend the rules carried.

M/Berg, S/Dove, to authorize Board Chairman Seeboth to sign a letter of support for continuation of the South Central Children's Mental Health Initiative, carried.

Correspondence C-1 thru C-4 were accepted and filed.

Seeboth and Berg reported on the recent Audit Entrance meeting.

Calendars were coordinated for the next two week period.

At 11:45 AM, Chairman Seeboth recessed the Regular meeting noting that the County Board meeting will reconvene at 6:00 PM this date in the District Courtroom–3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Brown County Courthouse to conduct the 2010 Proposed Budget and Levy Public Hearing.

At 6:00 PM, Chairman Richard Seeboth reconvened the Regular Meeting to conduct the 2010 Proposed Budget and Levy Public Hearing in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor District Courtroom of the Brown County Courthouse located in New Ulm, Minnesota. Commissioners Seeboth, Berg, Dove, Lochner, and Potter were in attendance, along with County Administrator Enter, County Attorney Hinnenthal, and Administrative/Personnel Assistant Debra Koch. Also in attendance were fourteen (14) Brown County department heads and staff; two (2) members of the general public; and media representative Fritz Busch of the Journal.

Chairman Seeboth convened the 2010 Proposed Budget and Levy Public Hearing. Informational handouts were distributed to those in attendance prior to the meeting.

At 6:02 PM, Administrator Enter presented Brown County's proposed budget for 2010, reviewing the handouts as provided. The proposed 2010 Brown County levy noted was \$10,883,019, which reflected a 0.55% increase from the 2009 levy in the amount of \$10,823,757. The Brown County Summary Budget Statement noted adopted 2009 and proposed 2010 revenues by fund and department, with the 2010 Brown County Budget Revenues projected at \$28,429,507. The adopted 2009 and proposed 2010 expenditures by fund and department were also presented in chart and graphic form, with the proposed 2010 Expenditures budgeted at \$28,429,507, which represented a 3.4% increase from 2009. The proposed 2010 Expenditures by category as a percentage of total budget were noted as follows: 15.5%-General Government; 6.3%-Public Health Nursing; 32.0%-Human Services; 27.5%-Road and Bridge; 0.5%-Conservation/Natural Resources; 1.6%-Culture/Recreation; and 16.6%-Public Safety.

Administrator Enter addressed additional budget information as follows: Projected Brown County Employer Costs for employee compensation/benefits for 2010 totaling \$14,032,742 or 49.4% of the total proposed budget; Comparison of estimated market values for total agriculture properties and total non-agriculture properties. Administrator Enter also noted that preparation of the budget is a lengthy process and departments continually look for ways to limit the need for property taxes by seeking grants and reviewing departmental activity.

At 6:18 PM, Chairman Seeboth called for testimony from the public regarding the proposed 2010 Brown County Budget and levy. Fritz Busch asked for clarification about the \$187,000 budgeted in the Capital Improvement Fund; It was noted that \$30,000 is planned for a replacement fuel dispensing system at the Highway Dept.; \$50,000 is planned to begin migration to a narrow band technology emergency radio system as mandated by the federal government; \$7,000 is planned for Soldiers Rest; and the remaining \$100,000 for general capital improvement to be designated by the County Board. There was no additional public testimony received.

Chairman Seeboth expressed thanks to those in attendance, and also thanked the department heads and staff for their efforts in preparing the draft 2010 budget and for controlling expenditures in 2009. It was noted that the County Board will consider adoption of the final payable 2010 property tax levy and budget at the regular County Board Meeting at 9:30 AM on Tuesday 12-15-09 in Room 204 of the Brown County Courthouse.

There being no further business, Chairman Seeboth adjourned the Regular Meeting at 6:20 PM.

The Official Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 1, 2009 are on file in the County Administrator's Office and may be viewed during normal business hours, M-F, 8AM-5PM. Correspondence and requests for additional information may be directed to the County Administrator's E-Mail Address: [cntyadm@co.brown.mn.us](mailto:cntyadm@co.brown.mn.us) Home Page Address: [www.co.brown.mn.us](http://www.co.brown.mn.us)