

SPECIAL SESSION OF THE MOWER COUNTY  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

February 12, 2008

The Mower County Board of Commissioners in and for the County of Mower, Minnesota, met in Special Session February 12, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. at the Courthouse in Austin, Minnesota.

All members present, viz:     Richard Cumming, Chair  
  Raymond Tucker  
  David Hillier  
  Dave Tollefson  
  Dick Lang  
  Craig Oscarson, County Coordinator

**GENERAL:**

Review of Out of Home Placements for 2007.

Commissioner Lang moved and Commissioner Tucker seconded to approve the revised fee schedule for persons requesting chemical use, (Rule 25), assessments, effective January 1, 2008. Motion carried.

Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lang seconded purchasing an agency membership in the Minnesota Social Service Association for 2008. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hillier moved and Commissioner Tollefson seconded to approve authorizing disbursement of \$12,600 to The Mower County Seniors, Inc., as part of a \$30,000 grant received from UCare. The Seniors applied for the funds to assist in providing five seminars focused on health and wellness in 2008. Motion carried.

Commissioner Hillier moved and Commissioner Lang seconded to authorize the Chair and the Director to sign the following Purchase of Service Agreements:

- a. Cedar House, Inc. – approve amendment to contract for Home & Community Based Waiver Services, effective October 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009.
- b. Janine Marks – approve amendment to contract for Professional Services, effective July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.
- c. Todd Moran – approve amendment to contract for Mental Health Services, effective October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008.
- d. Quality Case Management – approve amendment to contract for Mental Health, Case Management & Outreach Services, effective October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008.
- e. Susan Rockers-Wittkopp – approve amendment to contract for Mental Health & General Case Management Services, effective October 1, 2007 to December 31, 2008.

- f. Whispering Pines Ranch – approve agreement for Group Residential Housing Services, effective December 1, 2007 to June 30, 2010.

Motion carried.

Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Tollefson seconded to approve the destruction of designated Agency files in accordance with DHS Rules and Regulations. All previously approved files have been destroyed. Motion carried.

**SOCIAL SERVICE ACTIONS:**

Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Lang seconded to approve the Social Service Actions. Motion carried.

Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Tollefson seconded to approve county funding for Human Service Case #16121409 to pay for services through Cedar Valley. Motion carried.

**INCOME MAINTENANCE ACTIONS:**

Commissioner Hillier moved and Commissioner Lang seconded to approve the Income Maintenance Actions. Motion carried.

The Board recessed at 10:00 a.m. for attendance for the kickoff of the VFW Veterans Van Fund Campaign. Members of area VFW posts were in attendance in support of the campaign. Commissioners added support for the campaign.

The Board reconvened at 10:16 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Tollefson to authorize the chair to sign a letter of response to the City of Austin regarding the County's decision to proceed with efforts to acquire the Robbin's Block for the Justice Center project. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Hillier, seconded by Commissioner Lang to approve the minutes of February 5, 2008. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Hillier to approve the following miscellaneous bill for immediate payment:

StedFast Health Plan \$780,981.00

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Hillier, seconded by Commissioner Tollefson to approve the bi-monthly bills for immediate payment:

GENERAL FUND

AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
277.96	A+ PRINTING	127.80	ACS
471.85	ADAMS DRUG	155.70	ADAMS, RIZZI AND SWEEN
9694.90	ALBERT LEA MEDICAL CENTER	121.50	ALCOPRO
2457.50	RICHARD ANDERSON	206.40	SALLY ANDERSON
1145.30	AUSTIN MEDICAL CENTER ATTN: CAS	288.47	AUTO VALUE AUSTIN
128.71	BIG K 3578	362.75	BUDGET OIL CO

**COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA**

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373.52 CEDAR VALLEY SERVICES, INC	151.95 CHIEF SUPPLY
2658.54 CITY OF AUSTIN	175.75 CSI CONFERENCE SYSTEMS INC.
723.47 C1 LEGAL DOCUMENT SERVICES LLC	259.83 DALCO
219.61 DIAMOND RIDGE PRINTING	371.44 DONKERS HOMETOWN APPLIANCES
163.96 DOUBLE K SPECIALTY, INC.	16497.92 ELECTION SYSTEMS & SOFTWARE, I
306.53 EMERGENCY AUTOMOTIVE TECHNOLOG	137.38 FOX ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC
380.00 CARLTON FRANK	11160.00 FREEBORN COUNTY ADULT DETENTIO
840.00 SALLY GARRY	136.91 GRAINGER
1137.47 HARTY MECHANICAL INC	385.32 J & K WINONA
105.90 KEN KROUPA	141.75 JOHN KRUGER
289.58 LASER PRODUCT TECHNOLOGIES INC	243.67 LEXISNEXIS MATTHEW BENDER
140.28 MARCH OF DIMES - GEORGIA	650.46 METRO SALES, INC.
586.88 MIDTOWN AUTO CLINIC	2821.47 MINNESOTA COUNTIES COMPUTER CO
128.62 MINNESOTA ELEVATOR, INC	133.25 MITCHELL COUNTY REGIONAL HEALT
997.12 PAMIDA DRUG	4138.45 PARAGON PRINTING & MAILING INC
1382.33 SCHMIDT-GOODMAN OFFICE PROD	1075.65 SERVICEMASTER CLEAN
165.00 SEVEN COUNTY PROCESS SERVERS L	130.00 SHERIFF DODGE COUNTY
350.00 SHERIFF FREEBORN COUNTY	25668.00 SHERIFF MITCHELL COUNTY
150.00 SHERIFF STEELE COUNTY	295.81 STAPLES CREDIT PLAN
3313.00 VANGUARD APPRAISALS, INC	350.72 WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL LEASING
1193.82 WEST GROUP	1387.78 WHITEWATER WIRELESS, INC ROCHES
31 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$100	1,408.71
GENERAL FUND	\$98,766.69 * TOTAL
SOCIAL SERVICE FUND	
AMOUNT VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT VENDOR NAME
193.31 CEDAR VALLEY SERVICES, INC	
1 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$100	40.28
SOCIAL SERVICE FUND	\$233.59 * TOTAL
MOWER COUNTY TRANSIT-PUBLIC TRANSP.	
AMOUNT VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT VENDOR NAME
291.81 INTREPID HOME HEALTH SERVICES	
0 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$100	.00
MOWER COUNTY TRANSIT-PUBLIC TRANSP.	\$291.81 * TOTAL
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	
AMOUNT VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT VENDOR NAME
939.33 ABOVE ALL CLEANING, INC	125.37 AUSTIN NEWSPAPERS, INC
175.64 AUTO VALUE AUSTIN	523.87 CDW GOVERNMENT, INC.
230.69 CINTAS FIRST AID & SAFETY	665.70 CONTINENTAL RESEARCH CORP.
805.14 DEXTER LP, INC	22215.00 ERICKSON ENGINEERING
1138.80 ETTERMAN ENTERPRISES	4540.44 L.R. FALK CONSTRUCTION CO.
191.70 FERGUSON'S DIESEL SERVICE	270.00 FRONTIER PRECISION, INC
667.22 HANSON TIRE SERVICE INC.	243.73 INTERSTATE BATTERY SYSTEMS OF
258.00 K & K FABRICATION, INC	226.81 LEEF BROS., INC.
167.00 CHARLES LUTHE	325.43 M-R SIGN COMPANY, INC.
1030.12 MANTEK	154.42 MISSISSIPPI WELDERS SUPPLY CO.
993.27 PETROBLEND CORP.	160.14 PROLINE DIST., INC
266.76 REED BUSINESS INFORMATION	290.01 ROCHESTER PETROLEUM EQUIPMENT
235.81 RUBBER-INC	223.64 MR. SAM COMMUNICATIONS
2945.74 SCHAEFFER MFG CO.	1940.22 SEMA EQUIPMENT, INC
400.00 SHOPKO EYECARE CENTER	114.23 DAVE SYVERSON FREIGHTLINER
2783.00 THERMO KING SALES & SERVICE, I	5311.69 TRAFFTECH, INC
955.27 UNITED LABORATORIES	351.19 USEMS
10 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$100	609.58
ROAD & BRIDGE FUND	\$52,474.96 * TOTAL
SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING FUND	
AMOUNT VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT VENDOR NAME
294.67 IVERSON HAULING	
1 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$100	10.35
SOLID WASTE/RECYCLING FUND	\$305.02 * TOTAL

COMMISSIONERS' RECORD MOWER COUNTY, MINNESOTA

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BUILDING FUND			
AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
5000.00	KKE ARCHITECTS INC		
	0 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$100	.00	
BUILDING FUND		\$5,000.00	* TOTAL
DITCH FUND			
AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
1960.00	RINKE-NOONAN		
	0 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$100	.00	
DITCH FUND		\$1,960.00	* TOTAL
FAMILY CONNECTIONS COLLABORATIVE			
AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME	AMOUNT	VENDOR NAME
160.00	AUSTIN MEDICAL CENTER ATTN:CAS		
	0 PAYMENTS LESS THAN \$100	.00	
FAMILY CONNECTIONS COLLABORATIVE		\$160.00	* TOTAL
****	FINAL TOTAL.....	\$159,192.07	****

Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Tollefson, seconded by Commissioner Tucker to accept the donation from Robert and Colleen Weimer in memory of Charles H. Meakins in the amount of \$1000.00 and an anonymous donation in the amount of \$50.00 for the Veterans Van Fund. Motion carried.

The Stedfast Health Plan Access Agreement and Contract were referred to the Mower County Attorney for review.

Motion made by Commissioner Hillier, seconded by Commissioner Lang to approve the Lease Agreement between Mower County and the Austin-Mower County Area Transit for a ten year lease of the property commonly known as the Autonetics Building at 2801 Oakland Avenue West, Austin, MN to commence February 12, 2008. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Hillier to appoint Terese Amazi and Michal Hanson as 2008 Association of Minnesota Counties delegates and amend the sheriff and highway travel budgets for expenses to attend the 2008 conferences. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Tollefson to re-appoint Randy Queensland to the Homeownership Board for a three year term to commence April 2008. Motion carried.

**Date: February 12, 2008**

**Res. #13-08**

**RESOLUTION**

On motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Tollefson, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held February 12, 2008 at the Courthouse, Austin, Minnesota.

WHEREAS, Mower County is in the process of developing and designing a criminal justice center facility in response to jail overcrowding and tremendous growth in criminal justice related areas; and

WHEREAS, the vast majority of clients (est. 75%-85%) using this facility are from within the city limits of Austin, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, in 2008 taxable properties within the City of Austin will account for 40% of the county property tax revenue; and

WHEREAS, Department of Revenue sales tax statistics for CY2000 estimate 87% of the sales tax revenue collected in Mower County came from sales in the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has the authority through legislative action to enable Mower County to enact a sales tax subject to a local referendum to fund the proposed facility;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mower County Board of Commissioners that the State of Minnesota give Mower County legislative authority to impose up to a one percent (1%) sales tax for the Mower County Criminal Justice Center with the approval of the public through a referendum; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that the sales tax be authorized for all costs associated with construction of this facility and shall sunset once all bond payments have been satisfied.

Passed and approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2008.

**THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk/Coordinator

The Board recessed at 10:42 a.m. and reconvened at 11:10 a.m.

Motion made by Commissioner Hillier, seconded by Commissioner Lang to approve the ratification of the Service Engagement Agreement between ACS State and Local Solutions, Inc. and the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative (MCCC) for the development of the PHDoc 2012 project limiting the Mower County financial obligation at a rate not to exceed the current level. Motion carried.

The Finance and Personnel Committee chairpersons were appointed to the Mower County Service Continuation Plan subcommittee.

Commissioner Tucker moved and Commissioner Hillier seconded to approve a plan by The Mentor Network to replace its existing Cedar I facility with a new building at a new location and to notify DHS via normal procedures. Motion carried.

At this time a Public Hearing was continued from January 29, 2008 in regard to the Environmental Assessment for EnXco (Grand Meadow Wind Farm) to construct a 161kV substation in the NW 1/4 of Section 8, Grand Meadow Township and a new 161 kV high voltage transmission line starting in Section 19 of Pleasant Valley Township and running approximately 6 miles to section 8 of Grand Meadow Township.

Ian Krygowski was present for the petitioner and spoke in favor of the Environmental Assessment. One person spoke against the petition.

Motion made by Commissioner Hillier, seconded by Commissioner Tucker to approve the Environmental Assessment of EnXco (Grand Meadow Wind Farm) to construct a 161kV substation in the NW ¼ of Section 8, Grand Meadow Township and a new 161kV high voltage transmission line starting in Section 19 of Pleasant Valley Township and running approximately 6 miles to Section 8 of Grand Meadow Township. Motion carried.

Motion made by Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Lang to table the public hearings for CUP #734 and CUP #735 of EnXco to March 11, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. Motion carried.

Mike Hanson, County Engineer, presented bid information received for aggregate base for SAP 050-602-028; CSAH No.2.

Motion made by Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Lang to award the bid for aggregate base for SAP 050-602-028; CSAH No. 2 to Ulland Brothers, Inc. with a low bid of \$1,966,081.95 and have the project commence. Motion carried. Full bid abstract on file in the office of the County Auditor and County Engineer.

**Date: February 12, 2008**

**Res. #14-08**

**RESOLUTION  
REQUESTING COMPREHENSIVE ROAD AND TRANSIT FUNDING**

On motion of Commissioner Tucker, seconded by Commissioner Lang, the following Resolution was passed and adopted by the Mower County Board of Commissioners at a meeting held February 12, 2008 at the Courthouse, Austin, Minnesota.

**WHEREAS**, all Minnesota communities benefit from a sound, efficient and adequately funded transportation system that offers diverse modes of travel; and

**WHEREAS**, the integrity of Minnesota's transportation infrastructure is dependent upon long-term planning and ongoing maintenance, both of which require dedicated and sustainable revenue sources; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota leaders have not increased dedicated funding levels for roads, bridges and transit systems to keep pace with growing costs and changing needs; and

**WHEREAS**, transportation analysts in consultation with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) estimate Minnesota will have to invest an additional \$1.5 billion per year in transportation infrastructure for the next ten years in order to meet identified needs on Minnesota's state highways and bridges, county roads, city streets, metro and rural transit systems and local bridges; and

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota's transportation system is failing to meet the capacity needs necessary to sustain population growth and promote economic development; and

**WHEREAS**, congestion, inefficient transportation systems and lack of transportation choices lead to greater dependence on foreign oil, increased environmental degradation, and economic disadvantages for Minnesota's businesses and residents; and

**WHEREAS**, many rural roads are not built to modern safety standards and are not meeting the needs of industries that depend on the ability to transport heavy loads, and

**WHEREAS**, local costs participation requirements for trunk highways are contributing to strains on county budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, transportation infrastructure maintenance and improvement costs significantly contribute to rising property taxes; and

**WHEREAS**, insufficient state funding has delayed regionally significant road construction and reconstruction projects across Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, current funding for roads, bridges and transit systems across all government levels in Minnesota is inadequate, and this under-investment diminishes quality of life for Minnesota residents and hinders Minnesota's progress as a national business, economic and civic leader.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Mower County Board of Commissioners, Mower County requests that the Minnesota Legislature pass a comprehensive and balanced transportation funding package that permanently increases dedicated funding for transportation; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Mower County Board of Commissioners, Mower County requests that Governor Tim Pawlenty allow a comprehensive and balanced transportation funding package that permanently increases dedicated funding for transportation that is passed by the Legislature to become law; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Mower County Board of Commissioners, that a comprehensive and balanced transportation funding package be based upon multiple revenue sources, which may include but not limited to the following:

- An increase in the gas tax;
- Indexing of the gas tax to the Consumer Price Index;
- Increases in vehicle registration taxes (a.k.a. license tab fees);
- Trunk highway bonding
- General obligation bonding for local roads and bridges
- ½ percent increase in the state sales tax for the metropolitan area
- ½ percent local option sales tax for transportation in Greater Minnesota
- A county option wheelage tax
- A change in the county state aid highway formula for new revenue to the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund based 60% on need and 40% on motor vehicle registration

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** by the Mower County Board of Commissioners that this board defines a comprehensive and balanced transportation funding package as an initiative that permanently increases dedicated funding for state and local road and transit systems.

Passed and approved this 12<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2008.

**THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk/Coordinator**

The Board recessed at 12:05 p.m. and reconvened at 12:20 p.m.

The Mower County Board met with the Mitchell County Board at their request to discuss two items.

The first item was a discussion regarding creating a limitation on tax abatements for economic development project within an appropriate distance on each side of the border. Both Boards felt further discussion would be needed to determine if a "border limitation" is mutually beneficial.



The second item was a discussion to encourage Mower County, with support from Mitchell County, to request a federal earmark to improve the State Line Road west of Absolute Energy to State Highway 105. This road section is currently under the authority of Lyle Township. There would be a 20% local match for this project. Mower County stated they would discuss this at a future meeting as to any financial interest from Mower County.

Motion by Commissioner Hillier, seconded by Commissioner Tollefson to adjourn the meeting at 1:25 p.m. until February 26, 2008 at 8:30 a.m. Motion carried.

**THE MOWER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Chairperson**

**Attest:**

**By:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Clerk/Coordinator**

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