

Crow Wing Board votes to return parks department to land department

BY KATHY C. BRYAN
The Board of Crow Wing County Commissioners met on Tues., Sept. 25 in the County Board Room of the Historic Courthouse. Commissioners Rachel Reabe Nystrom, Rosemary Franzen, Chairman Dewey Tautges, Paul Thiede, and Doug Houge were present. Also present, County Administrator, David Hamilton, and County Auditor Deborah Erickson.

A motion was approved to cancel the Confessions of Judgment in default on the following parties: Peggy Crowell, Beth Ann Watson and Buddy Corey.

Auditor's Office:

1) Tax Applications have been approved by the County Treasurer, Assessor and Auditor. Motions were made, seconded and carried to approve one settlement application and one abatement application.

2) The Board supported the Premises Gambling Permit application of the Heartland Animal Rescue Team for Class B Premises Permit to be held at the Old Waterfall.

3) The Board also ap-

proved the Minnesota Trail Assistance Program Snowmobile FY 2008 Maintenance and Grooming Grants for the Baxter Snowmobile Club, Brainerd Snodoes Snowmobile Club, Fort Ripley North Country Trail Busters, Garrison Commercial Club, Gull Lake Drifters, Ideal Sno-Pros Snowmobile Club, and the Merrifield Marathons Snowmobile Club. The Chairperson and the County Auditor were authorized to sign said agreements.

4) The Board accepted donations in the amount of \$1,617 from Crow Wing County Fair Multiple Contributors and \$450 and from the ETOC Company.

Sheila Haverkamp appeared before the Board concerning partnering with BLADC to apply for and administer a Small Cities Development Program application. After a brief discussion, the Board agreed to partner with BLADC in this regard.

Cheryl Hills from Region Five Development Commission appeared before the Board with informational updates on the Annual Report and the Work Program. Hills also distributed an

invitation for the Energy In Region Five meeting to be held Nov. 14, 2007 at 10 a.m. at the Initiative Foundation Building in Little Falls. Also noted was the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Meeting to be held on Oct. 23 at 6 p.m. at Craguns' Resort for Crow Wing County.

New Business:

An auctioneer quote was awarded to Schubert Auctioneers, the Weyerhaeuser invite was discussed, Nov. 19 was set as a possible date for the Cass/Crow Wing County Joint Meeting, and the Board considered agenda items on the District V AMG Meeting.

After a presentation by the Land Department, a motion was approved to support the proposed Partition for Division action involving undivided interest properties pending rezoning approval of two tracts.

Tom Colwell from the Land Department also presented information concerning County Forest Roads. The Board approved the recording of a list of County Forest Roads, this matter will be referred to the County Attorney's Office for action.

Planning and Zoning:

Rezoning requests were approved for David Bolei, Michael and Mary Eastwood, Curt Veith, and Kurt Ramsdell.

A final plat approval for Robert Thoe's Addition was also approved by the Board. The Board also approved a refund of \$32,000 road surety bond for Plat of Pine on the Mississippi, Center Y and a \$14,000 road surety bond for Plat of Rustic Ridge, Ideal T. There was also a brief discussion to correct the 1979 County Board Minutes as they relate to a zoning error in the Plat of North Shore Acre Lots. After lengthy discussion, this item was tabled and returned to Planning and Zoning for clarification.

The Human Services Director appeared before the Board with a summary of the 2007 Purchase of Service Contracts. The Board approved the following: Randall Bundy Addendum, St. Joseph's Medical Center, Focus Unit, Avalon Programs Addendum, and Bridges of Hope.

Social Services presented information concerning the

Special Needs Basic Care Reconsideration Results. Crow Wing County will have three health plans per State guidelines. This department also furnished information on the South Country Health Alliance New Health Promotion. There will be combined outreach efforts with SCHA and Public Health to recognize October as National Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Lyndon Robjent, County Highway Engineer presented information on the CSAH 3 (Mill Avenue) reconstruction project - Received municipal consent. A resolution was approved establishing Ponds Edge Trail as a Town Road.

Although the County Attorney wasn't present, there was follow-up discussion concerning an Amendment of the Ordinance regulating liquor licenses in Crow Wing County, specifically Section 5, license hours as it relates to outside music. A decision on this issue was tabled until the Oct. 9 Board meeting. The County Attorney's Office will review complaints with Sheriff's Office after the public hearing in this matter was held.

David Hamilton, County Administrator, presented information to the Board concerning the snowmobile trails in Crow Wing County. Following this report, Hamilton also supplied summary and background information relating to the management and overall day-to-day direction of the Parks Department as it relates to the County Administrator's Office. There was lengthy discussion concerning returning the Parks Department and its three existing staffing positions to the Land Department under the administrative leadership of the Land Commissioner. Several people from these departments appeared before the Board expressing diverse concerns and opinions in this regard. The Board agreed to return the Parks Department to the Land Department.

Dr. Janis Amatuzio, Medical Examiner for Crow Wing County appeared before the Board with an annual report for 2006. Crow Wing is the second largest out of the nine counties in the consortium. Dr. Amatuzio presented a statistical

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Crosby City Council approves zero percent increase on levy

BY KATHY C. BRYAN

The Crosby City Council met Sept. 24 in the Crosby City Hall. Mayor Dale Sova was present as were Council Members, Deb Shankle, David "Butch" Ferrari, Ed Vukelich, City Attorney, James Gamello, and City Clerk, Cindy Nelson. Council Member Neprud was absent.

Mayor Sova announced no one from the public was present on the preliminary levy hearing held recently and the Council voted on a zero percent increase on the levy.

Denny Palmer appeared before the Council with an enlarged map of the Cuyuna Lakes Bike Trail and offered an update on the route of trail. Palmer requested input on the new changes from the Council. Mayor Sova requested the City Engineer receive a copy of the enlarged map and consult with City Attorney as the project progresses. Palmer stated the trail will be open next year and that Federal and State funds have been allocated for it. The Council authorized preliminary work on Alternative B for the bike trail. Mayor Sova asked Mike Rude, City

Engineer, to oversee trail progress ensuring there are no problems with City water and sewer demarcations.

Peggy from the Crosby Library appeared before the Council to discuss a new hire position, stating a letter was sent to the Mayor's Office on Aug. 17 concerning this issue. The letter was never included in the Council packets or placed on their agenda. The librarian explained this isn't a new position and her department is under budget for staff needs. The Council approved the Library staff position. There will be an open house/barbeque at the Library on Oct. 14.

John Mehrkens from Presbyterian Homes appeared before the Council with an update on the Crosby Senior Services project. Mayor Sova asked for discussion or questions from the Council on this project. The Council agreed that the City Clerk and the Mayor can sign off to approve the final plat for Cuyuna Range Development for the Senior Housing Project.

Under New Business, Mayor Sova opened the meeting for an open forum on the Business Subsidy Plan with the

City of Crosby. Hearing no discussion, the open forum was closed. The Council approved a motion to adopt the resolution on the policies and criteria for the Business Subsidy Plan.

Mayor Sova called for a motion on the Development Agreement for the TIF#2 - 2 Iron Range Plaza. The motion passed to execute the Development Agreement for the project.

The Council approved the resignation from the Public Works Supervisor effective Sept. 24, 2007. The Supervisor will be paid through Sept. 28. Mayor Sova asked Police Chief Coughlin to follow up with obtaining keys and other belongings of the City from the Public Works Supervisor. There was discussion concerning the restructuring of the Public Works Department. A job description for the Public Works Supervisor will be posted at the City garage and the library. Until someone is hired for this position, Steve Perpich, the Working Foreman, will cover the supervisory duties in the interim. Mayor Sova requested that the job description for the Working

Foreman be presented to him for review. He will work with Council Member Vukelich on the restructuring of this department and together they will make a list of what needs to be done for the Working Foreman. Working Foreman will report to the Council until a Supervisor is hired.

The Crosby Fire Chief reported there was one run since the last meeting and gave a brief update on the Cuyuna Range Fire Service Mutual Aid Agreement. The Council agreed to adopt the agreement.

Mayor Sova asked the City Attorney if he'd received information concerning the Hallett Center Zamboni Agreement with Heartland Hockey Camp. Gamello stated he hasn't heard from them yet but will follow up.

City Clerk Nelson, Deb Shankle and the Mayor will attend the Regional League of Minnesota Cities meeting on Oct. 3.

Council Member Vukelich inquired about contractor digging permits in the City of Crosby. Vukelich wants to know why the City is charging \$25.00 for the permits when the City of Deer-

wood and the City of Ironton do not. More specifically, Vukelich asked why contractors are being charged for permits, if they are licensed and bonded. The City Clerk retrieved the file on digging permits for clarification. After a brief discussion, Council Member Vukelich asked for further clarification on this issue and the matter was tabled until more research can be done and presented at the next Council meeting.

Police Chief Kim Coughlin appeared before the Council and presented recent photos taken of an unkempt property. Mayor Sova commented the Ordinance is pretty clear about upkeep of properties in Crosby. Coughlin reminded the Council that if a property owner needs a reminder, the Police Department sends out a letter with a copy of the Ordinance to clean up the property. Recently, ten residents have received tickets for failure to abide by the ordinance after a warning was sent. Mayor Sova asked Coughlin to remain gently diligent about the property in question and encourage the resident to continue with the clean-up.

Coughlin also reminded the Council winter parking notices will be placed on vehicles next month concerning parking on City streets during the winter months.

Captain Rick Koop of the Crosby Police Department appeared before the Council to discuss damage done to the roof antennae on City Hall. A strong wind broke the cable and the pipe is bent and needs to be replaced. Estimates will be obtained to repair the damage. Koop also reminded the Council one squad car needs to be purchased before the end of the year. Mayor Sova suggested the vehicle be purchased outright and not leased, thereby saving taxpayer dollars. The Council approved the purchase a police vehicle for 2007-2008.

There was a discussion about Project Play. Chief Coughlin suggested a certificate or plaque be awarded to those who were instrumental in initiating this program. The Council agreed. Council Member Deb Shankle vol-

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