

Changes in the 2011 Budget: Community Buildings were reduced to \$4500 and \$500 was allocated towards a new project called Historical Markers. In the past, the Indus school shop class made the signs but is unable to do it again. Gary and Denton volunteered to make the remaining signs. The County recreational map listed all the Historical sites in Koochiching County.

Ditch Maintenance: Joe asked the Committee if they were willing to assist the DNR in the Pine Island State Forest Road. Kyle who is in charge of roads in twelve townships, said the water is very high and it is unknown where pipes are so they will put them where they think they need to go. He did not know if there are any DNR dollars to put toward the project. He also told the Committee that gravel is scarce down by the Rice Patty Road. The Board relies on Gary for ditching information and recommendations and asked him to work with Joe and Kyle.

Gary said late last fall there was a problem on the Gerry Olson Road and ditching had to take place. He asked the Committee if they were willing to share in the \$1700 cost to ditch. He admitted the State and a private owner benefited the most from the ditching. The Committee is afraid if they pay toward one private owner then they will have to pay toward all private owners who have ditching needs on their property. No decision was made and will put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Williams Township Hall: Commissioner Hanson reported no change on getting the hall recognized as being a Historical Site but continues to work on it. Folks are busy applying for MN Legacy dollars making it difficult to find someone who will work on the Historical Site application. Etta asked if the floor was safe enough to get into the hall and remove treasured things like the pews, stove, pictures and other items. Commissioner Hanson will contact the Land Commissioner to see if something can be done in the spring to get the item out.

Administrative Contract: Commissioner Hanson told the Committee last year after discussing administrative responsibilities at several meetings they contracted with Your Office or Mine, Kallie Briggs. Last year it was questioned as to why it was not someone from the Birchdale area, so it was put on the agenda for discussion. Pernell said it was she who brought up the hiring of Your Office or Mine and that her questions had been answered and thought Kallie was doing an excellent job. The Committee is also pleased with Kallie's work and their administrative responsibilities and therefore, decided to contract with Your Office or Mine, Kallie Briggs for another year. Commissioner Hanson also noted that Kallie Briggs has a recreational cabin in Birchdale.

County Park Updates: Commissioner Hanson said the Veedus Landing was awarded to Bowman Construction and suppose to be completed by October 15. In the bid was a penalty clause for not completing by said date. Spokesperson for Bowman Construction said the project could not be worked on or completed because of weather and road construction on Highway 11. The only work done on the project was culverts were delivered. Because he has been paid with state dollars and performed his work it will come before the County Board and a penalty may be enforced.

Reports: Updates were as follows:

- Joe: Forestry is getting a lot done on their backlog. There are a lot of sales going up and south of Birchdale they will be cutting an extra 20,000 cords with a goal of 30,000 cords. These cords are in the ConCon area which helps this Committee because by statute the County Board has to allocate dollars to schools, general fund, townships, and ConCon Committee. It is not just timber but gravel and other minerals that contribute.
- Kyle: The Chancy Bridge is being replaced and the road will be realigned to the bridge. Work will begin in July and end in October.
- Commissioner Hanson: Copies of the State Metallic Mineral Leasing Program was handed out to those in attendance. There are active leases in the Birchdale area and Commissioner Hanson will try to get someone to attend our May or July meeting. They are looking for gold and store all drilling cores in Hibbing.

Other: Administrative expenses were handed out by Chair Lewis. **Motion/Second/Passed, Dennis/Etta to pay \$173 in administrative expenses and \$15.07 in expenses for a total of \$188.07 to Your Office or Mine, Kallie Briggs.**

Adjourn: **Motion/Second/Passed, Dennis/Roland to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 PM.** The next meeting will be May 5, 7:00 PM at the Birchdale Community Building.