Official Proceedings of the Stutsman County Commission

March 31, 2008

At 4:00 p.m. the special meeting of the Stutsman County Commission was called to order by Chairman Klose. Roll call was answered by Douglas Kaiser, Craig Neys, Dennis Ova, Dale Marks, and Mark T. Klose.

Fritz Fremgen, State's Attorney, reviewed the procedures for the second reading of "Stutsman County Ordinance #2008-1, Sales Tax and Land Tax for Roads." At the June 10, 2008 Primary Election, the voters of Stutsman County would decide by majority vote whether or not the proposed ordinance for a 35 mill annual increase in property taxes on agricultural land and a county wide 1% sales tax would go into effect. The Commission could not pass the ordinance until the voters had given them authorization.

Mike Robyt, President of the Stutsman County Farm Bureau, thanked the Commission for a road plan. He indicated that the Farm Bureau wanted to go on record opposing the 35 mill increase on agricultural land, only. The ordinance would not help with Township roads. Some Townships do not have any County roads within their townships. Don Readel opposed the County having to back up by grinding up roads. He supported higher revenues up to $1.00 an acre, if necessary. The Commission indicated that the recycling would not have to be done right away. Commissioner Marks indicated that a mill levy increase on all classes of property would have no chance of voter approval – City residents pay special assessments for maintenance and repair of their streets – farmers needed to take some responsibility to fix their roads. Lyle Sjostrom stated that the County had more pavement than it could afford and many of the paved roads went nowhere.

Marks made a motion that was seconded by Kaiser to approve the Resolution of the Stutsman County Board of Commissioners to amend the 1972 Farm-to-Market and Federal Aid Roads Plan. Roll call vote – Ova, Marks, Kaiser, Neys and Klose voted aye.

A motion was made by Kaiser and seconded by Marks to finalize the language of the proposed Stutsman County Ordinance 2008-1 "Sales Tax & Land Tax for Roads" as amended to levy the lesser of an additional amount of mills necessary to generate $670,000 of revenue annually or an additional 35 mills on all real property classified as agricultural property. Roll call vote – Marks, Kaiser, Neys, Klose and Ova voted aye.

Marks made a motion that was seconded by Kaiser to place the question of whether the Stutsman County Board shall enact proposed Stutsman County Ordinance 2008-1 "Sales Tax & Land Tax for Roads" as amended, on the June 10, 2008 ballot. Roll call vote – Kaiser, Neys, Klose, Ova and Marks voted aye.

A motion was made by Kaiser and seconded by Neys to approve the language for the ballot as follows:

County Measure No. 1

Shall Stutsman County implement and collect a one percent sales tax and a 35 mill increase in the levy on agricultural property to raise revenue to be used, as described in proposed Stutsman County Ordinance # 2008-1 and in accordance with Stutsman County's 1972 Farm-to-Market plan as amended on March 31, 2008, exclusively for construction, improvement, and/or maintenance of Stutsman County roads.

A "yes" vote authorizes the Stutsman County Board to enact the ordinance imposing the one percent sales tax and 35 mill increase on land classified as agricultural property.

A "no" vote directs the Stutsman County Board to refrain from enacting the ordinance imposing a one percent sales tax and 35 mill increase on agricultural land and to rescind the March 2008 amendment to the 1972 Farm-to-Market plan.

____ YES

____ NO

Ova made a motion that was seconded by Neys to adjourn. At 5:02 p.m. the March 31, 2008 special meeting of the Stutsman County Commission was adjourned.

ATTEST:

Noel A. Johnson
County COO (Auditor)

Mark Klose
Commission Chairman