



**GOODHUE COUNTY**  
**Regional Rail Road Authority**  
**Goodhue County Board Room**  
**April 20, 2009**  
**8:30 am**

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Attending: C/Bryant, C/Seifert, C/Rechtzigel, C/Allen, C/Samuelson, County Administrator Scott Arneson, County Attorney Steve Betcher, Finance Director Carolyn Holmsten.

Others: Ken Bjornstad

Scott Arneson called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. Mr. Arneson called for nominations for 2009 Regional Railroad Authority Board Chairman.

C/Seifert nominated C/Allen as Chair. C/Rechtzigel seconded. Mr. Arneson asked three times for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

*Moved by C/Rechtzigel, seconded by C/Seifert, motion passed unanimously naming C/Allen as the 2009 Chairman of the Regional Railroad Authority.*

C/Allen called for nominations for the 2009 Vice Chairman for the Regional Railroad Authority.

C/Rechtzigel nominated C/Bryant as Vice Chair. C/Allen asked for any other nominations. There were no other nominations.

*Moved by C/Rechtzigel, seconded by C/Samuelson, and carried to approve to appoint C/Bryant as the 2009 Vice Chairman of the Regional Railroad Authority.*

C/Allen called for a motion to appoint the County Administrator as the clerk of the Regional Railroad Authority.

*Moved by C/Bryant, seconded by C/Rechtzigel, and carried to approve to appoint The County Administrator as the Clerk of the Regional Railroad Authority.*

C/Allen called for a motion to appoint the County Engineer or a designee as the Engineer of the Regional Railroad Authority.

*Moved by C/Bryant, seconded by C/Seifert, and carried to approve to appoint the County Engineer or designee as the Engineer of the Regional Railroad Authority.*

C/Samuelson asked how often this board would meet. County Attorney Steve Betcher noted that this board was originally constituted back in the 1980's however, after the establishment there is no further evidence that the board ever met. This board does have authority to act on issues and the way the board was currently structured, himself along with the Finance Director had voting power. Mr. Betcher suggested they reconstitute the group to vote himself and the Finance Director off the board so they could remain as advisors to the board rather than voting members.

Depending on the success of the Joint Power Board this board could have a number of issues to address. At this time, negotiations are still on going with potential members. High speed rail is the current issue and there is a significant amount of Federal Stimulus money available to use.

Mr. Betcher also pointed out that the Goodhue County Railroad authority has the authority to work on all railroad issues.

C/Rechtzigel suggested that the Regional Railroad Authority meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month with specific meeting date and times to be set by Administration.

*Moved by C/Rechtzigel, seconded by C/Allen, and carried to approve to conduct meetings of the Goodhue County Regional Railroad Authority on the 1<sup>st</sup> and/or 3<sup>d</sup> Tuesday of the month with specific meeting dates and times to be set as needed by the County Administrator's Office.*

Moved by C/Bryant, seconded by C/Allen, and carried to appoint C/Rechtzigel as the Treasurer of the Goodhue County Regional Railroad Authority.

C/Rechtzigel noted that if they agree to enter into the Joint Powers agreement today, then they would only be committing up to \$6,000. In addition, all of the members of the JP board would need to vote in favor of any motion in order for it to move forward. Mr. Betcher agreed but did caution the board that there could be some substantial participation on the county's end; however, the return on the county's contribution could be very large. It was a big opportunity on a big scale.

Ms. Holmsten noted that the draft Joint Powers agreement did have a 90 day out clause.

C/Bryant was interested in looking at financial partners as the stops are identified.

*Moved by C/Seifert, seconded by C/Allen, and carried to approve to enter into the Joint Powers Agreement which would include the funding requirement with the funds to be found in the 2009 budget.*

C/Rechtzigel questioned where the funding would come from. Mr. Bjornstad noted Public Works would be getting some stimulus funds that could be used to cover the cost.

Moved by C/Seifert, seconded by C/Rechtzigel and carried to approve to appoint Ron Allen as the representative to the Minnesota High Speed Rail commission with C/Bryant as the alternate.

K. Bjornstad noted that the next meeting of the Rail Commission is scheduled for May 7 in Red Wing.

Meeting Adjourned.