



**GOODHUE COUNTY**  
**Regional Rail Road Authority**  
**Goodhue County Board Room**  
**June 2, 2009, 2009**  
**3:30 pm**

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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

C/Allen called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

*Moved by C/Rechtzigel, seconded by C/Samuelson, and carried to approve the April 20, 2009, Regional Railroad Board Meeting minutes as written.*

*Moved by C/Bryant, seconded by C/Allen, and carried to approve the June 2, 2009, Regional Railroad Board Agenda.*

**Amended Joint Powers Agreement.** Staff requested that the Regional Railroad Authority (RRA) authorize entering into the attached final Joint Powers Agreement in order to become a full partner in the Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission (MHSRC).

C/Bryant asked if Wabasha joined. K. Bjornstad stated that they are showing interest, however, they have not formally voted on the issue at this time. It is expected that they will join.

C/Rechtzigel questioned the process when it comes to spending money. The financial partners which are the counties, would vote on the issue and it would need to be a 2/3 vote. C/Rechtzigel asked if the delegate would be making the decision on behalf of the Goodhue County Rail Road Board. The delegate would cast their vote based on the decision made by the Goodhue County Rail Road Board.

C. Holmsten noted that in the original policy there was a 90 day out clause.

Mr. Betcher clarified that if the group voted to spend money Goodhue County could be obligate to participate. There is a significant commitment however there is also a significant benefit. Mr. Betcher also pointed out that if the board approved to join this group, they would need to adopt a budget within 60 days.

C/Bryant questioned if the board was comfortable with the 2/3 vote ratio.

C/Rechtzigel questioned if the Joint Powers Board had to vote to let another financial party in the group. Mr. Bjornstad agreed.

C/Samuelson felt the county should participate however he was concerned with the financial commitment and questioned if the board was willing to commit levy dollars. C/Allen noted that his feeling was that this group was not interested in levying for funds but rather taking advantage of Federal dollars available.

C/Rechtzigel questioned the financial startup commitment. Mr. Bjornstad stated that it would be \$6,000 and Public Works could find the initial \$6,000 in their budget this year, however in the future the Rail Road Board would need their own budget.

*Moved by C/Seifert, seconded by C/Allen, and carried to approve the final Joint Powers Agreement establishing the Minnesota High Speed Rail Commission.*

**Board member update.** At the April 20, 2009 meeting, the Regional Railroad Authority briefly discussed the role the County Attorney and the Finance Director would take on relating to the Goodhue County Regional Railroad Board. Currently they are considered voting members of this board.

Staff has discussed the legal issues with the County Attorney's Office and found that the board may reconstitute the group and vote the County Attorney and the Finance Director off the board. They would still remain as advisors to the board rather than voting members. This would require a thirty day notice and a public hearing. If this is the direction the board would like to take, Administration will schedule a public hearing and send out the proper notice.

*Moved by C/Rechtzigel, seconded by C/Allen, and carried to authorize staff to schedule and publish notice of a public hearing to consider reorganization of the Goodhue County Regional Railroad Authority Board.*

*Moved by C/Rechtzigel, seconded by C/Allen, and carried to adjourn meeting.*