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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New construction permits in Crow Wing County declined 16% in 2010

The total number of construction permits issued in Crow Wing County declined slightly in 2010, from 2,350 in 2009 to 2,027 permits in 2010. The data comes from the Crow Wing County Land Services Department which is required under state law to annually assess the value of all new construction in the county for property tax valuation purposes. Properties are physically viewed by a county property assessor to determine the effect on the market value of the property for the following year assessment.

"Most of the permits we are seeing in today's market are for smaller projects such as remodels, additions or decks," said Gary Griffin, Land Services Supervisor for Property Classification and Valuation.

In addition to following up on construction permits each year, the county is required by state statute to perform its "quintile" work, which means physically viewing 20% of the parcels in the county every year, or approximately 8,200 parcels out of over 41,000 existing improved parcels county-wide. "Physically viewing property is very important to fulfilling our responsibility to value property fairly," Griffin noted.

Both the permit follow up and the quintile work will be reflected in the County's 2011 assessment, which establishes assessed market value of all properties as of January 2, 2011. Property valuations are determined primarily by analyzing the sales of similar properties in the county, which for the 2011 assessment includes sales that occurred from October 2009 through September 2010. Property value assessments are mailed to property owners in March or early April each year.

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