

April 27, 2010
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 27, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Tom White. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Tim Graca, Curt Pemble, Bob Pankratz, Steve Nasby, Jeff Dahna, Cheryl Peters, Kim Hall, Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith, Gale Bondhus and Ron Gregg.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 13, 2010 meeting.

* * * *

Tim Graca, Cisco, and Curt Pemble, Hickory Tech, met with the board to present information regarding a possible update to the current county phone system.

* * * *

Court Administrator Cheryl Peters met with the board to discuss the condition of some of the chairs in the courtroom. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Peters to obtain quotes for reupholstering of these chairs.

Peters asked the board to consider purchasing a picnic table to have available on the Courthouse property for employees to use while on their breaks. No action was taken at this time.

* * * *

Kim Hall, Emergency Management Director, met with the board to inform them that the county did not receive the fire grant that was applied for last April. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to reapply for the grant and to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 10-04-27A
Approving Participation in a Countywide Communication Equipment Project and Submission of "Assistance to Firefighters" Grant Application

INTRODUCED: Commissioner Sorenson

SECONDED: Commissioner Holmen

VOTED: **Aye:** Commissioners Oeltjenbruns, Kuecker, White, Sorenson, Holmen

Nay:

WHEREAS, the Federal Communication Commission has mandated that all public safety agencies that operate radio equipment on frequencies of less than 500 MHz must use radio equipment that is "narrow banded" (i.e., operates in a band width of 12.5 KHz) by January 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, there is a national Department of Homeland Security initiative underway to develop regional, statewide and interstate communications interoperability to facilitate resource sharing

and inter-agency collaboration in response to mass casualty and multi-jurisdictional natural or man-made disasters; and

WHEREAS, grants to obtain communication equipment for a Countywide Communication Equipment Project are available through the "Assistance to Firefighters" Grant Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that one government entity act as the legal sponsor for the grant applications to be submitted to FEMA, and the other participating Cottonwood County Government entities have requested that the City of Windom act in such capacity; and

WHEREAS, the County of Cottonwood understands that there is a five percent (5%) match requirement for grants to fire departments serving areas with a population of 50,000 or less as stated in the Federal Register and sources for these matching funds are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Commissioners of Cottonwood County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. The County of Cottonwood agrees to participate in the Countywide Communication Equipment Project.
2. The City of Windom is designated to act as legal sponsor for the application in which Cottonwood County is participating and is authorized to submit a grant application to the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the Countywide Communication Equipment Project.
3. The City of Windom has legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capacity to ensure compliance with the grant requirements and completion of the proposed project.
4. The County of Cottonwood has the institutional, managerial, and financial capacity to ensure its compliance with requirements for and completion of its portion of the project.
5. The County of Cottonwood has not violated any Federal, State, or local laws pertaining to fraud, bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.
6. If the grant application for the Countywide Communication Equipment Project is approved, the five percent (5%) match will be provided by the participating agencies. Each City/County participating in the project will provide matching funds in an amount equivalent to its percentage of benefit from the project.
7. If the grant application is approved, each City/County will be responsible to ensure that its portion of the proposed project is properly constructed or assembled, operated and maintained.
8. Upon approval of its grant application by FEMA, the City of Windom may enter into agreements for the approved project(s). The County of Cottonwood shall enter into any agreements required for its portion of the project. The County of Cottonwood certifies that it will comply with applicable laws and all regulations and requirements as contained in said agreements.
9. The County Board Chairman and the County Auditor/Treasurer are hereby authorized, on behalf of the County of Cottonwood to execute such agreements and contracts as are necessary to implement the project.

S/Tom White, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is currently offering a grant by combining seat belt funds, impaired driving funds and required matching funds to make available approximately 575-600 in-car cameras statewide. The matching portion of the grant would require the county to provide \$300 per in-car camera per squad. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Purrington to apply for "in-car video grant" through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration for four in-car cameras with the county match being \$1,200. These funds would be taken out of Drug Forfeiture Funds or the Sheriff's Contingency Fund.

* * * *

Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson presented quotes for the AS 400 upgrade as follows: CPS - \$29,580 and Synatrix - \$29,667. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$29,580 from CPS.

Johnson reported that he received quotes for the purchase of a new laptop instead of a new desktop PC so that he could utilize the laptop during board meetings. Quotes were as follows: DELL - \$1,184.00 (State bid - does not include tax) and Davis Typewriter - \$1,686.26 & \$1,610.11 (includes tax). Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept the state bid in the amount of \$1,184.00 from DELL and to approve this purchase on the county credit card.

* * * *

Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 10-04-27 (on file in Commissioner's Room) authorizing the county to borrow money from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and to lend money to eligible borrowers for the Greater Blue Earth and Des Moines River SSTS Low Interest Loan Project and to allow Chairman White to sign General Obligation Note (MPCA) that goes along with the resolution and project.

Hanson handed out some information in regards to the Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watershed Initiative. Cottonwood and Brown Counties are working together to submit an application for the Little Cottonwood River (Middle Minnesota) through this program. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman White to sign letter of support for this program.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to set Public Hearing for Ordinances 31, 39, 40 & 41 for May 25th at 1:05 p.m. These ordinances are posted on the county website for review.

Commissioner Sorenson asked for an update regarding a variance hearing that was recently held at Dennis Erickson's.

Hanson gave an update regarding a few variance hearings (Perry Zieske and Brian Berger) that would be held on May 10th.

Discussion was held regarding setback permits and the shortcomings that are occurring as a result of not enough communication. More information needs to be shared among offices so that new construction can be tracked better. A suggestion was made to change the title of the application as it may be confusing to the general public.

* * * *

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg updated the board on the completion of the permit application for the Cottonwood County Sanitary Landfill that needs to be submitted by May 4th. This is the document that Wenck Engineers was hired to complete.

Gregg presented some information in regards to County State Aid Account balances and explained the procedure for the spending of these funds.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to move Randy Illg to permanent full-time status effective April 26, 2010 after successful completion of the 6-month probationary period.

Gregg reported that a Tri-County Recycling meeting would be held on May 7th at 9:00 a.m. at the Slayton Government Building.

Commissioner Sorenson commented in regards to some tile issues and concerns in the Storden area that he would like Gregg to follow up on.

* * * *

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Chairman White to sign addendum to the existing contract between FirstLab and Cottonwood County to provide additional non-DOT drug testing to all new employees of Cottonwood County.

* * * *

Discussion was held regarding aggregate taxes in Cottonwood County. More information will be gathered so that the proper steps can be followed before setting a public hearing date.

* * * *

Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to sign Joint Powers Agreement with the SW/WC Service Cooperative.

* * * *

Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that the state will continue to contribute 25% of the Sentencing to Service Program (STS) funding as they have in the past.

Johnson reported that he recently had a conversation with Aaron Backman in regards to New Vision's potential project. It seems that a TIF or an economic abatement may be a possibility that is considered.

* * * *

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Tom White, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant