

January 24, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 24, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Ron Kuecker. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Chuck Severson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Kay Clark, Mark Marcy, Kym Christiansen, Bruce Nagorske, Jim Kartes, Gale Bondhus, Ron Gregg, Richard Maxwell, Kenneth Birch, Andy Butler and Mary Ann Anderson. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the January 10, 2006 meeting as amended.

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Kay Clark met with the board to present an RC & D application that was submitted for approval on behalf of the Mt. Lake Chamber of Commerce for the completion of the Lawcon Park Playground Equipment project. The request is in the amount of \$7,200. Because there were some discrepancies with the amounts listed on the proposal, Clark will talk to Rob Anderson for clarification on the totals. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve RC & D grant application pending clarification of the application.

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A public hearing to discuss the HAVA county election equipment plan was held at this time. There were 13 people in attendance for the hearing. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson gave an update and answered any questions that were asked by the members of the audience. Johnson reported that the State has tentatively approved the equipment plan but nothing has been received in writing at this time.

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Mark Marcy, Emergency Management Director and Kym Christiansen, SRDC, met with the board to discuss the possibility of the county participating in a hazard mitigation planning process that would be developed with the help of SRDC. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows, which allows the SRDC to apply for a grant on behalf of Cottonwood County for hazard mitigation planning.

**RESOLUTION TO PARTICIPATE IN A HAZARD MITIGATION
PLANNING PROCESS
06-01-24**

WHEREAS, the County of Cottonwood is participating in a hazard mitigation planning process as established under the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000; and

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to authorize payment to Conrad Heggeseth in the amount of \$5,198.21 for work completed on the JD #15 improvement project. This amount included change order #1 and was recognized by the board.

Discussion was held in regards to county ditch maps. This is something Auditor/Treasurer Johnson would like to pursue by checking into costs that would be involved with digitizing the maps.

Bruce Nagorske met with the board in regard to a petition for improvement to JD #5. After much discussion and review of the proposal for improvement, it was determined that a more detailed description on the petition needs to be submitted before it can be given further consideration. Nagorske will work to put together a more detailed description.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and to reconvene as the County Board.

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Building Inspector/Zoning/Fire Marshall Jim Kartes met with the board to discuss his findings and recommendations after a recent review of the current fire alarm system in the Courthouse that was conducted on Friday, January 20th along with Fire Chief Dan Fossing, Commissioner Kuecker and Auditor/Treasurer Johnson. After giving his recommendations to the board, there was a motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to seek quotes to update the current fire alarm system in the Courthouse.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to discuss a few different items. The board agreed to set the Board of Equalization date for Tuesday, June 13th at 1:00pm with the first appointment to be scheduled at 1:30pm.

Bondhus presented two letters to the board asking for their consideration to grant permanent full-time status to two of the employees in the Assessor's Office that will soon be completing their probationary period. Bondhus also asked that the board consider giving them each an increase in pay because of added responsibilities due to a reorganization of the office. The board asked that they be given a chance to review the information until the next meeting before discussing it any further. Bondhus requested that her salary be reviewed at the same time as well.

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Highway Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Gregg reported that training on the use of fire extinguishers would be held sometime this spring at the Windom County Highway Department and all county employees will be invited to participate.

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept retirement resignation from David Stresemann, Solid Waste Worker, effective

March 31, 2006 with appropriate payout of benefits.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize Gregg to post internally and to advertise for the position of Solid Waste Worker, if he so desires. Because this position has been advertised within the last 6 months, Gregg has the option of using the same applicants from the last job opening without having to advertise again.

Motion by Severson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept resignation from Srinivasa Gutti, Highway Tech Supervisor, effective March 31, 2006 with appropriate payout of benefits.

Two bids were recently received for furnish and installation of a dump body and snow equipment on the new tandem truck. Bids were as follows: Crysteel Truck Equipment - \$73,293.30 and Sanitation Products, Inc. - \$67,719.76. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to award low bid in the amount of \$67,719.76 to Sanitation Products, Inc.

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Richard Maxwell, Kenneth Birch and Andy Butler met with the board representing Home Farms Technologies, Inc. from Brandon, Manitoba, Canada. They gave a presentation about their company and what they can offer to the county as far as Municipal Solid Waste (MSW).

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County Recorder Mary Ann Anderson met with the board to discuss a personnel issue.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve gambling permit for Mt. Lake Golf Course for a raffle that will be held on May 6, 2006 pending receiving payment.

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Two bids were presented for roof repair/replacement on the County Transit Garage and were as follows: Bargaen, Inc. - \$20,142.86 and Laraway Roofing, Inc. - \$16,328.00. Because it is not known whether this building can structurally withstand a new roof, more information will need to be researched. No action was taken at this time.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Kuecker to sign 2005 OSHA 300 Summary that is to be posted from February 1, 2006 to April 30, 2006.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant