

April 1, 2014
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 1, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Jim Schmidt. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Jim Schmidt, Tom White, Norm Holmen, Kevin Stevens, John Oeltjenbruns; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; Kathy Marsh, Jim Jorgensen, Gale Bondhus, Maryellen Suhrhoff, Mary Ann Anderson, and Dick Courts.

Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2014 meeting.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns asked that the board approve a per diem for Commissioner Stevens who was asked to attend a Soil and Water meeting on March 27. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to pay a per diem to Kevin Stevens for attending the Soil and Water meeting on March 27, 2014.

Oeltjenbruns also gave an update on a solid waste meeting he attended.

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Jim Jorgenson, Chief Deputy Sheriff, met with the board to discuss the 2014 Minnesota Annual County Boat and Water Grant. The money from this grant has purchased cold water rescue suits in the past. Motion by White, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve the 2014 Minnesota Annual County Boat and Water Grant for \$888.

Jorgensen informed the board of an out-of-state training for HEAT Team members. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Deputy Jayd Soderholm to attend an out-of-state HEAT Team member training in Socorro, New Mexico on October 20-24, 2014. Expenses for this training will be paid from a grant the HEAT Team received.

Jorgensen also asked the board for approval to hire two part-time Jailer/Dispatch personnel. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to advertise and hire two part-time Jailer/Dispatch. Kelly Thongvivong noted that she would like all hires to go through the Human Resources office and that more information will be forthcoming on hiring procedures.

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Maryellen Suhrhoff presented a petition opposing relocation and consolidation of county offices.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, presented for consideration a resolution concerning assessor certification. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt amended resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION No.: 14-04-01

A RESOLUTION TO REPEAL HF2726 ASSESSOR'S CERTIFICATION

WHEREAS, legislation passed in Minnesota requiring all assessors working in the state in an official capacity of assessing property will be required to achieve certification at a level of Accredited Minnesota Assessor (Minnesota Statute 2013 Supplement, section 270C.9901); and

WHEREAS, the County Assessor is ultimately responsible for the duties and outcomes of each county's property valuation and assessment process; and

WHEREAS, rules of valuation and assessing are well prescribed for Minnesota assessors; and

WHEREAS, townships and counties across Greater Minnesota are currently having difficulty attracting and hiring qualified assessors; and

WHEREAS, counties are in full support of continuing education requirements including ethics training; and

WHEREAS, this requirement will very likely require higher wages and increased training costs be levied to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, numerous current local assessors are relied on by townships to be fair and accurate in the process of valuations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners supports HF 2726, legislation now before the 2014 legislature that would repeal the requirement for all assessors to be credentialed as Accredited Minnesota Assessors by 2019 or within 4 years of being hired for those duties.

This Resolution is adopted by action of the Board of Commissioners of Cottonwood County at a meeting duly called on the 1st day of April, 2014.

DATED: April 1, 2014

S/Jim Schmidt, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer, recommended the board allow him to hire Sherry Sevcik as Deputy Auditor/Treasurer. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, to hire Sherry Sevcik at step 7 (\$20.4944) on the Deputy Auditor/Treasurer 2014 matrix and negotiate with DVHHS for a transfer back of her vacation and sick leave; if that option is not available, then to reinstate her to her former levels less any payout received from DVHHS. Voting as follows: Aye – White, Oeltjenbruns, and Schmidt. Nay – Holmen. Abstained – Stevens. Motion passed.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Thongvivong presented a renewal of the Workforce Investment Act Joint Powers Agreement. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept the Workforce Investment Act Joint Powers Agreement as presented.

Thongvivong requested the board set wages for a 5th year seasonal worker and a 3rd year seasonal supervisor wage as there is a possibility of returning workers. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to set wage for a 5th year seasonal worker at \$10.60/hour and wage for a seasonal supervisor worker at \$11.33/hour.

Discussion was held regarding some clarification of the Building and Grounds Supervisor position.

Discussion was held regarding repairs to the courthouse roof and some damaged shingles that need to be replaced. A quote was received from Borgen, Inc. for the repairs. Thongvivong should proceed with the repairs as this is a building maintenance issue.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Jim Schmidt, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator