

November 25, 2014  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 25, 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, David Bucklin, Jordan Burmeister, JinYeene Neumann, Jared Morrill, Jacqueline Knips, Kathy Kretsch, Kristi Sell, Jason Purrington, Ron Kuecker, Gale Bondhus, Alan and Norma Cohrs.

Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve the agenda. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the November 18, 2014 regular board meeting.

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David Bucklin, SWCD District Technician, met with the board to get approval of a No Loss Determination and the Wetland Boundary Application for the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act applied for by Agrinatural Gas Pipeline. The three counties involved in this application are: Cottonwood, Jackson, and Nobles. Motion by White, second by Holmen, to approve the No Loss Determination and the Wetland Boundary Application for the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act with conditions for the three counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, and Nobles. Motion was withdrawn and Bucklin was instructed to consult with the County Engineer and the County Attorney and then bring back to the board.

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Jordan Burmeister, Odell Wind Farm Representative, met with the board to give an update on the Odell Wind Farm project. Burmeister informed the board that construction will start in May or June of 2015 and that there are approximately 110 turbines in the layout but only 100 will be built, 10 of the sites are alternate sites. Burmeister also presented a Development Agreement for approval. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the Development Agreement for the Odell Wind Farm.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve the Aquatic Invasive Species Plan/Delegation Agreement and the Resolution for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid Grant, as follows:

**RESOLUTION FOR AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION AID GRANT**

WHEREAS, 2014 Session Law Chapter 308 enacted by the Legislature provides Minnesota counties a County Program Aid grant for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention. The amount designated for each county is based on the number of watercraft trailer launches as well as number of watercraft trailer parking spaces within each county. Cottonwood County was allocated approximately .6% of the total, which equates to \$27,101 for 2014 and \$60,225 for 2015 and years

following, and

WHEREAS, the legislation requires that Cottonwood County must establish, by resolution or through adoption of a plan, guidelines for the use of the proceeds which are to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within the county, and

WHEREAS, the county may appropriate the proceeds directly or may use any portion of the proceeds to provide funding for a joint powers board or cooperative agreement with another political subdivision, a soil and water conservation district in the county, a watershed district in the county, or a lake association located in the county. Any money appropriated by the county to a different entity or political subdivision must be used as required under this section, and

WHEREAS, the county must submit a copy of its guidelines for use of proceeds to the Department of Natural Resources by December 31 of the year the payments are received, and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board of Commissioners of Cottonwood County, Minnesota, designates o them the responsibility to prepare, implement and report annually a plan to allocate the funding in accordance with the above legislation. For 2014, the plan is on file in the Planning and Zoning Department in the Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation Office.

DATED: November 25, 2014

S/Jim Schmidt, Board Chairman

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S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer, met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to pay the Family Services Collaborative billing of \$20,000 and to add an appropriation line item in the 2015 budget.

Johnson and Jason Purrington, Sheriff, updated the board on some issues the Sheriff's Department is having with RTVision. The consensus of the board is to allow Johnson, with Purrington's input, to configure RTVision to work with the current timekeeping system in place at the Law Enforcement Center.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Current retired elected official's health insurance coverages were discussed and earned years of coverage were agreed upon.

Thongvivong informed the board that clarification on the cap that the county pays toward retired elected official's insurance coverage each month is needed. Motion by White, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to clarify that the cap on earned insurance for retired elected officials is \$720 per month as of January 1, 2004.

Thongvivong also informed the board that she was unaware of any form that elected officials had to sign accepting or waiving post-elective health insurance benefits within 60 days of taking office, as the Auditor/Treasurer's office handled this before there was a Human Resources office. Thongvivong stated that Commissioner Stevens has not signed this form. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Commissioner Kevin Stevens to sign Acknowledgement and Acceptance or Waiver by Elected Officials of Post-Elective Office Health Insurance.

Motion by Stevens, second by White, unanimous vote to allow for a post-tax deduction of a Roth IRA through payroll for Cottonwood County employees.

Thongvivong presented information regarding a potential increase to VEBA contributions by the county. Thongvivong stated that the single coverage contribution is currently \$107 per month and proposes an increase of \$28 per month for a total of \$135 per month and that the family coverage contribution is currently \$230 per month and proposes an increase of \$35.76 per month for a total of \$265.76 per month. Motion by Stevens, second by White, unanimous vote to increase the VEBA contribution for single coverage to \$135 per month and to increase the VEBA contribution for family coverage to \$265.76 effective January 1, 2015.

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Chairman Schmidt appointed Commissioner Stevens to the MRCC committee to replace Commissioner White as this group will be meeting at the AMC Conference in December and Commissioner White does not plan to attend.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve November warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 18,446.22
County Building Fund	\$ 454.32
Ditch Fund	\$ 1,879.85
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 13,104.94
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 425.00
Landfill Enterprise	<u>\$ 7,991.39</u>
	\$ 42,301.72

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, informed the board of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between AFSCME 578 – Minnesota Council 65 and Cottonwood County regarding the Highway Department wage adjustments. The consensus of the board is to get more clarification from John Spiegelhoff, AFSCME Representative, before ratifying the MOA.

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Commissioner Schmidt led discussion regarding all 2015 proposed department budgets and where cuts could be made.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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James Schmidt, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator