

February 28, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 28, 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; Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith, Mike Decker, Margo Underwood, Rick Roemer, Darryl Heaps and Ron Gregg. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2006 meeting.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss several different items. Hanson presented the board with a contract from SRDC for the completion of the water plan revision. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve SRDC contract as presented. The total cost for the project will not exceed \$11,000 including expenses.

Quotes were presented for the purchase of two new docks at Talcot Lake Park and were as follows: Johnson Hardware - \$6,090; Windom Farm Services - \$6,517.80; Hoek Outdoors - \$6,754. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$6,090 from Johnson Hardware, which includes special price on bench kit if ordered with the dock before March 31, 2006.

Hanson reported that the Planning Commission is close to having a draft Mining, Extraction & Excavation Ordinance completed and is hoping to have the required public hearing on March 22nd.

Hanson presented an individual septic treatment system inventory for Cottonwood County broken down by townships. He also reported that he is hoping to send out letters to residents in a few of the watersheds letting them know that there is funding yet available for low-interest loans.

Discussion was held regarding the current cell phone contract for the Environmental Office that is up for renewal in March and whether or not there is a need to change current plans. Hanson was instructed to do some further research and to bring this back to the board sometime within the next few weeks.

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Mike Decker met with the board representing the Elmendorf Hutterite Colony in Mt. Lake. Decker asked that a definition be added to the ordinance defining "organized religious farm colonies" and that consideration be given to change the zoning ordinance to accommodate their request for additional housing. Motion by Kuecker, second by Severson, unanimous vote to direct the Planning Commission to act upon the request from the Elmendorf Colony for a change in our Zoning Ordinance and that they proceed as soon as possible.

Margo Underwood, Community Relations Representative, and Rick Roemer, District Manager, met with the board representing Waste Management. Their intent was to introduce themselves and to answer any questions of the board. They reported that they don't foresee any significant changes at this time to the current services that were being provided by Curry Sanitation. They also stated that they want to work together with the county to maintain a good working relationship.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve final payment on SAP 17-610-32 (bridge replacement on CSAH 10).

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to continue spring clean-ups with the county paying for 1/2 of the tipping fees for the Cities of Cottonwood County that have a spring clean-up program.

Gregg presented a draft letter to the townships requesting participation in the countywide intersection signage project. Gregg will be sending a letter to each of the townships for their consideration at the annual meeting on March 14th.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 06-02-28
Authorizing Application for Easement Across State Land**

Whereas, Cottonwood County has scheduled the reconstruction of County State Aid Highway Number 2 from TH 60 to County Road Number 50; and

Whereas, the Minnesota Department of Transportation State-Aid rules require additional right-of-way for a centerline culvert that extends past the present right-of-way and temporary easement for construction slopes in the SW 1/4 of Section 9 of Lakeside Township; and

Whereas, the additional right-of-way needed for the culvert revision is state land controlled by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources;

Now, therefore be it resolved that the Cottonwood County Highway Engineer be and is authorized to apply for the temporary and permanent easements across state land necessary for the project.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to post internally and to advertise for the position of a temporary summer program assistant/clerical employee at the Extension Office. This position will be from approximately June 5 to August 31. The interview committee will consist of Katie Clark, 1 County Commissioner, and Kathy Marsh.

It was reported that Elizabeth Tusa has been hired as Cottonwood County 4-H Program Coordinator. She will begin her employment on May 15, 2006.

Commissioner Sorenson gave an update in regards to a meeting that he recently had in regards to the GPS system in the Lamberton area.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to give approval for Commissioners Severson and Sorenson to attend a Mental Health Executive Board Meeting in Sioux Falls on March 8th.

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Commissioner Kuecker and Kelly Thongvivong gave an update in regards to a Transit Coordination Action Plan meeting that they attended on February 14th. Another meeting will be held on March 21st to discuss more of the specific coordination needs in our area.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to rescind motion made on January 24th in regards to RC & D grant application that was to be approved pending clarification of the application submitted on behalf of the Mt. Lake Chamber of Commerce for completion of the Lawcon Park Playground Equipment project. It was reported that SWCD has approved the revised application as well.

Motion by Severson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve new application to RC & D for work yet to be completed on the Lawcon Park Playground Equipment project on behalf of the Mt. Lake Chamber of Commerce. This work will include landscaping as well as signage for the park.

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It was noted that the county would begin to use the Employment Eligibility Verification (Form I-9), as all U.S. employers are responsible for completion and retention of Form I-9 for each individual they hire for employment in the United States. This includes citizens and non-citizens. This form will be sent out to all Department Heads for their use in the hiring process.

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Motion by Severson, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to authorize purchase of flat panel computer monitor and scanner for the Commissioner's Room.

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Brief discussion was held regarding a letter that Chairman Kuecker received in December from an architect in Marshall in regards to the possible renovation of the Commissioner's Room. The board agreed to continue pursuing architect for potential work in the Commissioner's Room.

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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