

April 4, 2017
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 4, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom Appel, Donna Gravley, Jim Schmidt, Kevin Stevens, Norm Holmen; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, County Attorney Nick Anderson, Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson, Kathy Marsh, Luke Ewald, Dave Bucklin, Jackie Flohrs, Sherry Pankratz, Marty Mollenhauer, Jordan Burmeister, Gale Bondhus, Jed Rhubee, Kyle Pillatzki, Donna Stresemann, JinYeene Neumann, Glenn Johnson, Vicki Beckendorf, Scott Rahn, James Dick, Delbert Klassen, Royal Larson, Ron Nickel, and Herb Klassen.

Chairman Appel called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Gravley, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 21, 2017, meeting.

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

A public hearing was held for Consolidated Ditch #2, Branch G-1. Commissioner Holmen stated the purpose of the public hearing was to hear comments from the public on a request by two landowners, James Dick and Delbert Klassen, that are requesting 2,600 feet of 12" and 15" tile to be installed be changed to 18" tile and that the additional expense would be paid for by Dick and Klassen. Holmen also stated that this change will not affect any funding.

Delbert Klassen stated the 12" tile has been a problem and this is why he would like it changed.

Dave Bucklin, SWCD District Technician, speaking on behalf of the Wetlands Conservation Act and NRCS, stated that the landowners bordering the tile change should be sure to fill out a form 1026 for any wetland impact.

Chairman Appel declared the public hearing closed.

Motion by Holmen, second by Gravley, unanimous vote to approve the 12" and 15" tile be changed to 18" tile in the approved relocation of Branch G-1 in Consolidated Ditch #2 for approximately 2,600 feet and that the additional expense for this change will be paid by James Dick and Delbert Klassen, landowners in the watershed.

Commissioner Holmen informed the board that he was contacted by a landowner who stated that he had replaced some 10" county tile in the Ditch #31 system along his grove in 2008 and was wondering if he could be reimbursed. After much discussion, no action was taken.

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

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David Bucklin, SWCD District Technician, informed the board that the Minnesota DNR is proposing a system of control structures on Long Lake in Rosehill

Township and is looking for a No-Loss Decision for the project. The project will allow the DNR to draw down the lake system to control rough fish populations and allow vegetation to establish in the basin. Motion by Schmidt, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve the No-Loss Wetlands Conservation Act application for the MN DNR Long Lake Water Control Structure.

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Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve April warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 97,974.85
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 48,419.79
County Building Fund	\$ 296.18
Ditch Fund	\$ 88.20
Taxes and Penalties Fund	\$ 7,383.76
County Revenue Fund	\$ 1,458.18
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 11,080.69
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 319.85
Landfill Enterprise	<u>\$ 6,445.80</u>
	\$173,467.30

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Commissioner Appel updated the board on concerns he has heard regarding the safety of the detour proposed for County Road 1 in Mountain Lake.

Commissioners Stevens and Schmidt updated the board on the meeting they attended with the Apex Wind Tower representative.

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Jackie Flohrs, Children’s Services Team Leader, and Sherry Pankratz, Cottonwood County Collaborative Director, met with the board regarding Child Abuse Prevention Month. Flohrs gave a review of 2015 and 2016 statistics on child maltreatment in Cottonwood County. Flohrs also asked for approval of a resolution designating April as child abuse prevention month. Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to adopt Resolution 17-04-04 as follows:

**RESOLUTION 17-04-04
APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH PROCLAMATION**

WHEREAS, child abuse is an issue that affects all members of our community and finding solutions depends on involvement among people throughout the community;

WHEREAS, child abuse prevention works when partnerships created between parents, practitioners, schools, faith communities, health care organizations, law enforcement agencies, and business community;

WHEREAS, family-serving, youth-focused prevention programs offer positive alternatives for young people and encourage parents and youth to develop strong ties to their communities;

WHEREAS, all citizens need to be more aware of child abuse and neglect and its prevention within the community, and be involved in supporting parents to raise their children in a safe, nurturing society.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby proclaim April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Cottonwood County and call upon all citizens, community groups, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in

efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect, thereby strengthening the community in which we live.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Cottonwood, Minnesota this 4th day of April 2017.

DATED: April 4, 2017

S/Thomas D. Appel, Board Chairman

S/Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator

Pankratz gave a brief overview of how the collaborative is involved with Child Abuse Prevention Month and the collaborative in general.

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Luke Ewald, Public Health – Health Educator, met with the board to review the results of a tobacco survey that was conducted with Cottonwood County employees and DVHHS – Windom employees in November/December of 2016.

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Jordan Burmeister, Geronimo Energy, met with the board to give preliminary information on a proposed Plum Creek Wind Farm that will include Cottonwood, Murray and Redwood Counties. Burmeister stated that the proposed wind farm will be a 400 megawatt wind farm with 100 to 200 turbines. Burmeister stated that the farm should be completed by 2020-2021.

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Gale Bondhus, County Assessor, and Marty Mollenhauer, GIS Specialist, met with the board to get approval for a contract with Windom EDA for Mollenhauer to provide a maximum of 15 hours of GIS work between now and September 30, 2017. Motion by Gravley, second by Schmidt, to approve the contract between Cottonwood County and the Windom EDA for up to 15 hours of GIS services to be completed by Marty Mollenhauer by September 30, 2017, at \$30 per hour. Motion by Holmen to amend the motion to strike \$30 per hour and insert \$40 per hour. Motion died due to lack of a second. Voting on original motion: Aye – Gravley, Schmidt, and Stevens. Nay: Holmen and Appel. Motion passed.

Bondhus gave an update on the different GIS projects Mollenhauer is currently working on or has completed.

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Commissioner Gravley and Donna Stresemann, Assistant Solid Waste Administrator, met with the board to get approval for a 36'x32' pole shed for the landfill. Quotes are as follows: Country Pride - \$14,741.31 and Menards - \$10,882.07. Motion by Schmidt, second by Gravley, unanimous vote to accept quote from Menards in the amount of \$10,882.07 for the purchase of materials to construct a 36'x32' pole shed at the landfill.

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JinYeene Neumann, County Engineer/Public Works Director, met with the board to ask them to accept her resignation. Motion by Schmidt, second by Gravley to accept the resignation of JinYeene Neumann, County Engineer/Public Works Director, effective May 5, 2017, with appropriate payout of benefits. Voting Aye – Holmen, Gravley, Stevens, and Appel. Voting Nay – Schmidt. Motion carried.

Chairman Appel led discussion regarding and interim plan. Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow the Chair and Vice-Chair, in consultation with the County Coordinator and County Engineer, to develop and enter

into a contract with Watonwan County for an interim County Engineer/Public Works Director position with the full power to act as a committee.

Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to post and advertise for a County Engineer/Public Works Director position.

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Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 11:08 a.m. as permitted by Minnesota Statute 13D.05 Subd. 3(b) to discuss the litigation of Ryan Urban vs. Cottonwood County. Individuals present for the closed meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, Donna Gravley, Tom Appel, Jim Schmidt, Kevin Stevens, County Attorney, Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson, Kathy Marsh, and Joseph Flynn.

Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to open the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

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Kelly Thongvong, County Coordinator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Stevens, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to move Marty Mollenhauer, GIS Specialist, to permanent full-time status effective April 17, 2017 after successful completion of required probationary period.

Thongvong led discussion regarding a request received by the SW/WC Service Coop in regards to the leased space they occupy at the N71 Office Building.

Thongvong informed the board that 7 interviews were held on March 24th for the vacant HEO positions. Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to hire Joey Vought as Heavy Equipment Operator effective April 17, 2017, at Range 10, Step F (\$20.00/hour) of the 2017 wage matrix and that any previous county employment will not count towards seniority.

Jed Rhubee, Highway Maintenance Superintendent, on behalf of himself and the County Engineer, recommended bringing Wade Pfeiffer and Austin Crowell up to Step F on the matrix. No action was taken.

Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to hire Brent Schroeder as Heavy Equipment Operator effective May 1, 2017, at Range 10, Step C (\$18.30/hour) of the 2017 wage matrix.

Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to offer the position of Heavy Equipment Operator to Andy Tjentland at Range 10, Step B (\$17.77/hour).

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Commissioner Stevens updated the board on a Farmers Union meeting that he and Commissioner Gravley attended on March 29th.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Thomas D. Appel, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, County Coordinator