

September 2, 2008  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 2, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman John Oeltjenbruns. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mary Jensen, Sherry Pankratz, Bob Pankratz, Mark Marcy, Amy Card and Ron Gregg. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2008 meeting.

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Mary Jensen from RSVP met with the board to discuss a few items. It was decided that the RSVP office would continue to be housed at the current County Office Building, which will be where Cottonwood-Jackson CHS will be housed as soon as the North 71 County Office Building is completed.

Jensen asked that the board consider appropriating funds in order to allow for a Second Harvest Heartland food distribution site to be held in Cottonwood County. Motion by White, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to appropriate \$475 to Second Harvest Heartland for an October 15th food distribution in Cottonwood County.

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Family Services Collaborative Coordinator Sherry Pankratz and Bob Pankratz, Fiscal Supervisor at Family Service Agency, met with the board to give a report regarding the Family Services Collaborative as well as an update regarding the budget. It was noted that Cottonwood County would be contributing the same amount of \$20,000 for 2009.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss their intent of whether or not to make the Emergency Management Director position full-time. After much discussion, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to create a full-time Emergency Management Director position with salary range no higher than \$62,000 for 2008, have the position pointed and post internally for 7-day period. This will be a newly created Department Head position, which will not be eligible for overtime pay.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several different items. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 08-09-02**

**Whereas**, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Engineer to acquire right-of-way on various State-Aid funded transportation projects from time to time and;

**Whereas**, in order to facilitate and standardize the acquisition process, for fair and equal consideration of the interests and concern, of all tax payers and property owners in Cottonwood County, the commissioners have established maximum payment rates for certain items which are commonly paid for by Cottonwood County as part of the right-of-way acquisition processes;

**Now Therefore, Be It Resolved**, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners do hereby establish the following rates;

**Permanent Right-of-Way** shall be paid for at 130% of the County Assessor's 2008 assessed value, parcel specific.

**Temporary Slope Easement** shall be paid for at the rate of \$400.00 per acre regardless of land value or land use.

**Fencing Payment for Landowners Removal and Replacement** shall be at the rate of \$1.25 per foot regardless of fence type.

**Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved**, that this policy shall apply to all new negotiations for State-Aid projects commencing after September 16, 2008 and before September 15, 2009.

S/John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept resignation from Alan Wood (Highway Mechanic) effective September 10, 2008 and to approve appropriate payout of benefits.

Gregg presented a proposed construction and engineer's estimate as submitted by SEH for the completion of cells 3, 4, 5 and 6 at the landfill. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to authorize Gregg to advertise for materials and bids for the construction of extending existing manholes.

Gregg asked that the board review Cottonwood County's response to Nobles County Landfill Certificate of Need Volume request. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the letter as presented as Cottonwood County should not be contributing to Nobles County Landfill Certificate of Need Volume for the period of 2008 through 2017.

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Commissioner Kuecker gave a few updates relating to the financial status of SWCD and the Historical Society and he had some questions regarding the Capital Outlay Fund for the Commissioners.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson updated the board regarding Sentence to Service and informed the board that the new arrangement began on September 1<sup>st</sup> and Laura Sandmeyer will now be designated to Cottonwood County only.

It was reported that the Southwest/West Central Coop has set the insurance premium at a 2% increase for 2009, which is the lowest increase allowed.

Brief discussion was held regarding the levy. The preliminary levy will be set at the next board meeting.

Johnson reported that he would do some checking to find out if a levy for the Ag Society would be within or outside of the current levy limits.

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Commissioner White gave a brief update regarding the Plum Creek Library System. A letter should be received in the near future.

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Chairman Oeltjenbruns reminded the board about a few upcoming meetings and reported that he received a letter in regards to the new proposed regional radio system.

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Brief update was given regarding North 71 County Office Building and there was a motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to instruct the Extension Office to get quotes for reception area countertop for the North 71 County Office Building.

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Commissioner Sorenson reported that he received a call from the Mayor of Westbrook regarding the Assessor rates.

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

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant