

April 11, 2006
 Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
 Regular Meeting
 Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 11, 2006 at 9:00 a.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; Lisa Fest. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 4, 2006 meeting as amended.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve April warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 76,515.17
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 1,110.86
County Building Fund	\$ 7,092.96
Agency Fund	\$ 1,850.00
Taxes & Penalties Fund	\$ 10.00
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 52,801.27
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 2,658.44
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 5,225.05</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$147,263.75</u>

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Discussion was held regarding Capital Improvement Listing. The three improvement projects that are being considered at this time are the transit garage roof, courthouse attic, and commissioner's meeting room. Not all cost estimates have been received at this time but the board agreed that it is possible that all three projects could be approved in the near future.

Brief discussion was also held in regards to a potential purchase of a building that could be used by the county to house some of the county vehicles.

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Nutrition Education Assistant Lisa Fest met with the board to give an update in regards to the Nutrition Education Program and the work that she has been doing with individuals from preschool age to senior citizens.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign lease agreement with Southwestern Mental Health Center in Windom and to present to SWMHC for their approval.

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Much discussion was held regarding recent inquiry by Ethanol 2000 plant in reference to security if the President should declare a "red" alert on all petroleum and ethanol plants. Because the county is unsure as to how much security the Sheriff's Department may be able to provide, the board agreed that they would like some further clarification before committing to anything.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to the proposed pay scale for six Family Service Agency positions that were recently pointed. This will be discussed at the next board meeting, as further information in regards to the salaries needs to be clarified.

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Thank you was received from Southwest Minnesota Arts and Humanities Council for the \$500 appropriation received from the county.

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Chairman Kuecker presented some information from Soil & Water Conservation District in regards to buffer strips. SWCD wanted to know whether or not the board would be willing to support the promotion and encouragement of buffer strips within the county. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to support Soil & Water Conservation District in drafting a letter to landowners of Cottonwood County in regards to buffer strips.

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Motion by Severson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to send in Rose Carsten's job description for pointing once it is developed.

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Chairman Kuecker appointed Commissioner Severson and himself to work together as part of a building committee. The purpose of the committee is to do some further research in regards to the transit garage and try to determine whether or not the county should pursue trying to sell the current building.

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There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant