

September 6, 2005
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 6, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Chuck Severson, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Kay Clark, Clark Lingbeek, Ron Tibodeau, Jason Purrington, Maggie Magnus, Ron Gregg, Jay Trusty, Ruth Hubbling, Gale Bondhus, Mike Hanson, Holli Arp, Mike Stone and Cindy Garcia. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 23, 2005 meeting as amended.

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Kay Clark, Clark Lingbeek and Ron Tibodeau met with the board representing the Soil & Water Conservation District. They presented their 2006 proposed budget, which included total revenue of \$232,768 and total expenditures of \$285,418. Clark reported that they have already received confirmation on some of the grant money so the budget is fairly concrete.

Brief discussion was held in regards to the possibility of trying to incorporate some cooperative efforts between SWCD and Extension.

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Jason Purrington and Maggie Magnus from the Sheriff's Department met with the board to discuss the need for a new computer server as the current server was purchased in 1999. The present server is outgrowing the current system and updates are no longer available. The City of Windom is willing to split the cost of a new server 50/50 with the county. Quotes for a new server were received and are as follows: New Star - \$5,591.65 (does not include labor and installation) and Jackson Computing, Inc. - \$6,729.65 (includes labor and installation). Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept quote from New Star in the amount of \$5,591.65 + installation and to split the cost of the server with the City of Windom. This purchase will be taken out of Long Term Capital Outlay.

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Commissioner Holmen reported that he attended a Health & Human Services Committee Meeting in New Ulm last week and that he would be interested in serving on this sub-committee from now on. Since there were no objections, Holmen will now serve on the Health & Human Services sub-committee.

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Commissioner Sorenson updated the board on some information that he

learned at the Transportation Committee Meeting in New Ulm last week. He reported that the platform for the transportation committee is not going to change.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns reported on an exit interview that he recently completed with Becky Henderson from the Extension Office.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few miscellaneous items. Gregg gave a brief update in regards to current projects and mentioned that he would be conducting interviews for the temporary position of Solid Waste worker.

Gregg reported that he only received one bid on August 29th for a diesel tandem plow truck. The bid was from Fox Bros. of Sanborn. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to reject the bid and to investigate state bid on the truck because of only one company bidding on the truck. Gregg will report back at the next board meeting.

Discussion was held in regards to current MnDOT lease on Storden Highway shop that is about to expire on October 31st. The current amount of the lease is \$250/month. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to direct Ron to negotiate new rate with MnDOT for the rental fee for a new lease agreement.

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Jay Trusty, Executive Director of SRDC, met with the board to give an update on the last fiscal year activities. He also reported that there is approximately \$65,000 currently available in revolving loan funds through the SRDC.

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Discussion was held in regards to non-smoking signs and cigarette receptacles. Since there are not signs or receptacles at all county buildings, it was decided that the county should pursue ordering signs and receptacles for all county buildings.

Brief discussion was held in regards to a letter that was received from an employee in regards to designating only one entrance at the Courthouse as the door that smoking is allowed. The board thought that this might be difficult to enforce so no action was taken.

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Southwest Crisis Center Director Ruth Hubbling met with the board in regards to safety concerns at the Windom office. Hubbling is requesting that the county board consider funding a new door and locking system for the agency. The approximate cost would be \$2,000. The board suggested that she get another quote and to see if there are other organizations that may be interested in funding a portion of this request as well. Hubbling will present her findings at the next Family Service Agency board meeting at the end of the month.

Gale Bondhus, Mike Hanson and Ron Gregg met with the board in regards to the possibility of the county setting aside money over the next few years to fund a Geographic Information System (GIS). They presented an overview of what a GIS could be used for and how it could be helpful to many different departments within the county. The board agreed that a committee should be formed to research how the county should proceed. Commissioner Holmen was appointed to serve as a board representative of this committee.

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Holli Arp, Mike Stone and Cindy Garcia met with the board representing Extension. They presented the 2006 proposed budget recommendation of the Extension Committee. After much discussion, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to fund the position of a full-time 4-H Program Coordinator as well as a local part-time position for next summer.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the Cottonwood-Jackson CHS 2006 proposed budget.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve Emergency Management proposed budget for 2006 as presented.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to the transit garage roof. It was reported that the Highway Department is supposed to be putting together specs for a new roof.

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Discussion was held in regards to the Family Service Agency levy amount. The board agreed that considering the current cash balance at FSA, a 3% levy increase would be sufficient at this time.

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There being no further business to come before the County Board, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to adjourn as the County Board and to convene as the County Ditch Authority to discuss matters relating to JD #15. It was noted that the viewers report as well as the engineer's final report for the proposed improvement of JD #15 is now complete. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to set final hearing date for September 13th at 10:30am. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant