

November 7, 2006  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 7, 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; Mark Marcy, Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith, Ron Gregg and Rory Lindvall. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the October 24, 2006 meeting.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to apply for Operation Ranger grant for the purchase of a Polaris 6-wheeler once on behalf of Emergency Management and once on behalf of the Sheriff's Department.

Marcy asked that the board approve a release of liability form on behalf of the Sheriff's Department for the use of the Windom water tower for rappelling training. Because there were too many unanswered questions and because the board would like to consult with MCIT in regards to this issue, no further action was taken. Chairman Kuecker and Marcy will contact MCIT for their input in regards to this matter.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few different items. Hanson asked that the board adopt a resolution in regards to the Little Cottonwood Watershed. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson to adopt resolution for implementation of the Little Cottonwood River Restoration Continuation Clean Water Partnership Project, which is to be used for septic systems. By adopting this resolution, MPCA and Cottonwood County would agree that the loan award of \$50,000 would be decreased by \$25,000 so that another county within the partnership could utilize the funds. Voting as follows: Aye: Oeltjenbruns and Sorenson. Nay: Holmen, Severson and Kuecker. The adoption of the resolution was defeated.

Update was given in regards to 3-county ISTS Pilot Program. It was reported that a balance of approximately \$1,975.70 would need to be sent back to MPCA by December 1st due to the discontinuation of the program. A 6-month extension was granted for the remaining 37 septic systems that are yet to be installed. They will now need to be installed before 12/31/07.

Hanson updated the board in regards to recent communications he has had with Mike Decker from the Elmendorf Colony in Mt. Lake regarding their proposal to construct a portable 26' x 40' recycling building. Hanson gave the board a copy of the letter that was recently sent to Mike Decker informing him that a new conditional use permit would be required to construct the proposed

building.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported that a change was made to the Cottonwood County Investment Policy since it was adopted on October 24th. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to accept amended policy.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to the new plan that will be made available to retired county employees that are Medicare eligible effective January 1st. Because there may be situations in which a spouse or dependent child/children is not Medicare eligible themselves, a provision will need to be developed so that the spouse or dependent child/children can remain on the county plan. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson will contact Any Roos for help in the wording of such a provision.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution identifying who can sign off on the agreement to provide for payment by the State to the County for the use of County State Aid Highway No. 2 as a detour route during the concrete rehabilitation construction and other associated construction to be performed upon, along and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 71 from Trunk Highway 30 to Cottonwood County Line under State Project No. 1709-19 (T.H. 71=4).

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve proposed detour agreement between Cottonwood County and Minnesota DOT for the use of CSAH 2 for the construction of TH 71.

Gregg presented six quotes for the purchase of a UTV (Utility Terrain Vehicle) for use in the engineering/maintenance departments. After much discussion, Gregg was asked to bring additional information to the next board meeting in regards to the monthly budget before acting on the request for purchase.

Gregg reported that quotes for propane were recently requested from Meadowland, Ferrell Gas and Country Pride but only Meadowland responded with a quote of \$1.45/gallon delivered. Motion by Severson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept quote from Meadowland at a rate of \$1.45/gallon delivered.

Gregg requested board approval to purchase safety jackets for the Solid Waste Department employees. Because the jackets are a safety Class 2, they can be worn without a safety vest. The cost of each jacket is \$66 + tax. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to purchase up to five Class 2 safety jackets.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to amend Emergency Closing Policy that was adopted at the last board meeting to include Family Service Agency in the second to the last paragraph. This policy will be posted for 30 days before it can officially become a part of the personnel policy.

Chairman Kuecker updated the board on several miscellaneous informational items. He updated the board in regards to some figures for 2005 & 2006 that he recently received from Veteran's Affairs that relate to Cottonwood County.

Brief discussion was held in regards to what the county should donate for door prizes for the AMC Conference in December. The board was informed that TORO has donated a blower vac that just needs to be picked up.

Kuecker reported that things are going better financially for the Soil & Water Conservation District since taking over the GBERBA Coordinator position. GBERBA income has started to come in and some sizeable grants have been applied for.

It was reported that Yellow Medicine County is now a new member of the Solid Waste Energy Board, which now brings the number of member counties to 16.

Kuecker gave an update in regards to the SCORE Block Grant. He reported that Cottonwood County received \$24,540 in October 2006 and will be receiving \$24,539 in April 2007. There are a few items that need to be done in order to receive grant funds.

Kuecker read a letter that was recently received from County Attorney Doug Storey regarding the matter of Honan vs. Cottonwood County. The board agreed that they would like a copy of the Stipulation of Dismissal with Prejudice and a copy of Roger Rowlette's cover letter to John Stein of Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust included with the Commissioner's records.

Brief update was given in regards to recent meeting Kuecker and Auditor/Treasurer Johnson had with Roger Albertson from the State Auditor's Office regarding the 2005 audit. Albertson will be meeting with the board in the near future.

Kuecker reported on what he found out from Jim Mulder from the Association of Minnesota Counties in regards to a question that the board had in regards to a folder that was recently received from Schneider Corporation.

Brief discussion was held in regards to an e-mail the board recently received from the County Assessor. The department liaisons will meet with the Auditor/Treasurer and the County Assessor to discuss the matter further.

Kuecker reported when the next Interest Based Collective Bargaining meetings will be held. He also presented some information that was recently compiled through the use of the AMC Salary Survey in regards to commissioner salaries, per diems and insurance premiums as compared to the peer counties.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant