

August 7, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 7, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Norm Holmen. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Linda Fransen, Margaret McDonald, Loy Storey, Marilyn Erickson, David Campbell, Lyle Muir, Elaine Lolkus, Kathy Kretsch, Holli Arp, Jason Purrington, Dave Bucklin, Frank McDowell, Dan Sonnek, Kip Rasmussen, Willie Friesen, Marlene Smith, Mike Hanson, Ron Gregg and Tammy Crowell. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the July 24, 2007 meeting as amended.

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Linda Fransen and Margaret McDonald met with the board representing the Cottonwood County Historical Society. They presented an overview of the accomplishments of the past year as well as submitted their 2008 appropriation request for consideration of the board. No action was taken at this time.

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

Lyle Muir was present to discuss some concerns he has with County Ditch 15. Muir believes that the particular tile in question is part of the county ditch but it has not yet been determined if this particular tile is county tile or private tile. After much discussion, Commissioner Kuecker suggested that a consultant be hired to come in and view the documents as well as the property to give a recommendation of how best to proceed. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Holmen and Auditor/Treasurer Johnson to hire consultant to help determine what process should be followed in regards to County Ditch 15. This will be a ditch expense.

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

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Probation Officer Elaine Lolkus met with the board to present the 2008 proposed budget for the Probation Office.

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County Recorder Kathy Kretsch met with the board to present the 2008 proposed budget for the Recorder's Office.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson informed the board that the county would be receiving a 2007 dividend from MCIT in the amount of \$84,278. He also reported

that the 2008 program aid amount that the county will receive has been set at \$809,859. The amount the county received in 2007 was \$879,256.

Johnson presented two quotes for a memory upgrade to the AS400 computer system as follows: TriMin - \$7,740 and Synatrix - \$3,890.95. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to award low quote in the amount of \$3,890.95 to Synatrix.

Johnson reported that only one bid was received for the demolition of two tax-forfeited properties in Storden. The bid was from Therkelsen Construction in the amount of \$12,450. The county will furnish the backfill for the properties but will be hauled by the contractor from the landfill to the site. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to accept only quote in the amount of \$12,450 from Therkelsen Construction. This will be paid for out of the Clean-Up Fund.

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County Attorney Doug Storey presented the 2008 proposed budget for the County Attorney's Office.

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Extension Regional Director Holli Arp met with the board to present the 2008 proposed budget for the Extension Office.

Arp also asked that the board approve a Memorandum of Agreement between the University of Minnesota and Cottonwood County for providing Extension programs locally and employing extension staff. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to approve Memorandum of Agreement and authorize Chairman Holmen to sign. This is a 3-year agreement beginning on January 1, 2008 and ending on December 31, 2010.

Arp gave a brief update in regards to Katie Clarke and the new position she will hold within Extension. It was reported that she would continue to be housed in the Worthington Regional Center.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to present two quotes for new recording equipment, which will replace existing equipment that is 10-12 years old. The two quotes were as follows: Law Enforcement Associates - \$2,930 and DTC Communications, Inc. - \$3,699. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$2,930 from Law Enforcement Associates. This will be paid for out of the Sheriff's Contingency Fund.

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Chairman Holmen reported on a few informational items. The RSVP Recognition Brunch will be held on Tuesday, August 28th at the BARC auditorium for anyone interested in attending. Holmen informed the board that he received the inspection checklist for the Schoper-Bush dam.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**2008 Transit Grant Application
Resolution 07-08-07**

Resolved that Cottonwood County enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota to provide public transportation service in Cottonwood County.

Further resolved that Cottonwood County agrees to provide a local share of 15% of the total operating cost and 20% of the total capital costs.

Further resolved that Cottonwood County authorizes the Transit Coordinator and the County Auditor/Treasurer to execute the aforementioned Agreement and any amendments thereto.

S/Norm Holmen

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Discussion was held in regards to reinstatement as addressed in the county personnel policy. A question was recently raised in regards to whether or not Leslie Makovsky should be entitled to reinstatement of benefits since she is again employed within the county. After discussing the situation the board agreed not to reinstate any benefits. Commissioner Oeltjenbruns will inform Todd Dibble of the board's decision.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to the upcoming vacancy of the senior transit driver position and concerns of the Transit Coordinator that this position has not been approved for full-time status. Due to the fact that this position was originally advertised as part-time, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to simultaneously post internally and advertise for a full-time senior transit driver position, which will be 40 hours per week.

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Dave Bucklin met with the board representing the Soil & Water Conservation District to present an RC & D application for approval. The application was submitted by the Lake Commission of Mt. Lake for a \$1500 grant for a disc golf course at Lawcon Park. Bucklin reported that the SWCD Board has already approved the application. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve application for a grant in the amount of \$1500 as submitted by the Lake Commission of Mt. Lake.

Bucklin thanked the board for attending the Soil & Water Conservation District tour a few weeks ago.

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Commissioner Sorenson presented a letter of support that he recently received from the Westbrook Fire Department in regards to 911 resident and intersection signage.

Sorenson also informed the board of the dates of the 2007 Health Conference that will be held at Cragun's Resort in September.

Frank McDowell, New Vision Coop, and Dan Sonnek, Intergro Energy Group, met with the board to give an overview of Mt. Lake Ethanol and updated them regarding two potential sites for a new ethanol plant in the area. McDowell is uncertain as to what funding options might be best for this type of project but is in the process of exploring different possibilities.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few different items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve County Feedlot Officer 2007 Annual Report.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to approve County Feedlot Officer 2008 Work Plan as presented.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Hanson to attend the MN Association of Planning & Zoning Administrators Conference on October 3-5 at Arrow Wood Resort in Alexandria.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Hanson, Marlene Smith and Greg Johnson to attend the County Feedlot Officers Annual Training and Conference on October 23-25 at Jackpot Junction in Morton.

Discussion was held regarding a property nuisance in Amo Township as well as a complaint that was recently received regarding the Oris Skarset property. Brief discussion was also held in regards to the results of an incident that happened a few months ago with Leo Olsem.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several different items. Gregg reported that all of the alleged violations by MPCA in regards to the landfill are either completed or will be completed by the end of the week. Gregg will respond with a letter and photos that show the various activities performed at the landfill.

Gregg requested that five individuals be allowed to attend a GIS Conference in Ames, IA on August 21st & 22nd. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Gale Bondhus, Lisa Will, Marlene Smith, Rory Lindvall & Kyle Pillatzki to attend the GIS Conference.

Gregg reported that Cottonwood County recently received a grant in the amount of \$200,000 through DNR for the Mt. Lake Outlet Structure.

It was reported that a 6-month recycling report was recently received from Murray County.

Gregg reported that he recently received a bill from the City of Windom in regards to a ditch fire that was reported on County Road 22, ½ mile east of County Road 4 on May 11th that was called in by an individual. Because the county does not feel that they are responsible for the bill, Gregg will try to redirect the bill to the proper party.

Gregg informed the board that the burn barrel campaign is currently underway and there are some ads in the Citizen and Shopper as well as a few billboards around the area. He reported that surveys for rural residents would also be conducted at the county fair.

Brief discussion was held regarding earlier conversation with Lyle Muir in regards to County Ditch 15. A board resolution from 1987 was obtained in which a portion of the project was added into County Ditch 15. This will be an item of discussion brought up at the next board meeting.

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Further discussion was held in regards to the presentation regarding two potential sites for a new ethanol plant. Chairman Holmen will try to find out more information in regards to who the representative for JOBZ is from the area.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant