

July 12, 2005
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 12, 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; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mark Marcy, Ron Gregg, Mike Hanson and Andy Olson. Commissioner Sorenson was absent. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2005 meeting.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss a few miscellaneous items. Marcy reported that he was recently informed that the tornado siren behind the Sheriff's Department might be in need of repair. The board suggested that Marcy contact the City of Windom to find out who is responsible for maintaining the towers.

Marcy reported that the equipment grant that he applied for in February would hopefully soon be disbursed. He is planning to receive approximately \$12,000 and is planning to use some of the funds to purchase chemical suits, a gas detector and an air quality tester.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve payment of bill in the amount of \$3,664 to Mark Marcy for the administration of Emergency Management grant dollars. This bill will be paid out of the 2004 State Homeland Security Grant Program.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave a brief update in regards to GBERBA (Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance). He reported that the 2006 dues would be approximately \$3,000.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg presented quotes for fuel and they were as follows: Meadowland Farmers Coop - \$0.07 over rack price; Staples Oil - \$0.08 over rack price; Country Pride - \$0.12 over rack price. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept low quote from Meadowland Farmers Coop at a set price of \$0.07 over the rack price. This contract to supply fuel to the Cottonwood County Highway Department is effective immediately until July 15, 2006.

Gregg gave updates in regards to current construction and overlay projects.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update to a meeting that he recently attended in regards to a loan that Sheila Kelley has through the Seed Capital

fund. Letters will be sent out to members of the Seed Capital Advisory Board to update them in regards to this particular loan as well as the status of one other loan that is currently in default. County Attorney Storey will be asked to review the file of the one business in default and to draft a letter requesting further action on their part.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few miscellaneous items. He updated them on the TMDL project and informed them that a meeting will be held on July 28th at 1:00pm at the DNR building to discuss this further and to discuss the next course of action. Andy Olson was also present to voice his concerns on this matter.

Hanson reported that the Board of Adjustment would be having a variance hearing for Phil Johnson on July 27th at 9:00am and there would be two conditional use hearings on July 29th at 10:00am and 10:30am for the Elmendorf Colony in Mt. Lake.

Hanson reported that Red Rock Rural Water would be conducting a pump test within the next few days on the industrial well that is located southeast of the landfill.

It was reported that County Attorney Storey recently sent a letter to Phil Johnson in regards to the site that he has in Delft that was to be cleaned up by July 1st. The letter stated that further action would now be taken and a hearing date would be set for sometime in mid-August.

Hanson reported that he was recently contacted by the Extension Office in regards to what his intentions were for the Manure Management Program and whether or not \$3,000 would be appropriated again this next year for the development of Manure Management plans out of Hanson's budget. This will be discussed further at the next Extension meeting as they are working on their 2006 budget recommendation.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve July warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$102,779.26
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 4,650.00
Ditch Fund	\$ 4,843.45
Road & Bridge	\$ 70,773.11
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 5,136.83
Landfill	<u>\$ 7,521.54</u>
TOTAL	\$195,704.19

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Windom Chamber of Commerce to use the Courthouse grounds on July 25th for hot dog night and on August 29th for ice cream social.

Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported on some information that he received from BlueCross/BlueShield in regards to a question that was raised at the last meeting in regards to which health plan is primary when someone is on active duty. It was confirmed that the county's group health plan is primary over Tricare or Champus. It does not matter if the person is on active duty or not. It was also noted that the county's plan includes the following exclusion: "Services for or related to treatment of illness or injury which occurs while on military duty that are recognized by the Veteran's Administration as services related to service-connected injuries".

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A letter and Notice of Application Acceptance for the proposed Jeffers Wind Energy Center was received from Joel Schittone from RMT, Inc. on behalf of the Wind Energy Developers, LLC, agent of Summit Wind, LLC. The letter and notice was received as a courtesy and in compliance with Minnesota Rules, Chapter 4401.0460, Subpart 2, which requires that the notice be provided to the County Board.

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It was noted that budget sheets will be sent out within the next few days and that Department Heads should plan to present their budgets to the board by September 6th.

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Survey was received by SRDC in regards to upcoming project needs that the county may have. These items are to be submitted to SRDC by the deadline.

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Discussion was held in regards to medical insurance costs. Commissioner Kuecker suggested that Andy Roos, BCBSMN Senior Account Manager, be contacted to see if he might be able to offer some training sessions for all employees to offer suggestions on how we might better be able to utilize our insurance coverage and ultimately keep our out-of-pocket costs down.

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Update was given on transit garage roof. It was noted that the County Engineer was working on drawing up specs for a new roof so that bids could be obtained.

The attic upstairs in the courthouse will be finished off at a later date when the weather cools off.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant