September 1, 2009
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Gary Sorenson. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey, Ron Gregg, Wayne Brede, Jason Purrington, Dave Bucklin, Kay Clark, Sally Larson, Craig Mueller, Rod Junker and Mr. & Mrs. Owen Green. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 25, 2009 meeting.

Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that he was recently notified that the group health insurance premium for 2010 will not increase.

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to present a proposed 2010 budget for the following departments: Highway, Landfill, Waste Abatement (SCORE) and the GIS Program. Gregg asked that the Assessor’s Office be responsible for the GIS Program from now on as they are more directly involved with the program.

Gregg reported that the landfill will need to be re-permitted in 2010 and there are several tasks that will need to be done as part of the process. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize Gregg to seek quotes for consulting for re-permitting of the landfill.

Gregg gave an update regarding the 2009 overlay project schedule. He reported that there should not be any detours involved with the project.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign contract for final payment for the CSAH 8 bridge replacement project.

Sally Larson and Kay Clark met with the board representing the Fair Board. They gave an update regarding the fair and presented bills that have been received to date but reported that a majority of the bills have not yet been submitted for payment.

Wayne Brede met with the board to give an update regarding the pay study. The consensus of the board was to use comparables and sources as discussed.

Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to present information regarding the Radio Alternative Report. A review of the Federal Engineering survey will be done at the next board meeting.
Brief discussion was held regarding a lease agreement with the City of Windom.

Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority to hold a public hearing for County Ditch 28.

A petition requesting use of County Ditch 28 as an outlet was received from Rodney Junker. He owns the SW ½ in Selma Township, Section 28 and he is requesting to outlet 16 acres into County Ditch 28. These acres are located just north of the existing watershed boundary. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to grant petition for an outlet for 16 acres and the annual fee will correspond with the maintenance levy set for County Ditch 28. This will be effective January 1, 2010.

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

Dave Bucklin met with the board representing the Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC & D) to present a project proposal application. The application is from Cottonwood SWCD and they are requesting $1,161.44 to be used for the purchase of trees to be planted around the Mt. Lake trail and island as a project for the Mt. Lake agriculture class. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the grant application in the amount of $1,161.44 to RC & D on behalf of Cottonwood SWCD.

There were no ditch business updates to report at this time.

Commissioner White gave an update regarding the 9th Street Office Building. It was reported that one of the three air conditioning/heating units is not working. Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson will inquire about what the options for the repair of this unit are.

Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson presented information regarding the 2010 preliminary levy as well as levy limits. The preliminary levy will be set at the next board meeting.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Greg Walsh, Information Services Director, to purchase remote access feature for Cottonwood County’s server for $660.00 on the county credit card and to allow Walsh to create a new e-mail account for this purpose.

Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported on the amount of wind tower production tax that has been received for 2009.

Chairman Sorensen updated the board on a few miscellaneous items. It was reported that the SRDC lawsuit has been dismissed.
Brief discussion was held regarding a bid that was recently received for a remodeling project at the Family Service Agency.

A letter recently received from the County Attorney was discussed briefly.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant