

October 4, 2005
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 4, 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 Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mike Hanson, Andy Olson and Ron Gregg. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2005 meeting as corrected.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few miscellaneous items. Hanson presented an estimate of the amount the final bill might be from SRDC for the completion of the County Comp Plan. He expects to receive the final bill from SRDC fairly soon and will report back to the board at that time.

Much discussion was held in regards to some extra hours that Hanson is hoping to be paid for out of the 3 County ISTS Grant Program for hours worked from September 19, 2004 to December 3, 2004, which totaled 20.50 hours. No action was taken at this time but will be researched further.

Update was given in regards to a problem with a driveway washout at a residence East of Windom.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to update them on a few items. Gregg reported that the Highway Department recently received their new tractor/backhoe. He also reported that the City of Westbrook decided that they would do their own snow removal this upcoming winter and the county will reimburse the city \$1,000/mile/year.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to quotes that were received for a new door at the Southwest Crisis Center. No action was taken as the board still had questions in regards to whether or not other possible funding sources may be an option.

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Commissioner Kuecker reported that he would be involved with interviews at Family Service Agency this afternoon and tomorrow.

Kuecker reported that he attended the last SWCD meeting and there was much discussion in regards to the Farm Service Agency as well as the potential that this office could be affected by a possible closure as they have been targeted for review. Linda Stuckenbroker will be asked to attend the next board meeting to give a further update.

The board reviewed a mid-year report that was recently received from Murray County by request of our County Board in regards to the recycling program with Tri-County Recycling.

Kuecker asked for an update in regards to the Law Enforcement Center roof and air quality issues. Laraway Roofing has been contacted, as they are the original contractors that worked on the LEC. They are going to be in town sometime this week to take a look at the roof to determine what may need to be done to fix the problem. An estimate was received from the Institute for Environmental Assessment for an indoor air quality assessment at the LEC. This estimate depended on the number of fungal samples collected and did not include travel time or mileage. Another estimate will be obtained and presented at a future meeting.

Kuecker reported on some information he found out in regards to County Ditch 9 and why Commissioner Holmen may have been contacted to do an interview with Minnesota Public Radio.

Brief discussion and clarification was held in regards to Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) and two counties (Brown & Steele) that are currently not an active part of this group.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns reported that there is currently \$25,000 available for 2006 through RC & D for any projects that may be worthwhile and they are hoping to obtain another \$15,000 as well.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow the Windom Chamber of Commerce to use the Courthouse grounds on October 10th for the Fall Festival.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow the Southwest Crisis Center/PEACE Agency to use the Courthouse grounds from October 5th – October 12th to put up a display representing the number of victims that have been killed in Minnesota due to Domestic Violence.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize request for payment for three individuals from the Sheriff's Department to attend a methamphetamine workshop. The registration fee is \$50/person and is to be paid before the next check run.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported that he is currently working on putting together a credit card policy. He said that there are dollar limits that generally need to be set for a 30-day limit and a single purchase limit. The board agreed that a \$5,000 30-day limit and a \$3,000 single purchase limit would be acceptable. Under no circumstances will this credit card be able to be used for cash. A draft policy will be presented to the board at the next board meeting.

Brief discussion was held in regards to county phone cards. Since it was unsure how many cards were once issued and how many are still out there, there

was a motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to revoke all outstanding phone cards effective October 4, 2005.

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Johnson reported on a few miscellaneous items and informed the board that the Sentence-to-Serve work crews would be working on a few projects around the Courthouse within the next few weeks and upcoming winter months.

Johnson reminded the board that two informational meetings have been scheduled in regards to the possibility of changing from monthly to bi-weekly/bi-monthly payroll for the employees who are not already paid this way. The first meeting will be held at 4:30pm today at the LEC and the next meeting will be held on Thursday of this week at the same time and place.

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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