

December 13, 2005
 Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
 Regular Meeting
 Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 13, 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 Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Verlyn Nickel, Dominic Jones, Ron Gregg, Jason Purrington, Mike Hanson, and Mary Ann Anderson. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the November 22, 2005 meeting as corrected. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2005 emergency board meeting. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2005 Truth in Taxation meeting.

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Verlyn Nickel met with the board to give a financial report for the County Fair. It was reported that the 2005 income was \$102,893.27 and the expenses were \$102,493.78 for a profit for loss of \$399.49. Nickel reported that the fair dates for next year are August 16th – 20th.

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to leave Ag Society appropriation for 2006 at \$18,000, which was the same as 2005.

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Dominic Jones met with the board representing Red Rock Rural Water. He asked that the board consider adopting a resolution to set up interim financing and to proceed with the project. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 05-12-13 approving and authorizing an advance agreement with Minnesota Rural Water Finance Authority and authorizing participation in a Joint Powers Authority.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve December warrants which included authorization for partial payment on JD #15 in the amount of \$7,940.95. Warrants were as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 88,902.59
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 2,712.29
County Building Fund	\$ 293.40
Ditch Fund	\$ 9,040.87
Agency Fund	\$ 250.00
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 50,707.29
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 6,090.29
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 18,552.85</u>
TOTAL	\$176,549.58

Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to appoint Lowell Tjentland to the Board of Adjustment and Planning Commission for a 3-year term representing District 2.

Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to appoint Mike LaMaack to the Board of Adjustment representing District 4 due to the recent resignation of Larry Stevens.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to give approval to sign State Auditor Agreement.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept 2006 Transit Grant between MnDOT and Cottonwood County in the amount of \$104,600.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. He reported that there are some air quality issues in the mechanics bays at the Windom Shop that have caused some concern. He recommends installing exhaust extraction systems in the mechanics bays. The board authorized Gregg to get more quotes to present at a future meeting.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve fee schedule for e-waste that has been in effect since July 1, 2005. These fees are currently being charged at the landfill and are paid to a company by the name of Green Lights for recycling of the e-waste.

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

**Resolution Revoking County State Aid Highway
05-12-13A**

WHEREAS, it appears to the County Board of the County of Cottonwood that the road hereinafter described should not be designated County State Aid Highway under the provisions of Minnesota Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the County Board of the County of Cottonwood that the road described as follows, to-wit;

County State Aid Highway 23 from County State Aid Highway 8 at the Northwest Corner of Section 1, Township 106 North, Range 34 West, to the East County Line at the Northeast Corner of Section 1, Township 106 North, Range 34 West, be and hereby is revoked as a County State Aid Highway of said County subject to the approval of the Commissioner of Transportation of the State of Minnesota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Auditor/Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to forward two certified copies of this resolution to the Commissioner of Transportation for his consideration.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Discussion was held in regards to a recommendation that the board support the Constitutional amendment for the use of the MVST funds for transportation. Commissioner Kuecker stated his reservations about the resolution and what his concerns were with the wording. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns to adopt resolution in support of the Constitutional amendment for the use of the MVST funds for transportation. Voting as follows: aye: Sorenson, Oeltjenbruns, Holmen, Severson, nay: Kuecker. Motion carried. Resolution is as follows:

05-12-13B

WHEREAS, Minnesota’s transportation infrastructure forms the backbone of the state’s economy and has a direct impact on future economic development;

WHEREAS, too many Minnesotans are being killed in traffic crashes on dangerous roadways;

WHEREAS, funding for highway and transit systems in Minnesota has remained stagnant and is failing to keep pace with growing population and growing demands;

WHEREAS, local governments throughout the state are struggling to maintain local transportation systems while the state’s gas tax has not been increased since 1988 and transit budgets have been cut in recent years;

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature has repeatedly turned to revenue from the motor vehicle sales tax, which has been viewed as user fee revenue, in order to fund both highway and transit systems including the current dedication of 54% of motor vehicle sales tax for transportation purposes;

WHEREAS, the legislature passed a proposed constitutional amendment during the 2005 Legislative Session that would appear on the ballot November 7, 2006 asking voters if the remaining 46% of motor vehicle sales tax revenue currently used for other purposes should be used for highways and transit systems;

WHEREAS, passage of this amendment would mean an increase in stable revenue for highway and transit systems throughout the state that would rise to approximately \$300 million per year once the transfer of revenue is fully phased-in by 2011;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, Cottonwood County strongly supports passage of the proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution dedicating all of the motor vehicle sales tax revenue to transportation with at least 40% of the revenue for public transit assistance and not more than 60% of the revenue for highway purposes.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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S/Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

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Chief Deputy Sheriff Jason Purrington presented the board with a letter in regards to a leave of absence in reference to his position within the Sheriff’s Office.

Discussion was held in regards to the salary that Purrington will receive when he takes over as Interim Sheriff beginning January 1st. The board did not

set the salary at this time but they did give Purrington an indication of what their thoughts were.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few different items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve 2005 County Feedlot Officer Report.

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve 2006 County Feedlot Officer Work Plan and to allow Board Chairman to sign.

Hanson handed out a map of Talcot Park to update the board on some of the work that has been done in 2005 to some of the campsites such as new electric peds and meters.

Hanson gave a brief update in regards to the TMDL project. He reported that a consulting firm has been hired and the 7 member advisory committee has been selected but they are waiting to hear whether or not these members will agree to serve on this committee.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson informed the board that he recently submitted the survey in regards to public drainage ditch buffer strips.

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County Recorder Mary Ann Anderson met with the board to report that Kathy Kretsch expressed interest in the internal posting for the Deputy County Recorder position and that Anderson would like to offer her the position. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve internal transfer of Kathy Kretsch from the Assessor's Office to the Recorder's Office. This will be a lateral transfer at the same rate of pay with no pay increase for 2006.

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Discussion was held in regards to consideration of a HAVA resolution. The thoughts of the board were to put together a resolution in support of the townships' efforts in not having to use electronic voting machines for annual elections. This resolution will be presented at a future board meeting.

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Discussion was held in regards to the 2006 employee contribution for family health care coverage. Because the board would like to keep insurance costs to the employees to a minimum, the board proposed to set the employee contribution for family health care coverage at a rate of \$165.16/month. The unions will have until December 27th to accept this proposal without having to reopen the insurance portion of their contracts.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to pay all 2006 AMC dues, which include \$5,796 to Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), \$563 to Local Public Health Association (LPHA), and \$414 to Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administration (MACSSA).

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Two quotes were presented on behalf of the Veteran's Office for the purchase of a new color laser jet printer. Quotes were as follows: Hewlett Packard - \$3,549 and Davis Typewriter - \$2,098. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen to accept low quote for the purchase of a new color laser jet printer from Davis Typewriter. Voting aye: Sorenson, Holmen, Oeltjenbruns, Severson, voting nay: Kuecker. Motion carried. \$1,400 of this amount will be paid for with grant funds and the remaining balance will be paid for out of Office Supplies and Miscellaneous Other Expenses.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve final tax levy at \$5,625,574, which is a 3.483% increase from 2005.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson presented two quotes for the purchase of one 36" lateral file and three 42" lateral files. Quotes were as follows: Davis Typewriter - \$1,597.48 and Eagle Office Supplies - \$1,743.64. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$1,597.48 from Davis Typewriter. This will be paid for out of the Auditor/Treasurer Long Term Capital Outlay Fund.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to a beaver damage control grant. The board agreed that it might be best if SWCD applies for the grant so that the entire county can benefit from this grant. Commissioner Kuecker will talk with SWCD to find out their intentions.

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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