

August 11, 2009
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 11, 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 Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey, Mike Hanson, Todd Dibble, Kathy Kretsch, Jason Purrington, Jan Klassen, Chad Kosel, Ron Gregg and Rory Lindvall. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 4, 2009 meeting as amended.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson presented a proposed 2010 budget for the following departments: Food Beverage & Lodging, County Parks, Environmental Planning & Zoning, and Water Planning Project.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Hanson to attend Minnesota Association of Planning & Zoning Conference in Grand Rapids in October.

Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns to allow Hanson, Marlene Smith and Greg Johnson to attend Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers Conference on October 20-22 in Detroit Lakes. Voting as follows: Aye – White, Oeltjenbruns, Holmen. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried.

Brief discussion was held regarding a follow-up letter that was recently sent to Phil Johnson in regards to a concern with the deposit of material on his property on N. 71. A copy of this letter was also sent to Millie & Susan Horkey, Eugene & Evelyn Ray and each of the County Commissioners.

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Veterans Service Officer Todd Dibble met with the board to present a proposed 2010 budget for the Veterans Office. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Dibble to apply for Operational Grant for Veterans Service Office.

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County Recorder Kathy Kretsch presented a proposed 2010 budget for the Recorder's Office.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve August warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 33,719.84
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 4,073.35
County Building Fund	\$ 1,312.37

Ditch Fund	\$ 1,754.48
Taxes and Penalties Fund	\$ 103.50
Road & Bridge	\$173,516.66
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 7,111.25
Landfill Enterprise	<u>\$ 11,416.71</u>
	\$233,008.16

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Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve special payment in the amount of \$463.50 to the Minnesota Association of County Veteran's Service Officers for a conference that Todd Dibble will be attending.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve special payment of the following bills: Watonwan County - \$297.98; City of Windom - \$23.01; Higley Ford - \$84.71; Dan's Office Supply - \$87.08 (if not previously paid); Country Pride Services - \$106.40; Jerry's Repair - \$77.38; Citizen Publishing - \$732.90; Highway Department - \$1,384.91; Gary Sorenson - \$131.00; BankCard Center - \$1,104.05.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington presented a proposed 2010 budget for the Sheriff's Department as well as the County Jail.

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Transit Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong and MnDOT Project Manager Jan Klassen shared some concerns that they have in regards to the current contract in place with Western Community Action for transit rides within Cottonwood County as well as the rates that are being received for reimbursement. Further discussion will be held at the August 25th meeting at Family Services.

Thongvivong presented a proposed 2010 budget for the Transit System and the Commissioners.

Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**2009 Transit Grant Application
Resolution 09-08-11**

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 Auditor/Treasurer to execute the aforementioned Agreement and any amendments thereto.

S/Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

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Chad Kosel met with the board to request that he be allowed to repurchase a tax-forfeiture property located in Storden. After much discussion,

there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns to allow Chad Kosel to repurchase his property due to hardship and that he pay all delinquent taxes by December 31, 2009. Voting as follows: Aye – Kuecker, Oeltjenbruns, Holmen, White. Nay – Sorenson. Motion carried. County Attorney Doug Storey will develop a “Repurchase Agreement” to be signed by Kosel.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg and Assistant County Engineer Rory Lindvall met with the board to discuss a few different items. Gregg reported that four bids for the 2009 overlay projects on CSAH 4, 10, 13 and 16 were received as follows: Central Specialties Inc. - \$1,456,065.40; Knife River Corporation - \$1,547,152.00; Duinck Bros. Inc. - \$1,571,172.05; Southern Minnesota Construction - \$1,624,879.25. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to award low bid in the amount of \$1,456,065.40 to Central Specialties, Inc.

Gregg requested approval to hire two full-time employees for the Highway Department. These two positions are vacant due to a retirement and a transfer of an employee to another department. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to post internally and to advertise for two full-time heavy equipment operator positions.

Gregg reported that the recycling survey has been tallied and will be reviewed by the committee members in the next few weeks. A total of 764 surveys were returned.

Discussion was held regarding Resolution 08-09-02, which was adopted on September 2, 2008. This resolution pertains to the acquisition of right-of-way for road construction projects. The Highway Department is currently acquiring right-of-way for the CSAH 9 construction project and Rory Lindvall has received several comments on the current policy. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows: (This resolution will replace Resolution 08-09-02)

Resolution 09-08-11A

Whereas, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Engineer to acquire right-of-way on various State-Aid funded transportation projects from time to time and;

Whereas, in order to facilitate and standardize the acquisition process, for fair and equal consideration of the interests and concern, of all tax payers and property owners in Cottonwood County, the commissioners have established maximum payment rates for certain items which are commonly paid for by Cottonwood County as part of the right-of-way acquisition processes;

Now Therefore, Be It Resolved, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners do hereby establish the following rates;

Permanent Right-of-Way shall be paid for at 130% of the County Assessor's most current assessed value, parcel specific.

Temporary Slope Easement shall be paid for at the rate of \$600.00 per acre regardless of land value or land use.

Fencing Payment for Landowners Removal and Replacement shall be at the rate of \$1.25 per foot regardless of fence type.

Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved, that this policy shall apply to all new negotiations for State-Aid projects commencing after August 11, 2009 and before December 31, 2009.

S/Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Chairman Sorenson reported that he received a telephone call from a concerned citizen in regards to the increased truck traffic on County Road 6 going to the Ethanol Plant that may have an impact on the road conditions. Gregg will have Jerry Hayes look into the matter.

Commissioner Holmen reported that he received a telephone call from the Darfur Fire Department asking why they weren't given official notification from the Highway Department when the bridge was closed.

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Commissioner White gave an update regarding the postage situation with RSVP. Family Services will be contacted to see what would work best for the agency as far as RSVP keeping track of postage costs.

White gave an update regarding a meeting that he recently attended with two Jackson County Commissioners, Craig Myers, Bob Pankratz and Janice Fransen regarding the shared Family Service Agency Director position. Everything seems to be going good at this time.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to allow the Windom Chamber of Commerce to use the Courthouse grounds on August 24th from 5:30-7:30pm for the upcoming Ice Cream Social.

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Update was given regarding a meeting that the Department Heads attended on August 10th for the purpose of exploring options for a new phone system within the county.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Commissioner Oeltjenbruns to attend "Carbon Credit" meeting in St. Cloud on Thursday, August 13th due to his role with GBERBA.

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A thank you note was received from the Windom Sr. Citizens Center for the 2009 appropriation that they received from the county.

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A Turbidity TMDL Press Release notice was received from RCRCA.

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

Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 09-08-11B

WHEREAS, a preliminary hearing is ordered for proposed improvement on Judicial Ditch 10 in the South ½ of Section 19 and in the West ½ of Section 30 in Carson Township (T106N-R36W);

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the preliminary hearing date has been scheduled for August 25th at 2:00 p.m. during the regularly scheduled County Board meeting.

S/Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

There being no further business, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority at 12:43 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant