

July 25, 2006  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 25, 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Ron Kuecker. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Chuck Severson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mike Hanson, Mark Gulick, Loren Heger, John Tibodeau, Ron Gregg, Gary Wood, Brenda Anderson, Sherry Pankratz and Terry Tegels. Motion by Severson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the July 11, 2006 meeting as amended.

\* \* \* \*

Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to give an update in regards to the 3-county ISTS pilot program. Hanson reported that \$38,000 has recently been released to the county to use towards updating septic systems. Copies of letters received from Bill Dunn, MPCA, as well as letters sent to rural residents and licensed septic contractors were handed out for the board's review. Chairman Kuecker will call Bill Dunn and let him know that the board is in support of the new revised budget and are now waiting for approval from MPCA.

\* \* \* \*

Mark Gulick met with the board representing DNR to request permission to buy a tract of land in Southbrook Township. After much discussion and concerns noted, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 06-07-25  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Review of Proposed State Wildlife Land Acquisition**

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 97A.145 Subd. 2, the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources on July 25, 2006 provided the county board and appropriate town officers with a description of lands to be acquired by the State of Minnesota for water and wildlife conservation purposes.

Lands to be acquired are described as follows: Clear Lake Farm in Southbrook Township, Cottonwood County, Minnesota, described as: the N ½ NW ¼, the SW ¼ NW ¼, Government lots 1, 2, 3, 4, and 8, all in T105-R-38-S33 and containing 320 acres, more or less; and the E ¾ NE ¼ of T105-R38-S32 and containing 120 acres, more or less.

**IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Board of County Commissioners of Cottonwood County on July 25, 2006 that the State's proposed acquisition of the above-described property is approved.

This resolution was presented by Commissioner Sorenson, seconded by Commissioner Oeltjenbruns and upon unanimous roll call vote was duly adopted.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve final payment for the CSAH 13 project SP 17-613-35 from the west county line to the junction of CSAH 5. The final payment amount is \$24,693.65.

Gregg reviewed and discussed a letter from MPCA that was recently received regarding alleged violations at the landfill. Gregg reported that corrective action is currently being taken on the minor violations that were identified by MPCA. A follow-up letter as well as the contingency plan will be sent to MPCA to discuss the actions that are being taken to correct the problems.

Gregg gave an update in regards to three different projects.

\* \* \* \*

Veteran's Administrative Assistant Brenda Anderson met with the board to discuss a few things. Anderson invited all of the commissioners to attend a reintegration training that will be held on August 7<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:30pm in Worthington.

Anderson also asked that the board consider giving her a wage increase due to added work that she has been doing for quite some time. The board agreed that they would like to wait until after the new VSO/Deputy Emergency Management Director begins his duties before giving the request any further consideration. Motion by Severson, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to continue paying Anderson \$500 monthly stipend for the months of August and September.

\* \* \* \*

Family Services Collaborative Director Sherry Pankratz met with the board to give an update and to explain to the board some of the services that the collaborative has helped to fund in 2006. Pankratz reported that the annual budget for the collaborative is approximately \$212,000.

\* \* \* \*

Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported that a lease extension was requested from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety for the lease of the Driver's Exam room at the Law Enforcement Center for the period from July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2007. Because a copy of the lease was not available, no further action was taken at this time.

\* \* \* \*

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the hiring of Todd Dibble as Veteran's Service Officer/Deputy Emergency Management Director at the rate of \$40,000 annually. A job description will be developed and pointed by the Hay System in the near future.

\* \* \* \*

Commissioner Severson gave an update in regards to the Plum Creek Library System.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve 2007 dues to the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance in the amount of \$3,019. This will be taken out of the Water Plan budget.

\* \* \*

Commissioner Oeltjenbruns reported that the Minnesota River Basin Project dues for 2007 would be going up approximately \$250.

\* \* \*

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to authorize another emergency hire for the transit system effective July 17<sup>th</sup>.

\* \* \*

Chairman Kuecker read a thank you note that was recently received from Southwest Crisis Center.

\* \* \*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant