

May 5, 2009
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 5, 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, Mike Hanson, Ron Gregg and Cheryl Hanson. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 28, 2009 meeting as amended.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Grant Agreement in the amount of \$1,349 for MPCA County Feedlot Programs 2008 Performance Credit Allocations. The agreement period is April 1, 2009 to June 30, 2010.

Hanson reported that Water Education Day would be held on May 7th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and a conditional use permit hearing would be held on May 28th at 7:30 p.m.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Hanson to attend Minnesota Association of Counties Planning & Zoning Spring Conference June 11-12 in St. Cloud and to pay for registration, lodging and meals.

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

**Resolution 09-05-05
Proclamation for National Police Week 2009**

To recognize National Police Week 2009 and to honor the service and sacrifice of those law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty while protecting our communities and safeguarding our democracy.

WHEREAS, there are approximately 900,000 law enforcement officers serving in communities across the United States, including 9 sworn members of the Cottonwood County Sheriff's Department;

WHEREAS, some 60,000 assaults against law enforcement officers are reported each year, resulting in approximately 16,000 injuries;

WHEREAS, since the first recorded death in 1792, more than 18,000 law enforcement officers in the United States have made the ultimate sacrifice and been killed in the line of duty;

WHEREAS, the names of these dedicated public servants are engraved on the walls of the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial, which was dedicated in 1991 in Washington, D.C.;

WHEREAS, 387 names are being added to the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial this spring, including 133 officers killed in 2008 and 254 officers killed in previous years;

WHEREAS, the service and sacrifice of all officers killed in the line of duty will be honored, and the names of the Minnesota officers read in honor during the day prior to the Minnesota Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Association's Annual Candlelight Vigil, on the evening of Friday, May 15, 2009;

WHEREAS, the Candlelight Vigil is part of National Police Week, which takes place this year on May 10-16;

WHEREAS, May 15 is designated as Peace Officers Memorial Day, with federal law (P.L. 103-322) directing that all flags be flown at half-staff on that date in honor of fallen officers and their families;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners formally declares May 10-16, 2009, as Police Week in Cottonwood County, and publicly salutes the service of law enforcement officers in our community and in communities across the nation.

S/Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Discussion was held regarding letter recently received from Representative Rod Hamilton in regards to the Mt. Lake Bike Trail.

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Brief update was given regarding bills at N. 71 County Office Building. Further information will be reported at the next board meeting.

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Commissioner White gave an update regarding the 9th Street Office Building and reported that Community Health has asked that the offices be painted, two doors installed, and a wall built before moving in. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to seek quotes for painting and carpentry work needed at 9th Street Office Building.

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Performance Evaluation of County Highway Engineer was done at this time, as State Statute requires 4-year appointment to be voted on in the month of May. County Engineer Ron Gregg was present and requested that the discussion be held in an open session.

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Cheryl Hanson met with the board in regards to the possibility of hosting Chamber Coffee as well as a ribbon cutting ceremony at the new N. 71 County Office Building in the near future. The board agreed to schedule Chamber Coffee for June 26th.

Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow use of the Courthouse grounds for the Riverfest celebration the weekend of June 12th.

It was reported that a bill in the amount of \$5,130.97 was received from the City of Windom for the new phone and voicemail system at the N. 71 County Office Building. This bill will be paid with the regular commissioner warrants.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update regarding Rural Energy and the proposed wind tower project with the Metro area. Motion by Holmen, second by White to adopt resolution approving the concept of the wind power project. Voting as follows: Aye – Oeltjenbruns, White, Holmen and Sorenson. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 09-05-05A

WHEREAS, the Rural Minnesota Energy Board and the Metropolitan Energy Policy Coalition have been pursuing a joint wind energy production project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is to be two wind generators located at the Lyon County Landfill; and

WHEREAS, it is the goal of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board to raise \$2 million in long term financing for the project and \$1.2 million in short term construction financing to be offset by the Production Tax Credit or Investment Tax Credit; and

WHEREAS, Cottonwood County is a member of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT: Cottonwood County agrees in principal to the concept of said wind energy project. Upon completion of the project pro forma the County will make a final determination of the amount, if any, they are willing to invest.

S/Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

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S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Updates were given regarding recent ditch business and discussion was held regarding letter that was sent out in regards to buffer strips.

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

Pictures of a washout of an existing ditch in Lakeside Township Section 20 were shared with the board. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize ditch bank repair of JD #15.

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

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve final Human Services Management Agreement between Cottonwood County and Jackson County with a 2009 total budget of \$124,505. The 2009 total budget includes such things as salary, benefits, telephone, training, administrative, mileage, etc.

Update was given regarding a meeting that Chairman Sorenson and Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy attended on May 4th in Nobles County. Sorenson reported that a White Paper of what is actually involved as an Emergency Management Director would be available soon.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to set deadline for accepting quotes for painting and carpentry work that needs to be done at the 9th Street Office Building for May 22nd at 4:30 p.m.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant