

September 12, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 12, 2006 at 9:00 a.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 Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Ron Gregg, Mark Marcy, Gale Bondhus, Marlene Smith, Mike Hanson, Craig Myers, Bob Pankratz and Terry Tegels. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the September 5, 2006 meeting as amended.

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County Attorney Doug Storey met with the board to discuss some computer problems he has recently been having. Three quotes for a laptop were received and were as follows: Davis - \$1,182.25; New Star - \$1,316.34 and \$1,544.25. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to accept low quote from Davis in the amount of \$1,181.25, which does not include the 3-year warranty. This price includes installation and transfer of data from current laptop.

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Brief discussion was held regarding ongoing copy machine problems with the copy machine outside the Commissioner's Room. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson will work on getting quotes for a new copier to present at the next board meeting.

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Chairman Kuecker announced that there has been a recent termination at the Extension Office. He asked the thoughts of the board on whether or not the Extension Committee should hire someone on a temporary basis until a new 4-H Program Coordinator could be hired. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to instruct Extension to back-fill the position in the interim process while looking for a new 4-H Program Coordinator.

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The Geographical Information System (GIS) Committee met with the board to present further information regarding costs and where the funding for the project will come from. It was reported that the down payment for such a system would be approximately \$49,000. Payments would then be made throughout the process of developing the system with final payment to be made six months after the completion of the project. The board thanked them for gathering and presenting the information so that they can make a more informed decision on whether or not to proceed with such a project.

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Gregg asked that the board amend the preliminary budgets for Road & Bridge, Landfill and SCORE. The changes between the three departments amounted in a net increase of \$53,150, which was mostly as a result of increased fuel costs.

Gregg gave a project update on CSAH 2 South & North and asked that the board approve the CSAH 2 tile agreement between Cottonwood County and CSAH 2 property owners for future maintenance and repairs. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to instruct Chairman Kuecker to sign the tile agreement between Cottonwood County and CSAH 2 property owners.

Gregg reported that drug and alcohol testing costs has increased and Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) is requesting an amendment to the existing contract to handle the increase in costs. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Kuecker to sign amendment to the existing contract with MCIT for increased drug and alcohol testing costs.

Brief discussion was held regarding a complaint that Commissioner Oeltjenbruns recently received regarding uncovered demo loads that are being hauled to the landfill. Gregg was instructed to continue to follow the rules that are already in place at the landfill.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board in regards to her recent request for consideration of salary adjustments within the Assessor's Office. After much discussion, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to move Lisa Will from Step 4 to Step 6 of the 2006 pay scale effective September 18th in recognition of receiving her Certified Minnesota Assessor (CMA) licensure and increased workload.

Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to compensate Jean Gode on Step 6 of the Appraiser position when she is out assessing. This will be effective September 18th.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority to set date for JD #5 final hearing. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to set final hearing for JD #5 for September 26th at 1:10pm. Chairman Kuecker declared that the meeting as Ditch Authority be adjourned and to reconvene as the County Board.

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Motion by Severson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to set canvassing of the ballots for Thursday, September 14th at 11:00am. Commissioners Kuecker and Holmen will plan to be present.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve September warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$105,251.89
County Building Fund	\$ 38,307.64
Ditch Fund	\$ 5,443.51
Taxes & Penalties Fund	\$ 8.90
Road & Bridge Fund	\$137,767.86
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 5,112.65
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 18,191.02</u>
TOTAL	\$310,083.47

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Brief discussion was held regarding current vehicle usage policy when using county vehicles for meetings, etc. Commissioner Sorenson will work together with Kelly Thongvivong to bring forward a recommendation at a future meeting for the development of a policy.

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Commissioner Sorenson informed the board that Southwestern Mental Health Center recently received some proposed estimates from Blue Cross Blue Shield for insurance coverage.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to set 2007 preliminary levy at \$5,920,000. This amount reflects an increase of just over 5%.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a certified letter he recently received from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) regarding the recent termination of the remaining two years of the ISTS grant.

Brief discussion was held regarding recent complaint that was received on the web server about the condition of Red Rock Dells Park. A copy of this e-mail was forwarded to the Sheriff and the Environmental Officer.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 12:01pm to discuss strategy and proposals for labor negotiations. The following individuals were present: Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Chuck Severson, Kelly Thongvivong and Jan Johnson. Chairman Kuecker opened the meeting at 12:55pm.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant