

June 27, 2006  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 27, 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 Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Scott Johnson, Craig Myers, Pat Stewart, Dennis Fields, Ron Gregg, Alissa Swenson, Timothy Auringer, Ben Stratton, Jason Hoehn, Mike Hanson, Jason Purrington and Mark Marcy. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2006 meeting. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2006 County Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting as amended.

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Scott Johnson, Director of Southwestern Mental Health, met with the board to present a block grant request for 2007. His proposal was a 6% increase to the block grant portion of the budget, which would amount to approximately \$9,400. No action was taken at this time and will be discussed further at a future meeting at Family Service Agency.

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Pat Stewart and Dennis Fields met with the board representing Cottonwood-Jackson CHS to seek approval for the purchase of a new color copier for the Windom office. Two quotes were received and were as follows: New Star Sales & Service - \$7,394 and A & B Business Equipment - \$8,001. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept low quote from New Star Sales & Service in the amount of \$7,394 for the purchase of a color copier. The majority of the funds will come from the Pandemic Flu Grant Fund Expenditure and the remainder of the funds will come from Long Term Capital Outlay.

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Commissioner Severson asked if the county would consider allowing the Historical Society to take some of their old equipment such as copy machines to the landfill for disposal without charging them a tipping fee. The board agreed that they would like to see a listing of the equipment before taking it to the landfill. The Historical Society would be responsible for paying the tax for the disposal.

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Commissioner Sorenson reported on a discussion he recently had with the Probation Officer in regards to pay equity concerns. No further action was taken at this time.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg recommended that Tom Keech, Solid Waste Worker, be moved from probation to permanent full-time status effective July 11<sup>th</sup>, as he will have been here six months at that time. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson to move Tom Keech to permanent full-time status effective July 11<sup>th</sup>. After further discussion, there was a motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to table this discussion until the next board meeting.

Gregg reported that motor grader unit #74 is up for replacement under the 5-year replacement plan. Unit #74 is a Cat 143H 6-wheel drive motor grader with 5600 hours and is stationed in the Mt. Lake Shop. The repurchase guarantee and full machine warranty expires at the end of June 2006. It is Gregg's recommendation to accept the proposal in the amount of \$78,767.19 for an upgrade to unit #74 to a 2005 model. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to purchase 2005 motor grader in the amount of \$78,767.19 off the state bid.

Gregg updated the board in regards to the CSAH 2 and the Carson Township bridge projects.

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Alissa Swenson, Timothy Auringer, Ben Stratton and Jason Hoehn met with the board representing I & S Engineers & Architects, Inc. to discuss the remodeling project proposal in the Commissioner's Room. The consensus of the board was to continue with the process and to have I & S Engineers put together further cost estimates and floor plans.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board in regards to the Planning Commission recommendation regarding the conditional use hearing for the Elmendorf Colony. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit under the classification as "organized farm colony" granted to the Elmendorf Hutterian Brethren Colony based on conditions mentioned and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission. The #10 condition mentioned will be amended to include the date of approval of the conditional use permit.

Hanson was asked to look into and follow up on a matter in regards to a complaint received regarding noxious weeds at Talcot Park.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board regarding a few items. Purrington asked that the board allow him to hire Matt Shirkey for the position of part-time jailer/dispatcher due to his previous experience of working in the dispatch and jail area. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize Purrington to hire Matt Shirkey as part-time jailer/dispatcher effective June 27, 2006.

Purrington reported that the weather radar equipment is not working properly and that the present equipment is obsolete. Two quotes were presented

and were as follows: EWR Weather Radar - \$25,297.50 and SI-TEX Marine Electronics - \$7,749.00. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$7,749.00 from SI-TEX Marine Electronics. The funding for this purchase will be taken out of Long Term Capital Outlay.

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

Chairman Kuecker reported that Tim Wenskaug has tentatively agreed to sign an agreement that was drafted by County Attorney Storey in regards to County Ditch #23 based upon the minutes of the June 6<sup>th</sup> board meeting. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Kuecker to sign agreement with Tim Wenskaug.

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

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Brief discussion was held in regards to recent letter received from Stan Friesen concerning the classification of his property for assessment. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to forward letters written by County Assessor Gale Bondhus and Chairman Kuecker as well as a signed copy of the oath of office for each commissioner as requested by Stan Friesen.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve request by the Southwest Initiative Foundation for an appropriation for 2007 in the amount of \$3,650.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss his salary, as there has been some recent confusion. After much discussion, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to authorize Auditor/Treasurer Johnson to pay Marcy 13.39 hours overtime for the first pay period in June for hours that he worked on Emergency Management.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to pay Marcy regular deputy salary each pay period as well as any actual overtime hours worked on Emergency Management over and above his 40-hour work week. The amount of overtime paid shall not exceed \$10,000 annually.

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

**Resolution 06-06-27  
Tax-Forfeited Land Classification  
Notice of Public Sale of Tax-Forfeited Lands**

**WHEREAS**, the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Cottonwood, State of Minnesota, desires to offer for sale certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes, and

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the parcels of land described in List of Tax-Forfeited Land #7 that is contained herein shall be sold to the highest bidder at public sale. The sale will be governed by the provisions of M.S. 282.01 and by the resolution of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners authorizing such sale. The resolution reads as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby request approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the sale of said lands.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all parcels of the tax-forfeited land listed on list of Tax-Forfeited Land #7 be classified as non-conservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #7, that is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of the land be granted, pursuant to M.S. 282.01; that the sale will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, September 20, 2006 by the Cottonwood County Auditor at the County Courthouse for not less than the basic sale price; and that all sales shall be full payment or on the terms set forth on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #7.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the conditions and terms of the public sale shall be described in the list contained herein and approved by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners. Information about the sale of tax-forfeited land in Cottonwood County can be obtained at the office of the Cottonwood County Auditor/Treasurer, Cottonwood County Courthouse, 900 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, Windom, MN 56101. Telephone (507) 831-1905.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson to set minimum sale price on each tax-forfeited property at \$10.00. Voting aye: Oeltjenbruns, Severson, Holmen and Kuecker. Sorenson abstained from the vote. Motion passed.

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Motion by Severson, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept resignation effective June 15, 2006 and to authorize payout of benefits for Darrell Stofferahn, Transit Driver.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to post and advertise for part-time transit driver and to authorize emergency hire if needed.

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Update was given in regards to Veteran's Service Officer/Deputy Emergency Management position. Five applicants will be contacted to set up an interview on Monday, July 10<sup>th</sup>.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant