

October 9, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 9, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Norm Holmen. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; Jay Trusty, Cathy Peterson, Linda Fransen, Cheryl Hanson, Larry Goeman, Steve Scott, Jason Purrington, Craig Myers and Sue Amundson. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the October 2, 2007 meeting.

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Executive Director of SRDC, Jay Trusty, met with the board to give an update regarding current activities and to present the FY 2007 Annual Report. Trusty will plan to present more information in regards to wind towers at a future meeting.

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Cathy Peterson, Linda Fransen and Cheryl Hanson met with the board in regards to the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Celebration. The MN State Legislature has made grant funds available for MN Counties wanting to add to Minnesota's 150 years of statehood celebration. There are two types of grants (Micro Grant & Legacy Grant) available to apply for and Peterson, Fransen and Hanson are hoping to apply for both grants. Because matching dollars are needed to apply for the Legacy Grant for this special project, the county board was asked to contribute \$1,200. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to appropriate \$1,200 out of the general fund for this cause.

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Larry Goeman and Steve Scott met with the board to discuss the intent of an expansion of the Summit Wind project and to ask for consideration of a resolution. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**COTTONWOOD COUNTY RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING COMMUNITY-BASED ENERGY
DEVELOPMENT (C-BED) STATUS FOR WIND PROJECT
07-10-09**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Minnesota to foster Community-Based Energy Development (C-BED) projects; and

WHEREAS, the state C-BED statute calls for County Board approval of C-BED projects – Minn. Stat. § 216B.1612, subd. 2(g)(3); and

WHEREAS, the development of small scale wind projects in Cottonwood County provides economic opportunity for residents of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Jeffers Wind Energy Project is proposed in Amboy, Amo, Storden, and Dale Townships will be owned by a Minnesota limited liability company organized by Minnesota residents and Outland Renewable Energy, a Minnesota limited liability company; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota limited liability company that will be developing wind turbines is Summit Wind, LLC; and

WHEREAS, the developers understand and accept responsibility for securing all necessary permits for development of wind turbines and towers; and

WHEREAS, this project calls for the development of up to 130 megawatts of wind energy to be produced by 52 to 87 turbines, generating from 1.5 to 2.5 MW per turbine; and

WHEREAS, the projects are structured to ensure that a majority of the gross revenues from a power purchase agreement over the life of the project will flow to local owners and local entities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby indicates its support for the development of the Jeffers Wind Energy Project as a C-BED project, subject to the authority of said County Board to grant or deny any applications for permits or licenses for said project as may be provided by state statute or local ordinances, rules or regulations.

S/Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

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S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to give an update in regards to the possibility of getting a K-9 Unit through the Sheriff's Department. After reporting on some of the cash donations that have been received so far, there was a motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to go forward with getting a K-9 Unit in Cottonwood County and approving the purchase of a dog as well as signing Dustin Miller up for necessary training pertaining to the K-9 Unit. Purrington was asked to bring back cost estimates for the dog before actually making the purchase.

Purrington asked for permission to apply for Ag Star Technology Grant as he is hoping to be able to purchase an in-squad camera for the K-9 squad car. Motion by White, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Purrington to apply for Ag Star Technology Grant.

Brief discussion was held regarding caller ID system in the Courthouse. It was reported that 6 phone lines in the Court Administration Office would be getting caller ID installed. The commissioners felt it would also be beneficial to have caller ID installed on the Commissioner/Transit phone line as well.

Update was given regarding the recent approval to purchase four defibrillators and some additional charges that the county was unaware of. Purrington will keep the board updated as he finds out more information from Cintas.

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Family Service Agency Director Craig Myers met with the board to present a resignation from Julie Hendrickson, Agency Social Worker. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept resignation from Julie Hendrickson effective October 19th.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Myers to post internally and advertise simultaneously for the full-time Agency Social Worker position.

Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve Biennial Service Agreement – Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and Children and Community Services Act (CSSA) effective January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2009.

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Discussion was held regarding health insurance options for the county and whether or not the county would like to continue being self-insured. Before making a final decision, the board agreed that they would like to invite Andrew Roos, Blue Cross Blue Shield representative, to attend a future meeting to be sure that everyone is understanding the county's options and all of the figures that have been presented to the board so far.

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Commissioner Kuecker briefly talked about a few different issues (fund balances and new drainage ditch regulations) he felt might be beneficial to discuss at a future meeting. Copies of information from the State Auditor regarding Fund Balances for Local Governments will be given to the board members for their review.

Commissioner Oeltjenbruns will talk to Kay Clark, SWCD, to see if she might be able to set up a time for the appropriate representative from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to attend a future board meeting to discuss the new drainage ditch regulations.

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Brief discussion was held regarding whether or not the county is interested in Jane Hennagir, MCIT, giving some presentations on different topics either through Labor-Management or to the county board. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson will contact her to see if she might be able to give a presentation during one of the county board meetings so others can attend if interested.

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Chairman Holmen reported that he recently spoke to the Department of Revenue in regards to a matter involving the County Assessor and there is nothing new to report.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to appropriate \$1,000 to the Prairie Ecology Bus for 2008.

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Chairman Holmen reported that the SCORE fund would be receiving payments of \$27,500 for 2007 & 2008.

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Brief discussion was held regarding a letter to MPCA that was recently drafted by County Attorney Doug Storey to be sent by the county board. A copy of this letter as well as the letter written by the County Engineer will be forwarded to several individuals at MPCA as well as a few members of the MPCA Citizens' Board.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve October warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$110,165.48
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 9,854.92
County Building Fund	\$ 1,416.39
Ditch Fund	\$ 4,887.90
Taxes and Penalties Fund	\$ 615.90
TOTAL	\$126,940.59

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant