

October 2, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 2, 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; County Attorney Doug Storey; Andrew Roos, Ron Gregg, Mike Hanson, Jason Purrington and Craig Myers. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2007 meeting.

* * * *

Andrew Ross, Senior Account Consultant from Blue Cross Blue Shield, met with the board to give an update regarding the 2008 insurance renewal rates and to explain some different options that the county may want to consider offering to the employees at some point. Roos also presented Medicare rate information and the two options (Option B & Option G) that are currently available. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to offer Option G to Medicare eligible retirees effective January 1, 2008. Roos will get some further cost estimates put together for discussion at the next board meeting.

* * * *

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. After much discussion, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by White to order an improvement to install 911 address signs at all rural residences in Cottonwood County at a cost of \$35 per site as proposed at the public hearing held on September 25th with all future maintenance of the signs to be at county expense. Voting aye: Kuecker, White, Sorenson, Oeltjenbruns. Voting nay: Holmen. Motion carried. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson will be sending out information to all rural landowners.

Much discussion was held regarding recent landfill penalty. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to pay fine in the amount of \$2,950.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to draft letter to MPCA from the County Board expressing the concerns the county has with the way the rules and fine process are applied to our landfill and requesting some guidance on what can be done to prevent fines in the future.

* * * *

Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board for approval of a conditional use permit. Hanson presented a recommendation of the Planning Commission for approval of an industrial well for Highwater Ethanol. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit granted to Highwater Ethanol based on conditions mentioned and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Hanson handed out information to the board in regards to property transfer septic system disclosure.

Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to present quotes for the purchase of defibrillators through a grant that was recently received. Quotes were as follows: Cintas - \$1,095; Moore Medical - \$1,399. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to purchase 2 defibrillators in the amount of \$1,095 each from Cintas as well as 2 carrying cases in the amount of \$49.95 each. This purchase will be paid through the Defibrillator and Squad Car Camera Grant 08.

Due to the fact that a discounted rate was given for the purchase of up to 4 defibrillators, there was a motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to purchase 2 additional defibrillators at a rate of \$1,095 each from Cintas as well as 2 carrying cases in the amount of \$49.95 each out of the Safety Budget. These defibrillators will be placed at the Courthouse and Family Service Agency.

* * * *

Auditor/Treasurer Johnson was asked to do some checking in regards to the cost of getting Caller ID at the Courthouse.

* * * *

Family Service Agency Director Craig Myers met with the board to obtain approval of the hire of Carey Klingenberg as County Agency Social Worker. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to hire Carey Klingenberg on Start Step of the 2007 matrix effective September 24, 2007.

Brief discussion was held regarding question relating to union contract. It was determined that a COLA could be granted during an employee's probationary period but that a step could only be given after a probationary period is successfully completed.

* * * *

Chairman Holmen asked for input in filling out the AMC questionnaire for the Fall Conference.

* * * *

Update was given regarding conversation Commissioner Kuecker recently had with members of the SWCD and some thoughts he had in regards to the TMDL project.

* * * *

In order to comply with recommendations by the State Auditor's, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to post a revision to Policy Number 490 for a 30-day comment period with addition as follows: To be eligible for reimbursement, all eligible expenses must be submitted to the Auditor/Treasurer's Office within 60 days of occurrence.

* * * *

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant