

September 4, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 4, 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; Pete Samuelson, Wayne Hess, Scott Hoek, Bob Pankratz, Craig Myers, Ron Gregg and Cathy Peterson. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 28, 2007 meeting as amended.

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Pete Samuelson, Wayne Hess and Scott Hoek met with the board to ask for their support of the Comfrey Wind Energy project. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 07-09-04
Acknowledging Community-Based Energy Development
Status for a Wind Project**

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(f)(3); and

WHEREAS, the development of a wind project in Cottonwood County provides economic opportunity for residents of the County; and

WHEREAS, the Comfrey Wind Energy LLC project which is proposed for development in Selma Township will be owned by Minnesota limited liability companies organized by Minnesota residents; and

WHEREAS, the Comfrey Wind Energy LLC which will be developing wind turbines 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 16.8 megawatts of wind energy to be produced by 8 turbines; and

WHEREAS, the projects are structured to ensure that a majority of the financial benefit of the project accrues to the local owner of the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby indicates its support for the development of the Comfrey Wind Energy LLC 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.

Agreed to this 4th day of September 2007.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

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Much discussion was held with Craig Myers and Bob Pankratz in regards to the 2008 proposed budget that was recently requested for the Family Service Agency.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson to adopt resolution requesting the advancement of \$200,000 from the municipal account to the county's regular account to assist in the funding of the Mt. Lake Outlet Structure. Voting as follows: Aye: Sorenson, Oeltjenbruns, Holmen, White. Nay: Kuecker. Motion carried to adopt resolution as follows:

**ADVANCE ENCUMBRANCE
COUNTY MUNICIPAL ACCOUNT TO COUNTY REGULAR ACCOUNT
RESOLUTION NUMBER 07-09-04**

WHEREAS, the County of Cottonwood has obtained the Commissioner's approval of the plans for the following County State-Aid Highway Project(s):

S.A.P. No. 17-629-02 CSAH No. 29. located at the outlet of Mountain Lake, North of Mt. Lake, MN consisting of Bridge 89526 Replacement and approach grading.

AND, WHEREAS, said County is Prepared to proceed with the construction of this said project by providing Municipal Account County State-Aid Highway funds to supplement the available funds in their Regular Account, and

WHEREAS, said County has notified by certified mail, all the governing bodies of the cities having a population of less than 5,000 that it will be requesting an advance of Municipal Account funds, and

WHEREAS, repayment of the Municipal Account funds so advanced to the Regular Account will be accomplished with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 162.08, Subdivisions 4.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Commissioner of Transportation be and is hereby requested to approve this basis for financing said construction project (s) and to authorize transfers for the subsequent accruals to the Regular Account of the County State-Aid Highway funds for said County, within the limitations provided by law at the times and in the amounts as herein indicated:

On or after February 1, 2008 - \$ 66,666.66 from 2008 Allotment

On or after February 1, 2009 - \$ 66,666.66 from 2009 Allotment

On or after February 1, 2010 - \$ 66,666.68 from 2010 Allotment

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to set hearing date for the advancement of \$200,000 from the municipal account to the county's regular account for September 11th at 9:30 a.m.

Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to order the improvement for the placement of 911 resident address signage throughout Cottonwood County.

Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to set the public hearing for 911 resident address signage for September 25th at 1:00 p.m.

Discussion was held in regards to the 2008 proposed budget for the Highway Department.

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Cathy Peterson met with the board to let them know that she is the new representative for the Arts & Humanities Council. Peterson also asked that the county consider appropriating \$900 for 2008 for the continued support of this organization. A short book entitled "Bright Stars" was handed out to each of the commissioners as well.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White to appropriate \$40,500 to the Cottonwood County Historical Society for 2008, which is a \$2,000 increase from 2007 and to give the Historical Society \$1,000/year for 5 years beginning in 2008 to help with the street assessment. Voting as follows: Aye: Sorenson, Holmen, White and Kuecker. Nay: Oeltjenbruns. Motion carried.

Brief discussion was held in regards to a letter that was recently received from a Department Head on behalf of an employee who would like to file a grievance. This will be discussed more at the next board meeting.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to increase appropriation to Heritage Houses in Westbrook and Mt. Lake by \$500 for a 2008 total appropriation of \$1,000 each and to give Mt. Lake Heritage Village a one-time additional appropriation of \$1,000 to help with paint for the buildings.

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Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept all remaining appropriations as presented.

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Much discussion was held regarding 2008 proposed budgets and the preliminary levy that will need to be set at the next board meeting.

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Chairman Holmen updated the board in regards to a few different items. He reported that he recently received a letter regarding the proposed radio tower by Jeffers.

Holmen reported that when ordering the 42" monitor that was approved at the last board meeting, it was determined that the particular model was no longer available but a like model was available for \$114 more. Motion by Kuecker,

second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the increased cost of \$1212, as this price was still the lower quote of the two quotes received at the last board meeting.

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Brief discussion was held regarding whether or not the county should develop a policy in regards to the recording of county board meetings. Some research will be done on what other counties are doing in regards to recording of board meetings.

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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