

June 7, 2005  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 7, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Chuck Severson, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mark Marcy, Duane Hoeschen, Ron Gregg, Cheryl Hanson and Gale Bondhus. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2005 meeting.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss several miscellaneous items in regards to Emergency Management. Also present was Duane Hoeschen from Minnesota Department of Public Safety. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to attend Hazardous Materials Awareness Course in August, as he was unable to attend the course that was scheduled from April 25-29 in Minneapolis.

Marcy gave a brief update on a 2-way radio that was recently purchased with Emergency Management funds. Marcy reported that the 2-way radio has been installed and is now able to page and communicate with any fire department within the county.

Marcy reported that he would like to purchase new stickers for the Emergency Management trailer but was unable to use funds from the 2004 equipment grant for this purchase unless a new trailer was bought. Marcy will try to obtain another quote to present at a future meeting.

Update was given in regards to upcoming disaster drill that is scheduled for June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Bingham Lake. This drill will involve some of the local fire departments and ambulance squads. Chairman Severson volunteered to be involved with this drill as they were looking for volunteers to help out.

Discussion was held in regards to two generators that the Highway Department recently was able to get started and where these generators will now be kept. Marcy stated that the Highway Department was interested in using one of the generators at the Windom shop. Marcy will ask the Highway Department if they would like to house the second generator as well and will ask that they maintain both of the generators on a regular basis.

Marcy informed the board that County Attorney Storey had recently drawn up an agreement for the Windom and Westbrook Fire Departments in regards to the decon trailers that both departments are currently using. Marcy was planning to attend the Windom City Council meeting and wanted to know what the intentions of the board were in regards to maintenance and repair of the trailers.

The board agreed that routine maintenance of the trailers should be at the expense of the city and major repairs to the trailers should be at county expense.

Discussion was held in regards to the 2004 equipment grant. Marcy reported that there was still \$24,681.50 remaining in this grant that needed to be spent by November 2005. Since a portion of these funds was originally intended to go toward the purchase of a vehicle to pull the trailer, it was suggested that the county contribute funds to the City of Windom Fire Department as they recently ordered a Super Duty truck for the purpose of pulling the decon trailer. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to contribute a minimum of \$21,000 out of the 2004 State Homeland Security Grant Program, which is a non-matching grant, towards the pull vehicle that the City of Windom is purchasing and to allow Marcy to use his discretion on the remainder of the funds.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few miscellaneous items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to submit Office Manager/Highway Accountant job description to Labor Relations for possible re-pointing of this position according to the Hay System.

Gregg reported that he recently gave permission to Red Rock Rural Water to install a monitoring well on landfill property. The well will be used in the upcoming pump test and future monitoring if Red Rock Rural Water installs a permanent well near that location.

Gregg reported that Midway Township has requested that Gregg help develop specifications and a proposal for a bituminous overlay on Lakeshore Drive in Mt. Lake. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to help with this request, which is located on the East portion of Lakeshore Drive and is approximately 0.4 of a mile.

After the last board meeting, Gregg did some further checking on options in regards to a new recycling shed in the Mt. Lake area and the possibility of purchasing one 10x16 shed instead of two 8x12 sheds. Two new quotes for a 10x16 shed were submitted as follows: Swede's - \$1,880 and Country Pride Mt. Lake - \$1,985. It was noted that the quote from Swede's included a roof vent and delivery to Mt. Lake. It was not sure whether the quote from Country Pride included a roof vent. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, to accept quote from Country Pride Mt. Lake as they are located within the county provided roof vent is part of their quote. If the roof vent is not part of their quote, Gregg was instructed to accept the quote from Swede's. Voting as follows: Aye: Holmen, Oeltjenbruns, Sorenson. Nay: Kuecker. Motion carried.

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Windom Chamber Director Cheryl Hanson met with the board to thank them on behalf of the Windom Chamber of Commerce and the Riverfest Committee for their continued support of the use of the Courthouse grounds.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to update them on how the Board of Reviews went and to present information in regards to the upcoming Board of Equalization meeting that will be held next week. Bondhus suggested that the board members each take a chance to look at the properties in question before the next board meeting.

Bondhus informed the board that a Board of Review Training session would be held on July 20<sup>th</sup> at the LEC. She recommends that the board members attend this training if possible as it is very informative.

Bondhus requested that a higher value be placed on properties at the next tax-forfeiture sale because her office is having problems as a result of the low sale prices. In some instances, the new property owners believe that the estimated market value on the property is too high and they should get a reduction since the actual property sold for such a low price.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported that in 1999 the Mt. Lake Economic Development Authority received State Deed #190784 for seven properties in the Mt. Lake area. Since that time, two of the seven properties have been sold and the Mt. Lake Economic Development Authority is now requesting to purchase four of the five remaining properties (Parcel Numbers 22.350.0140, 22.520.0310, 22.520.0391 and 22.520.0400) for the same price (\$179.65) as was set in 1999 by Cottonwood County. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow the Mt. Lake EDA to purchase the four properties in lieu of reversion to the State.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to Northern PCS proposed land lease. The board requested that Northern PCS be contacted to see if a representative is able to attend the next board meeting to provide more specific information before a decision can be made.

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A request for a Memorial Day appropriation in the amount of \$150 was received from the Windom American Legion Post #206. A reimbursement in the amount of \$100 will be made at this time, as this is the amount that was budgeted for this year.

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Commissioner Kuecker asked for an update on a few different items involving the Environmental Office. The items discussed were as follows: Mining Ordinance, ISTS grant, TMDL study on Des Moines River, and the County Comprehensive Plan. Since there were still questions and concerns in regards to these items, the board requested that Mike Hanson be asked to give an update at the next board meeting.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to a problem that Commissioner Oeltjenbruns had with a ditch in his district. It was suggested that a possible solution might be a rock inlet.

Auditor/Treasurer Johnson updated the board on a few informational items. He presented an "Exhibit A" for square mile apportionment for Redwood-Cottonwood River Control Area (RCRCA), which was passed at an RCRCA board meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup>. This apportionment covers the Joint Powers Agreement from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007.

Johnson informed the board that the Minnesota State Capital Centennial Commission recently sent all Minnesota Counties rose bushes to commemorate the centennial. Cottonwood County received and planted five bushes.

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Chairman Severson informed the board of a few miscellaneous items. He stated that he had recently received a letter from the Southwest Minnesota Emergency Medical Service Corporation stating that Marlowe Nelsen's term had expired and someone else would need to be appointed to a 3-year term. Severson will check with the ambulance crews to see if someone might be interested in being appointed to this committee.

A letter was received from the City of Mt. Lake in regards to their intent to develop a wellhead protection plan. They stated that they are hoping to have it in place by December 2007.

Severson reported on a letter that he had recently received from Ken Leas, AFSCME representative, in regards to contracting out some of the duties of one of the positions in particular. Commissioner Kuecker will do some further checking on this matter.

A postcard was received in regards to supporting PTC's cable choice campaign. No action was taken.

Brief discussion was held in regards to possible overlay of Courthouse and Family Service Agency parking lots. One quote has been received and Auditor/Treasurer Johnson will try to get another quote from the contractors that will be working on the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue project.

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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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Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant