

August 24, 2010  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 24, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Tom White. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Kathy Kretsch, Jenny Quade, Ron Gregg and Jason Purrington.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2010 meeting as amended.

\* \* \* \*

County Attorney Doug Storey met with the board to present the proposed 2011 budget for the County Attorney's Office.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve 2011 contingency fund in the amount of \$7,500 for the County Attorney's Office.

\* \* \* \*

County Recorder Kathy Kretsch met with the board to present the proposed 2011 budget for the Recorder's Office and to report on the compliance of the Recorder's Office with recording requirements, which falls within guidelines 100% of the time.

Kretsch also reported that she was able to renegotiate the maintenance fee for the Fidlar real estate software for the remainder of 2010 through 2013. This will allow for the charge/document to be lowered to \$1.75 from the previous charge of \$3.50. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman White to sign new contract with Fidlar.

\* \* \* \*

Probation Officer Jenny Quade met with the board to present the proposed 2011 budget for the Probation Office.

Discussion was held regarding the possible purchase/lease of a new copier due to limited parts and supplies being available for the current machine. No action was taken at this time.

\* \* \* \*

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg presented quotes for the manhole extension project at the landfill. Quotes for contractors were as follows: Carstensen Contracting - \$33,210 and Mathiowetz Construction Co. - \$30,265. Quotes for materials supplier were as follows: Cretex Concrete Products - \$33,970.70 and Hancock Concrete Products - \$29,091.60. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept low quotes in the amount of \$30,265 from Mathiowetz Construction Co. and \$29,091.60 from Hancock Concrete Products.

Gregg asked for approval to advertise and sell used highway equipment using sealed bids. The four items for sale are as follows: pickup truck, military style generator, 12' Monroe plow and TD-15C dresser track dozer. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to advertise and sell the used highway equipment mentioned using sealed bids.

Gregg reported that minor changes were requested by the attorney for the City of Jeffers on the construction document for the CSAH 32 (City of Jeffers) reconstruction project. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Chairman White to sign the revised construction document.

Gregg presented proposed 2011 budgets for the Landfill, Waste Abatement/SCORE Fund and Road & Bridge.

\* \* \* \*

Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few different items. Purrington received three estimates to remove and replace the front steps and three sections of sidewalk in front of the Sheriff's Department. The three quotes were as follows: Jurgens Construction - \$2,200; Spielman Masonry - \$2,775; Melvin Duerksen - \$3,062. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$2,200 from Jurgens Construction. Purrington was asked to do some further research in regards to the cracks on the exterior block wall of the Sheriff's Department that have been observed and to get quotes for the work if necessary.

Purrington reported that interviews for part-time jailer/dispatcher were held on August 11<sup>th</sup>. Purrington would like to offer part-time positions to Derick Determan and Jordan Bussa. Both of these individuals have successfully completed a background check as well as a pre-employment drug test. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to hire Derick Determan and Jordan Bussa as part-time jailer/dispatchers effective August 25, 2010 on Start of the 2010 pay scale.

Purrington and Commissioner Sorenson updated the board in regards to the regional dispatch meeting they recently attended in Worthington. The next regional meeting has been scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup>. The consensus of the board is to continue to explore other options.

Purrington reported that one of the air conditioning units went out at the Sheriff's Department. More information as far as costs that might be involved will be shared at a future meeting.

\* \* \* \*

Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported of the need to purchase election equipment. A quote from Election Systems & Software was obtained for the purchase of a new M100 system. This company is the only one able to provide this type of equipment. The quoted price was \$4,435.00, which does not include training, installation or tax. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Johnson to purchase M100 system at a cost of \$4,435.00. This will be purchased with Long Term Capital Outlay funds.

Johnson presented proposed 2011 budgets for the following departments: County Parks, Food Beverage & Lodging, Environmental Planning & Zoning, and Water Planning Project.

\* \* \* \*

Commissioner Kuecker reported that feedlot inventory grant funds received by the Heron Lake Watershed District includes the Des Moines River Watershed only.

\* \* \* \*

Commissioner Oeltjenbruns reported on an option that might be available with SWCD and the Environmental Office as far as a Department Head is concerned.

Oeltjenbruns reported that the telephone company has agreed to pay \$6,000 towards the bill received from Lohrenz, Inc. in regards to a ditch that Oeltjenbruns has been working on.

\* \* \* \*

Brief discussion was held regarding AMC Policy Committee Meetings that will be held on September 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> in Alexandria that Commissioners Holmen and Oeltjenbruns are planning to attend.

\* \* \* \*

Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson presented a copy of a vendor payment in the amount of \$1,080.00 that was received for maintenance work at Talcot Park in the spring of 2010. Johnson was authorized to make payment.

\* \* \* \*

Discussion was held regarding a request received from Chrystal Dunker, Prairie Ecology Bus Center Director, for reconsideration of a request made last November for 2010 program support benefitting Cottonwood County students. The board asked that Chrystal be contacted to see if she might be able to attend an upcoming board meeting so she can better explain the need for funding and to answer any questions the board might have.

\* \* \* \*

Chairman White informed the board about some issues regarding the Environmental Office. A letter of reprimand will be drafted and placed in Mike Hanson's personnel file in the near future. If anyone has any thoughts please get this information to Commissioner Kuecker or Kelly Thongvivong.

\* \* \* \*

At 4:30 p.m., Chairman White excused himself from the meeting due to a possible conflict of interest. Commissioner Kuecker presided over the remainder of the meeting at this time. Discussion was held regarding criminal charges that have recently been filed against Greg Johnson.

Per request of Dan Birkholz (legal counsel) on behalf of Greg Johnson, the Loudermill Hearing that was initially scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. will be rescheduled.

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to reschedule Special Meeting for September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. so that a Loudermill Hearing can

be held per request of Dan Birkholz (legal counsel) on behalf of Greg Johnson to conduct such a hearing.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns to state that in consideration of criminal charges that have been filed against Greg Johnson that he be suspended without pay effective August 25, 2010. The suspension will be in place until further board action following his Loudermill Hearing. The Loudermill Hearing is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m. Roll call vote was as follows: Aye – Holmen, Sorenson, Oeltjenbruns and Kuecker. Commissioner White was not present.

\*

\*

\*

\*

There being no further business, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 4:57 p.m.

---

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

---

Tom White, Board Chairman

---

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant