

November 25, 2008
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 25, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman John Oeltjenbruns. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mark Marcy, Jason Purrington, Kathy Kretsch, Gale Bondhus, Mike Hanson, Cheryl Hanson, Ron Gregg, Marlene Smith, Sherry Sevcik and Elmer Wieneke. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the November 4, 2008 meeting.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss several items. Marcy gave a presentation and report in regards to some of the things that he has been working on.

Marcy reported that the county would be receiving an additional \$5,000 Emergency Management Preparedness Grant (EMPG) due to the creation of a full-time Emergency Management position being created for Cottonwood County. Marcy will contact Homeland Security Emergency Management as the board feels that they are entitled to more money as they had previously been told that the county would receive \$10,000 if they created a full-time Emergency Management position.

Discussion was held in regards to the situation going on in Cottonwood County with roughly 80,000 chickens not being fed and the three options that are currently being considered by MDA.

Marcy informed the board that a Department Head meeting has been set up for January 7th at 9:00am to discuss training needs.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to transfer Weather Watch line item (\$730) from the Sheriff's Department to Emergency Management beginning in 2009.

Discussion was held regarding current Emergency Management vehicle and whether or not a new vehicle should be purchased. Marcy will bring a proposal to present at the next board meeting.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to accept resignation from Jay Ward (part-time jailer/dispatcher) effective December 8, 2008 with appropriate payout of benefits and to allow Purrington to post internally and advertise for a part-time jailer/dispatcher.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Oeltjenbruns to sign State of Minnesota Communications Facility

Partnership Agreement based on the County Attorney's approval and Purrington's recommendation.

Further discussion was held regarding the situation going on in Cottonwood County with chickens.

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County Recorder Kathy Kretsch met with the board to seek approval of an addendum to the FNTI contract for the microfilm conversion. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept addendum to existing contract with additional terms and conditions as presented.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to discuss a few personnel matters. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to move Jill Defries to permanent part-time status effective December 1st and to allow a 1-step increase after successfully completing her probationary period.

Bondhus reported that only one application was received for the part-time Sr. Appraiser position. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to hire Alan Coners as part-time Sr. Appraiser effective December 1, 2008 on Step 8 of the 2008 pay matrix.

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Brief discussion was held regarding MCIT training opportunity. Jane Hennagir will be contacted to see if she can pass along some dates and times for the board to consider.

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Commissioner Holmen was appointed as an alternate to the Regional Radio Board.

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The result of Dan Minion's exit interview, which was conducted by Commissioner Holmen, was shared with the board.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to accept proposed camping rates for 2009-2010 camping season at Talcot Park as follows:

- Daily camping rate for sites without water & electricity \$13.00/night
- Daily camping rate for sites with water & electricity \$20.00/night
- Two week camping rate sites #1-34 (lake sites) \$220.00
- Two week camping rate sites #35-61 (pond & hill sites) \$198.00
- County Park yearly pass (attached to vehicles entering park) \$8.00
- Septic tank pumping charge per hook-up \$10.00
- Seasonal rate (May 1 – October 1) \$970.00
- (\$250 due by Feb. 1; balance due by May 1)

Brief discussion was held regarding some of the concerns that some of the campers had last camping season.

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution for Amendment #1
To Agreement SRF0177
Middle MN CWP Project
Resolution 08-11-25**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners, that it hereby designates C. Michael Hanson, Environmental Administrator, as Project Representative for the Implementation of the Conservation Practices and Effectiveness Monitoring in the Middle Minnesota Watershed Clean Water Partnership Project for Cottonwood County.

The Project Representative shall have the authority to represent the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners in all Project matters that do not specifically require action by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that, as Loan Sponsor, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners enters into the attached Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement Amendment #1 along with Brown Nicollet Cottonwood Water Quality Joint Powers Board, as Project Sponsor, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to conduct the implementation of the Conservation Practices and Effectiveness Monitoring in the Middle Minnesota Watershed Clean Water Partnership Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that the County Board Chair, John Oeltjenbruns be authorized to execute the attached Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement for the above referenced Project on behalf of the Board as Loan Sponsor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that the County Treasurer, Jan Johnson, be authorized to execute loan disbursement requests for the above referenced project to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on behalf of the County Board.

WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners on this 25th day of November 2008.

S/Jan Johnson, County Auditor-Treasurer

Brief discussion was held regarding a call that Commissioner Sorenson received in regards to a gravel pit that does not have all conditions met as stated in the conditional use permit.

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Cheryl Hanson, Windom Chamber of Commerce Director, met with the board to thank them for their continued support of allowing the Chamber to use the Courthouse grounds for different events throughout the year and asked that they consider allowing them to use the Courthouse rotunda for the Santa Visit on November 28th at 6 p.m. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to allow the Chamber to use the Courthouse rotunda on November 28th at 6 p.m.

Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve Joint Powers Agreement between the Secretary of State and the Cottonwood County Auditor/Treasurer.

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It was reported that the MCIT dividend for 2008 was in the amount of \$84,683, which is a slight increase from last year.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that there is a roofing problem at the Courthouse that needs to be addressed. He asked Bargaen, Inc. to look at the problem and to give the county an estimate. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept estimated quote in the amount of \$6,450 from Bargaen, Inc. for repair of the Courthouse roof.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to set upcoming holiday hours as follows: December 24th from 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and December 31st from 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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Chairman Oeltjenbruns gave an update regarding a recent Energy Board and Solid Waste Commission meeting he attended. A resolution in support of taking production tax language out of the levy limit calculation will be considered at the next board meeting.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Much discussion was held regarding a letter that was received from the Minnesota Pollution Control in regards to a violation at the landfill. This will be discussed further at an upcoming special meeting with representatives of MPCA being present.

Gregg reported that 10 applications for the Solid Waste worker position were received and 3 candidates were interviewed. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to hire Thomas Baumgard as full-time Solid Waste worker effective December 1, 2008 at Start of the 2008 pay matrix.

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Commissioner Holmen gave an update about a phone call he received from Renewable Energy Systems in regards to a possible wind energy farm in the Comfrey area.

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The board agreed on the final draft of the proposed North 71 County Office Building signage and briefly discussed the two wells on the property and whether or not to seal one or both of them.

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Commissioner Kuecker asked for some follow-up regarding claw back taxes for SBZ. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported that back taxes were paid by SBZ and that the claw back taxes are being held in escrow by Mueske Law Firm.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to give approval for Commissioner Kuecker to attend Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Conference in December.

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Brief discussion was held regarding some of the doors at the North 71 County Office Building and whether or not the county will pay for new lettering for the SW/WC Cooperative door.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority.

Commissioner Holmen reported that his ditch inspections are complete. It was suggested that a policy be developed by the county to handle situations when violations arise. Chairman Oeltjenbruns will discuss this with the County Attorney to see if he might be able to draft a form letter as well as a policy.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to set final hearing date for JD #5 for January 13, 2009 at 9:30 a.m.

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and to reconvene as the County Board.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 5:22 p.m. to discuss strategy for labor negotiations. The following individuals were present: John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, Kelly Thongvivong and Jan Johnson. Motion by White, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to open the meeting at 5:59 p.m.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to commit to doing a salary study in 2009 contingent that the four (three AFSCME and one LELS) unions sign the contracts for 2009-2010.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant