

June 7, 2011
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Ron Kuecker. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Jim Schmidt, Tom White; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Kay Clark, Renee Harnack, Gale Bondhus, Ron Gregg, Dominic Jones and Kjell Turner.

Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the May 24, 2011 meeting as amended.

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Kay Clark, SWCD District Administrator, met with the board to present a draft agreement of the 2011 budget between Cottonwood County and SWCD. Clark expects that she will continue to be working approximately ½ time on county-related functions and Dave Bucklin will work approximately ¼ time on county-related functions for the time being. She reported that everything seems to be going very well at this time. Clark did state that she would like to change some of the fees but will wait to do so in 2012. There was also discussion regarding the Water Plan update which Clark feels that SWCD would be qualified to work on when needed.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to present some information in regards to the Board of Equalization meeting that will be held on June 14th at 6:00 p.m.

Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Alan Coners to receive a \$20 monthly cell phone reimbursement effective June 1st. This will be re-evaluated once Coners ceases to do septic work.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg reported that no additional changes were presented by board members in regards to the recycling request for proposal so he intends to verify the vendors list, recycling calendar and to update the additional recycling item list that we now accept. Discussion was held in regards to the time that should be allowed for advertising and bidding purposes. Gregg hopes to have a final draft by the next board meeting.

Gregg requested contract signatures for the CSAH 32 surfacing project in the City of Jeffers.

Gregg presented a list of roads that has been compiled by Jerry Hayes that identifies the worst roadways in the county. With this list and the history of each road, Gregg hopes to derive a priority list.

Gregg requested approval to advertise for a part-time accountant position for the Highway Department. Further discussion was held in regards to what this position will all entail and some of the duties that may need to be included in a job description. This will be discussed again at the next board meeting.

Gregg stated that it appears that a government shutdown is inevitable which may affect the County's construction projects for this summer. Gregg reported that the Mt. Lake bike path project could be affected.

Gregg asked that the board review and discuss a letter dated May 27th addressed to Chairman Kuecker that he recently received from MPCA after the last inspection at the landfill. Kuecker did not receive the letter until June 6th as he was out of town until that time. Because MPCA requested a response in writing within 10 days of the date of receipt of the letter, Kuecker will draft a letter to MPCA notifying them of his receipt of the letter on June 6th and to let them know that the county will begin formulating a response to their letter immediately.

Gregg gave an update regarding the CSAH 13 project and reported that the completion of the project is expected to be the end of the month.

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Dominic Jones, Red Rock Rural Water, met with the board to ask that the county consider approving the 2011 internal expansion of the Red Rock Rural Water System. The project will begin in 30 days and conclude by October 1st weather permitting. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 11-06-07
Pertaining to Joint Powers Agreement
Red Rock Rural Water System
2011 Internal Expansion Bonding**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners, State of Minnesota, at its duly convened meeting and pursuant to discussions had, and pursuant to motion by Commissioner Oeltjenbruns, and seconded by Commissioner Holmen, duly resolved as follows:

Hereby approved Joint Powers Agreement between the counties of Murray and Cottonwood and directing the Chairman and/or Clerk/Auditor to execute the Joint Powers Agreement relative to the Red Rock Rural Water System expansion, and authorizing Murray County to issue the necessary interim financing bonds and long-term financing bonds to fund said system expansion and to have said Joint Powers Agreement govern the repayment of said bonds; said Joint Powers Agreement being executed with the understanding that the counties of Murray and Cottonwood would all be parties to this Agreement.

Duly passed and adopted this 7th day of June, 2011.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

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Discussion was held regarding what impact a government shutdown could have on Cottonwood County. There did not seem to be any real concerns other than some of the payments could be delayed for a few months. The Highway Department should be getting their payment before the threat of a government

shutdown. It was also reported that the Environmental Office has received their block grant already. There were some questions as to how the Probation Office might be handled since the Department Head for that office is a state employee.

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Chairman Kuecker shared a communication he received from Millie and Susan Horkey in regards to a pile of lumber and debris that is located near their property on N. Hwy. 71 that they would like to see some action taken on. Kuecker will draft a response letter from the board and turn the matter over to Andy Geiger for further follow-up.

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Commissioner Holmen questioned whether the county should look into participating in the NACo (National Association of Counties) Prescription Discount Card Program. Holmen and Kelly Thongvivong will do some further research to explore this option.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update regarding the POET bus tour that was held yesterday in Grettinger, IA as part of the Energy Board.

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Chairman Kuecker and Commissioner Schmidt gave an update regarding a recent meeting they attended in regards to the gravel mine near the Talcot Lake area that Cottonwood and Jackson Counties are interested in pursuing. Schmidt reported that there might be as much as 20 years worth of gravel at the site. Because a portion of the funding for the original purchase of the property was from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife, they would need to sign off on it before the counties could possibly purchase and acquire the property from the Minnesota DNR.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Andy Geiger to attend Minnesota Association of County Planning & Zoning Administrators Legislative Update and Training to be held on June 16-17 at the Kelly Inn in St. Cloud.

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Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow use of the Courthouse grounds the weekend of June 11th for the annual Riverfest celebration.

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Quotes for roof repair at the N. 71 County Office Building were as follows: Dallas Smith Construction – \$10,890 (section 1), \$11,586 (section 2), \$22,000 (full roof); Matthew Buckentin Construction - \$7,740 (section 1), \$8,020 (section 2), \$15,760 (full roof). References will be checked and the bid will be awarded at the next board meeting.

Quotes for roof materials at the N. 71 County Office Building were as follows: Lamperts - \$29,742.62 w/tax; Westbrook Home Center - \$26,051.70 w/tax; Mt. Lake True Value Building Center - \$34,237.02 w/tax. Further research

will be done in regards to the quality of the shingles bid as opposed to what was asked for in the specifications as one of the suppliers bid a different shingle. The bid will be awarded at the next board meeting.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to the Plum Creek Governing Board appointment from Cottonwood County. Commissioner Schmidt will do some follow-up and this will be discussed at the next board meeting.

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Much discussion was held in regards to a letter that was recently received in regards to the fire grant that was applied for in hopes of receiving funding for the ARMER system. The 2010 Fire grant request was for \$894,650.00 and the application was denied. The board would like to find out what exactly the county is responsible for purchasing to be in compliance with the ARMER system so that they can decide how to proceed. Kim Hall will be contacted to see if she will be able to present information at the last meeting of the month.

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Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to enter into agreement with The Office of Enterprise Technology State of Minnesota for general county telecommunications collaboration services. The fee for this service will increase from \$600/month to \$1300/month.

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Old business items will be discussed at the next board meeting.

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A monthly trial balance was handed out for the board's review.

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There being no further business, there was a motion by Schmidt, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant