

July 11, 2014  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Special Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in a special session on Friday, July 11, 2014 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Jim Schmidt. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Jim Schmidt, Tom White, Norm Holmen, Kevin Stevens, John Oeltjenbruns; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvong; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; Kathy Marsh, Jason Purrington, Jim Jorgenson, and Rahn Larson. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss a grievance settlement between Cottonwood County, Law Enforcement and Deputy Eric Haken.

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Nick Anderson, County Attorney, stated that Deputy Eric Haken would like to settle the grievance along with disciplinary action all at the same time. Anderson stated that because it would be a preliminary discussion of allegations against Deputy Haken, the meeting should be closed. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 1:02 p.m. to discuss possible disciplinary action against Deputy Eric Haken. Individuals present were: Nick Anderson, Norm Holmen, Kevin Stevens, Kelly Thongvong, Jim Schmidt, Tom White, John Oeltjenbruns, Jan Johnson, Jim Jorgenson, Jason Purrington, and Kathy Marsh. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to re-open the meeting at 1:20 p.m.

Motion by White, second by Holmen, to authorize Sherriff Purrington to settle the grievance for the following dates: June 12, 13, 17, 18, 19, and 20; and that Deputy Eric Haken's discipline for conduct unbecoming an officer will be: three days of suspension (June 12, 13, 17) with vacation pay, one day suspension (June 18) without pay; unpaid leave for two days (June 19, 20), which Haken will have to use vacation, and placed on paid administrative leave retroactive to June 21. The following vacation days will be returned to him: June 29, 30, July 4, 5, 6, and 7. Voting as follows: Aye – Holmen, Schmidt, White, and Oeltjenbruns. Commissioner Stevens abstained from voting due to family ties.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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James Schmidt, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvong, County Coordinator