

April 10, 2012  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 9:03 A.M. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Norm Holmen. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Jim Schmidt, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Office Support Specialist, Sr. Judith Johnson; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Ron Gregg, Cheryl Knudson and Rahn Larson.

Motion by John Oeltjenbruns, seconded by Ron Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Tom White, seconded by John Oeltjenbruns and carried to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2012 meeting.

\* \* \* \*

Nick Anderson, County Attorney, presented a Drug Court update. A manual draft has been drawn up. Drug Court will begin in June; however, that may depend on the availability of a Judge. They may use retired Judge Connell, when available. Also, the Probation Agent is a key person; however, she may have back surgery in the near future. A steering committee, consisting of one county commissioner, will meet semi-annually.

\* \* \* \*

Norm presented a letter from the Minnesota Board of Water & Resources stating that the Heron Lake Watershed District Management Plan has been approved. Ron stated that before projects within the plan can be approved a hearing must be held for public input.

\* \* \* \*

John Oeltjenbruns and Andy Geiger will be attending a tour in South Dakota and asked for approval of the Board to attend. Motion by Ron Kuecker, seconded by Jim Schmidt and carried to allow John and Andy to attend this out of state meeting.

\* \* \* \*

John also reported on a letter he received from Rural Advantage requesting three people from Cottonwood County to serve on a committee.

\* \* \* \*

Tom White reported on a hand out showing a tax capacity breakdown comparing townships to cities. The tax capacity breakdown is: 84% - townships in the county and 16% - city limits of the county.

\* \* \* \*

County Engineer Ron Gregg and Cheryl Knudson met with the board to discuss several items. They reviewed the Highway Department budget and Expense Report. The Variance Expense Report for March 2012 showed total expenses for Road and Bridge and total salaries and benefits. On the 2012 Summary Budget Report, State Aid Construction Balances as of 3/31/2012 and Revenue Descriptions and amounts were listed. Also, a Construction Summary as

of 3/31/12 was presented showing various construction projects completed and those to be done in 2012, along with the amounts of each. Norm reported that the State Auditor has told counties that projects need to be finalized or the Federal government may recall their funds. Ron Gregg reported that final documents and certifications will need to be completed within a month's time. Tom White and Jan Johnson commented on the value of equipment throughout the County. The Capital Asset Policy may need to be lengthened.

Motion by Ron Kuecker, seconded by Jim Schmidt and carried to place a discussion of the Annual Highway Department's report for 2011 on the May 8<sup>th</sup> Agenda.

Ron Gregg presented the radio prices from Alpha Wireless for radio upgrades. He requested approval to purchase 4 more mobile units. Previously, 3 mobile units and 17 hand-held units were approved at a cost of \$49,088.85, plus installation for \$3,500. Ron Gregg requested approval to purchase four additional mobile units. Motion by Tom White, seconded by John Oeltjenbruns to purchase 4 additional mobile radios from Alpha Wireless, plus installation costs. Discussion was held. Ron Kuecker commented that he would rather purchase 4 more hand-helds as backups instead of mobile radios. It was stated that for safety reasons, the radios would be better. Voting as follows: Aye – White, Holmen, Schmidt and Oeltjenbruns. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried.

The bid results for the three new pickups were reviewed. Ron Gregg recommended purchasing the three new pickups from Higley Ford of Windom: 2-2012 Ford F250 extended cab for \$27,680.41/each and 1-2012 Ford F250 regular cab for \$25,549.35. It was recommended that up fitter switches be installed in the pickups and that the vinyl seat in one pickup be switched for cloth at a cost of \$420 more. Motion by Ron Kuecker, seconded by John Oeltjenbruns, to approve purchasing of the 3 new pickups from Higley Ford, with the funding from the previously quoted plan and to utilize Fund 6 – Capital Outlay. They authorized fund transfer from Fund 6 to the Highway Department. Discussion followed. Ron withdrew his motion. John withdrew his second. Motion by Tom White, seconded by Norm Holmen to reject all bids in light of the addition of new minimum requirements of up fitter switches and cloth interior in one of the regular cab vehicles, with a minimum of 17" tires. The Board requested quotes with the new minimum requirements. Voting as follows: Aye – White, Holmen, Oeltjenbruns, Kuecker. Schmidt abstained.

The bid results for the contract for the Cell No. 7 construction of the Cottonwood County Landfill were reviewed. The Engineer's estimate was \$481,250.000. The bids were as follows: Schmidt Construction Company: \$528,119.00; Mathiowetz Construction Company: \$440,636.00; Minion Excavating: bid was rejected due to being received after 2:00 P.M.; and Frattalone Companies: \$581,519.00. Ron Gregg recommended awarding the contract for the Construction of Cell No. 7 to Mathiowetz Construction for \$440,636.00. Motion by Ron Kuecker, seconded by Jim Schmidt and carried to approve Mathiowetz Construction in the amount of \$440,636.00 to construct Cell No. 7 at the Cottonwood County Landfill.

Ron Gregg presented two miscellaneous items to the Board. He requested approval to use the Windom Boy Scouts at the Landfill to pick up litter for a fund raiser. The Boy Scouts might earn approximately \$5-\$7/hour, with a maximum cost of \$500. However, the Board gave their approval to have Ron Gregg visit with Laura Sandmeyer, Sentence To Serve, and request four hours per week from STS to clean up the landfill. Ron Gregg also requested the Board's approval to hire Brannon Peterson for the summer help position at the Highway Department. There were 8 applicants for this position. Motion by John Oeltjenbruns, seconded by Jim Schmidt and carried to hire Brannon Peterson for the summer help position at the Highway Department, pending his passing background and drug testing, effective as soon as available, after May 1, 2012, at the first year seasonal employee salary.

\* \* \* \*

Norm Holmen appointed John Oeltjenbruns as Norm's alternate to attend the Planning Committee Meeting, since Norm is unable to attend that meeting.

\* \* \* \*

Nick Anderson, County Attorney, presented an "Agreement for Advancement and Repayment of Funds" regarding the construction of a new Mental Health Center building in Worthington. Several items of this agreement were highlighted and discussed with the Board. They questioned item #7: Other Indebtedness – which states, "The Municipal Entities understand that SWMHC will be obtaining a loan from other sources for approximately \$600,000. Priority for any mortgage or other security taken for said loan shall be determined pursuant to Minnesota Law". Commissioners felt that the money should be obtained from "in-house", rather than "from other sources". They also felt that a 30 year commitment, with a 10-year opt out clause, was too long. Another Southwestern Mental Health Center meeting will be held on Wednesday night.

\* \* \* \*

Motion by John Oeltjenbruns, seconded by Tom white, unanimous vote to approve April's Commissioners' Warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$131,542.51
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 75,897.79
Long-Term Capital Outlay	\$ 6,434.86
County Building Fund	\$ 698.69
Ditch Fund	\$ 3,863.02
Taxes & Penalties Fund	\$ <u>1,668.87</u>
	\$220,105.74

\* \* \* \*

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:53 A.M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Judith Johnson, OSS, Sr.