

April 26, 2005
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 26, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Chuck Severson, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Bob Haken, Rory Lindvall, Ken Elg, Ken Simon, Norbert Evers, Raymond Evers, Swantje Willers, Laura Sandmeyer, Dale Gaustad, Jim Sop, Trevor Slette and Craig Myers. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 12, 2005 meeting. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 19th special meeting as amended.

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Sheriff Bob Haken met with the board to recommend that Chief Deputy Jason Purrington be appointed to serve as the Interim Sheriff effective January 1, 2006 based on Haken's actual retirement. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to appoint Jason Purrington as Interim Sheriff after the effective date of Haken's retirement, which is December 31, 2005.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve special check run in the amount of \$247.15 for payment that is to be made to Image Copy Print.

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Assistant County Engineer Rory Lindvall met with the board to present two bids for SAP 17-599-87 (bridge replacement in Storden Township). Bids were as follows: Mathiowetz Construction - \$61,328.70 and Midwest Contracting - \$63,556.00. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to award low bid to Mathiowetz Construction in the amount of \$61,328.70.

Discussion was held regarding drainage concerns on CSAH 29 in Selma Township. After much discussion, the board decided to refer this project back to the County Engineer so that he can get some solid figures in regards to what some of the costs for the county as well as the landowners may be with the different options that were discussed. The board did agree that the 18" center pipe would be the expense of the county.

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Swantje Willers, Laura Sandmeyer, Dale Gaustad, and Jim Sop met with the board representing the Sentencing to Service (STS) Program to seek approval of a two-year contract. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve STS Contract in the amount of \$67,789 for the period from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007.

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Trevor Slette met with the board representing the Cottonwood County *Citizen*. He presented a proposal for the development of a county website. Since there were still some remaining unanswered questions, no action was taken at this time. Slette will present some additional information at an upcoming board meeting.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve a Gambling Permit Application from the Mt. Lake Golf Course for a raffle to be held on June 25, 2005.

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Commissioner Kuecker asked a few questions in regards to the sale of county property. There are still some questions remaining that need to be researched. The board will plan to develop a policy in regards to the sale of county property after all questions have been answered.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns updated the board on a meeting he recently had with Jan Voit from the Heron Lake Watershed District who has offered to take over as the fiscal agent for the Des Moines River Watershed Project. Commissioners Oeltjenbruns and Kuecker will do some further checking on this matter before a decision is made.

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Based on job offer and Craig Myers' acceptance of the position, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to appoint Craig Myers as Family Service Agency Director effective June 1, 2005. Myers agreed to begin on Step 10 of the 2005 pay scale with his salary to be reviewed again in June of 2006. He will accumulate vacation leave at the same rate as an individual who is in their 6th year of employment with Cottonwood County.

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Update was given in regards to termites and what options may be taken in regards to the transit garage. It was reported that there is going to be a meeting on May 25th from 7-9pm in regards to termite activity in the Windom area.

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Discussion was held regarding a few things that were recently brought up at the Labor-Management Committee meeting. The first item is a continued request to have bi-monthly payroll instead of monthly payroll. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson informed the board that he would have to hire additional staff in order to satisfy this request because of all of the extra work involved with the process. Commissioner Kuecker will give an update at the next LMC meeting and inform the committee members that prior to January 1, 2006, this is something that will be considered.

The second item of discussion at the LMC meeting was some confusion as to which meals are taxable and which meals are non-taxable. If an overnight stay is involved, an employee can claim up to three meals as non-taxable but they have to be three different meals (breakfast, lunch, supper). If two overnight

stays are involved, an employee can claim up to six meals as non-taxable but again they are limited to two of each meal (breakfast, lunch, supper).

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson updated the board on a few different items. He also mentioned that he had recently been in contact with Midwest Wireless because of a question that was raised by one of the county employees in regards to a 10% discount on an employee's own private cell phone account. After making some phone calls, it was determined that Midwest Wireless will give a 10% monthly discount to all Cottonwood County employees who have their own private/personal cell phone account through Midwest Wireless. To get the discount, just take a copy of your last paycheck to Midwest Wireless and ask them to give you an Association Discount through Cottonwood County. They will have you sign a form stating that you are an employee of the county.

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Discussion was held in regards to Extension. Commissioner Oeltjenbruns will need to appoint a new representative from his district to serve on the Extension Committee. Discussion was also held in regards to the terms of the committee members. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to state that the terms of the Extension committee members will be for a period of 3 years instead of 4 years in order to comply with state statute.

Commissioner Kuecker mentioned that he was recently informed that his district appointment to the Planning Commission and Board of Adjustment (Mike LaMaack) would be moving out of his district in June but would still remain a resident of Cottonwood County. The board agreed that the decision should be left up to Kuecker to decide whether or not to replace LaMaack or to allow him to finish his remaining term.

Further discussion was held in regards to the role that the Extension Office Manager should play when dealing with outside organizations when they ask her to help out with different events. The board decided to instruct the Office Manager to come to the county board if this work will involve taking time out of the office and to use her own discretion if it involves internal work.

Discussion was held in regards to a Leadership and Civil Engagement Seminar that the Extension Committee would like to sponsor in September. The board agreed that the county would contribute \$50 if the Extension Committee could find other organizations to contribute to this event as well.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant