

August 9, 2011
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 9, 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, Tom White; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Agnes Alsgaard-Lien, Craig Myers, Jason Purrington, Garrett Backes, Ron Gregg, Gale Bondhus, Kristi Sell, Paul Kimman, Heidi Kroening and Scott Parr. Absent was Commissioner Jim Schmidt.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2011 meeting as amended.

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Agnes Alsgaard-Lien met with the board to present two paintings to the county that were painted as part of the Legacy Grant. These paintings were completed by Alsgaard-Lien and will be on display somewhere within the county in the near future.

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Family Service Agency Director Craig Myers met with the board to ask for approval to accept an internal applicant for the County Agency Social Worker position that was recently posted. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow for an Intra-Departmental transfer for Melissa Vongsy from Case Aide to County Agency Social Worker effective August 15, 2011. Melissa will begin on Step 1 of the 2011 pay scale and will serve a 6-month probationary period. Myers stated that he intends to redistribute the other duties and will not be refilling the case aide position.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington and Jail Administrator Kristi Sell met with the board to present the 2012 proposed budget for the county jail.

Purrington also presented the 2012 proposed budget for the Sheriff's Department. Brief discussion was held regarding the lease of two deputy vehicles that will be expiring next year. Suggestion was also made to explore the option of purchasing gas for the deputy vehicles through the Highway Department.

Purrington reported that he will bring in the contract for the dispatch console at a future meeting for signature.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to amend 2011 budget line item 01-201-6835 (Enhanced 911 system) and to increase the budget from \$25,000 to \$285,000.

Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson met with the board to present the 2012 proposed budgets for the following departments: Court Administration, Law Library, Auditor/Treasurer, 125 Plan, Elections, Grounds & Buildings, Soil & Water, N. 71 Office Building, Coroner and Community Health.

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Garrett Backes, Development and Communications Specialist for the Southwest Initiative Foundation, met with the board to give an annual update and to ask that the county consider appropriating \$3,510 for the 2012 budget year.

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County Attorney Nick Anderson met with the board to present the 2012 proposed budget for the County Attorney's Office.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss the draft Stipulation Agreement with MPCA representatives regarding alleged violations at the Cottonwood County Landfill. Those present from MPCA were: Paul Kimman, Heidi Kroening and Scott Parr. It seems that there have been high levels of leachate head levels above the cell liner for quite some time which is not allowed. MPCA would like to enter into a Stipulated Agreement as they consider this to be a serious violation. The proposed fine to the county is \$5,000 but this can be negotiated. Short Elliott Hendrickson, Inc. (SEH) is scheduled to assist Cottonwood County in the next few days by jetting the headwells within each cell in the chance that the higher head levels are being caused by localized artificial head levels or clogging of the screen and surrounding media. Because of this, the board and MPCA agreed to keep in contact in regards to this matter and to discuss the Stipulated Agreement again at the September 6th board meeting.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to attend the 2011 Solid Waste Administrators Association Conference on September 7-9 in Brainerd.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns (Commissioner Tom White abstained from the vote), unanimous vote to allow Gregg to extend Lonn Engler's probationary period as Solid Waste worker for an additional 6 months so that Gregg has more time to evaluate his performance towards customers and the knowledge of the landfill operations.

Gregg presented the July 2011 summary of the Highway Budget report. If there are questions, they can be asked at the next board meeting.

In light of the rejection of both bids for single stream recycling at the last board meeting, Gregg handed out a revised copy of a new request for bids for the boards review. Much discussion was held in regards to many of the items that were not fully addressed in the first request for proposal as well as how these items would be measured. There was a suggestion to not have a breakdown of the fuel surcharge and the revenue sharing options in the next request for bids but to ask for a final total for single stream recycling only. Gregg will continue to work on the development of a more complete request for bids.

Executive Assistant/Transit Director Kelly Thongvivong met with the board to present the 2012 proposed budget for the Commissioners as well as the Transit System.

Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to adopt new transit rates effective September 1st as follows:

Rates within City Limits

Children & Students	\$1.50/ride
Adults	\$2.00/ride (20 tokens for \$35)

Rates within County

Bingham Lake to Windom	\$3.00/ride
Mt. Lake to Windom	\$3.50/ride
Jeffers to Windom	\$4.50/ride
Storden to Windom	\$5.50/ride
Westbrook to Windom	\$6.50/ride (\$5.50 roundtrip on 1 st & 3 rd Wednesday)

The county board also decided to discontinue the special trip to Wal-Mart once per month due to lack of participation.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to present the 2012 proposed budget for the Assessor's Office as well as the GIS budget. Bondhus noted that approximately 85% of the Assessor's budget goes to salaries.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve August warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 58,471.91
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 10,614.04
County Building Fund	\$ 24,663.86
Ditch Fund	\$ 499.68
Road & Bridge	\$183,893.35
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 5,590.21
Landfill Enterprise	<u>\$ 29,064.20</u>
	\$312,797.25

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Information regarding the market value credit reduction was handed out for the board's review. The MVC CY 2011 reduction is estimated at \$109,949.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow for usage of the Courthouse square on September 23rd from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for a Street Fair focusing mainly on art and music.

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Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman to sign letter to confirm understanding of services the State Auditors will provide.

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Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to send letter of support from Cottonwood County to the Housing Partnership and the RDC regarding a pre-application for the HUD Sustainable Communities Grant Program as requested.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize attendance and per diem for any of the commissioners that choose to attend the County Planning & Zoning Workshop on August 24th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in Slayton.

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Discussion was held regarding the lawn at the Courthouse. Kevin Paulsen was asked to get some quotes to help with the control of weeds. Paulsen received quotes from three different companies but because it is ongoing maintenance of the lawn, he will be given the authority to make a decision in selecting one of the companies for a one-time application to the lawn.

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Commissioner Holmen asked that the board consider setting dates for a work session for the Highway Department as well as a closed session to begin discussing upcoming union negotiations. The board agreed to close a portion of the meeting on September 13th to discuss upcoming union negotiations. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to set a special date for a work session for the Highway Department. Commissioners Holmen and Oeltjenbruns will work together with Ron Gregg to set an agenda for this meeting.

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Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Kuecker to sign the 2010 Annual County Feedlot Officer and Performance Credit Report.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant