

October 24, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 24, 2006 at 1:00 p.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, Gary Sorenson, Chuck Severson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Gale Bondhus, Ron Gregg, Mike Klepper, Karen Swenson, Jason Purrington, Craig Myers, Cindy Harrington, Mark Ranum, Joan Hunter, Winifred Hoppert, Carol Lehman, Kari Ourada and Jan Klassen. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the October 10, 2006 meeting.

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Gale Bondhus, Ron Gregg and Mike Klepper (Schneider Corp.) met with the board to give their recommendation on which vendor (Pictometry International or Kucera International Incorporated) to use for the aerial photography portion of the proposed GIS system and to provide an updated budget for the project. The committee members all agreed that the vendor they preferred is Pictometry International.

After further discussion in regards to the three bids (Schneider Corporation – \$198,999; Pro-West & Associates, Inc. - \$103,000, which does not include software, licenses, website, aerial photography and interface; The Sidwell Company - \$209,170, which does not include website or aerial photography) that were received for the proposed GIS system, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to enter into Professional Services Agreement with Schneider Corporation as proposed for the development of a GIS system and to authorize Chairman Kuecker to sign the contract.

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Karen Swenson, Director of Brown-Nicollet CHS, met with the board to present the 2007 Food, Beverage & Lodging Contract and fee schedule. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to enter into agreement with Brown-Nicollet CHS for 2007 contract and fee schedule.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few items. He reported that the lease on two of the deputy squad cars would expire in December of this year. He presented three options for the board to consider in regards to the lease of these vehicles. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to extend both of the vehicle leases for another year on Squad #4973 and #4974.

Purrington presented information for the installation of a visitation recording system at the Law Enforcement Center, which simply records the conversation between the inmate and visitor in the visitation booth. Because the installation of such a system would require a variance there was a motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to instruct Purrington to make application to the State Department of Corrections for a variance.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 06-10-24A
Big Bend Snowriders Club**

WHEREAS, Cottonwood County has established the Cottonwood County Snowmobile Trails System; and

WHEREAS, Big Bend Snow Riders has applied for a Capital Improvement Grant for the Cottonwood County Snowmobile Trail.

WHEREAS, Big Bend Snow Riders will use the grant money to construct a new bridge over a small stream and to relocate approximately one mile of existing trail due to construction hazards in ditch right-of-way.

WHEREAS, Cottonwood County will act as legal sponsor for an application for the DNR Snowmobile Trails Assistance Program and may enter into agreement with the State of Minnesota on behalf of the Big Bend Snowriders Club for the specific grant mentioned above; and

WHEREAS, Cottonwood County will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in the agreement; and

WHEREAS, Jan Johnson, County Auditor/Treasurer, 900 Third Avenue, Windom, MN 56101 will act as the fiscal agent on behalf of Cottonwood County.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby supports the application of this grant on behalf of the Big Bend Snowriders Club.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

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After brief discussion regarding suggested changes, there was a motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to adopt County Emergency Closing Policy.

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Craig Myers and Cindy Harrington met with the board representing the County Labor-Management Committee to present further information in regards to additional dental insurance options that could be made available to county employees. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to offer Delta Dental insurance to all employees and to allow as payroll deduction.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to adopt new County Investment Policy based on GASB 40 rules.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve final contract amount on the CSAH 7 project (SAP 17-607-18) in the amount of \$967,371.45.

Gregg requested that the board approve purchase of two 2007 Ford pickups off the state contract for the sum of \$51,505.40 plus tax and license. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to accept state contract in the amount of \$51,505.40 plus tax and license for the purchase of two pickups. This purchase will be taken out of the 2006 budget.

Gregg reported that all construction for the 2006 season is completed.

Motion by Severson, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve final contract amount in the amount of \$131,617 on the Carson Township bridge replacement project.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to purchase a 2007 tandem truck from Boyer Ford Trucks Inc. for a Sterling LT9500 Chassis off the state contract for \$77,317 plus tax and license. This will be a 2007 expense.

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Mark Ranum, Plum Creek Library System Director, met with the board to ask for their consideration of a one-time appropriation request in the amount of \$25,000 towards a new automation system for the Plum Creek Library System as the current system is not meeting their needs. Motion by Severson, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to increase initial funding commitment in the amount of \$10,000 to \$25,000 to the Plum Creek Library System. \$10,000 will be appropriated yet for 2006 and \$15,000 will be appropriated for 2007.

Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 06-10-24

WHEREAS, the regional public library systems in Minnesota have contributed to both improvements in library operation and efficiencies in providing services to the entire population of the State of Minnesota and,

WHEREAS, the State's contribution to Regional Library Basic System Support has not increased for more than a decade, and,

WHEREAS, the funding for regional public library systems has increasingly fallen on local property tax dollars,

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby requests its legislative representatives and the Governor to place a high priority on a substantial increase in the Regional Public Library System Basic Support appropriation during the 2007 legislative session.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the Association of Minnesota Counties join the Minnesota Library Association (MLA) in lobbying the Legislature for this increase during the 2007 Legislative session.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Jan Klassen, MnDOT District 7 Transit Project Manager, met with the board to give an update in regards to the Southwest Regional Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan that is currently being worked on. This plan is being developed to meet the SAFETEA-LU planning requirements for projects that receive federal funds from the following programs: New Freedom Initiative, Job Access and Reverse Commute, and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Program.

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Motion by Severson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to amend 2006 budget to reflect \$10,000 appropriation to Plum Creek Library System.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson informed the board that he was recently contacted by MCIT to schedule this year’s on-site risk management training session and wanted to know if anyone would be interested in attending. Johnson was asked to contact the Department Heads to see if there would be any interest in this session.

Johnson reminded the board that since Veteran’s Day is on Saturday this year that the county holiday will be Friday, November 10th and all county offices will be closed.

Johnson informed the board on a few different issues that he has recently become aware of in regards to cell phones and hotel stays for out-of-town meetings. The board suggested that a memo be sent out to all employees in regards to personal use of cell phones and this not being allowed.

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It was reported that the Cottonwood County Local Water Management Plan meeting would be held in New Ulm on November 8th.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to set general election canvassing of the ballots for Thursday, November 9th at 4:00pm.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant