

September 26, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 26, 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 Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mark Marcy, Jim Przybilla, Becky Wiens, Bob Pankratz, Craig Myers and Rose Carsten. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the September 12, 2006 meeting.

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Chairman Kuecker updated the board in regards to some recent meetings he has been involved with amongst three different departments within the county over the past week. These issues are currently being dealt with. Kuecker recommends that whenever conflicts are involved, it would be best for two commissioners to be present when meeting with Department Heads involved whenever possible.

Kuecker also updated the board in regards to some information he recently received from Andy Roos, Blue Cross Blue Shield Senior Account Manager, in regards to other insurance options that are currently available as a supplement to Medicare that the county may want to consider offering to retirees. Andy Roos will be asked to attend an upcoming meeting to answer further questions of the board.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss a few different items. Marcy presented two quotes for the purchase of a Toughbook laptop computer as follows: Insight Public Sector - \$4,519 and Paradigm System Solutions, Inc. - \$4,597. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to use grant money from 2006 pandemic flu grant funds to purchase laptop in the amount of \$4,519 from Insight Public Sector.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to authorize Marcy to sign "The National Incident Management System FY 06 Certification" form on behalf of Cottonwood County stating that Cottonwood County, in coordination with local entities, has successfully complied with the minimum requirements as denoted by Homeland Security and Emergency Management (HSEM).

Marcy informed the board that in the upcoming months, Region 5 Homeland Security and Emergency Management is hoping to have all 18 counties within the region sign a Joint Powers Agreement. The purpose of this

agreement is to provide for the joint exercise of the parties' powers requiring regional coordination to plan for the needs of Region Five Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Marcy will present this again at a future meeting after feedback is received from all of the counties.

Marcy reported that he finished his last training to become certified as an Emergency Manager in April and was granted state certification as an Emergency Manager at a conference held last week. The board congratulated Marcy on his recent accomplishment.

Discussion was held regarding ongoing issues with radio communications within the Sheriff's Department. Marcy discussed several different options on what can be done to solve some of the problems. No action was taken at this time.

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Jim Przybilla, CEO of Prime West Health System, met with the board to give a presentation in regards to county-based purchasing. Family Service Agency Director Craig Myers will take the lead on potentially moving this forward by working with the Department of Human Services.

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Chairman Kuecker had a brief discussion in regards to a possible change to one of the county ordinances. County Attorney Storey will talk to Mike Hanson in regards to this. No action was taken.

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Brief discussion was held regarding transit garage and some additional things that could be done to make the building look nicer now that the roof has been fixed. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson will get some quotes for painting from a couple different contractors to present at an upcoming meeting.

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Commissioner Holmen asked for input from the other board members in regards to some information that was recently obtained from peer counties regarding a policy that is hoping to be developed for emergency closures. This will be discussed further at a future meeting.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update in regards to a Solid Waste Energy Board meeting he recently attended. He also reported that burn barrels are becoming a hot item of interest and there is going to be a big push to get them banned by 2010.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve 2007 appropriation request in the amount of \$300 to Southern Minnesota Tourism Association.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to allow Crisis Center/PEACE Agency to use Courthouse grounds from October 15 – 31 to

place a display representing the number of victims that have been killed in Minnesota due to Domestic Violence.

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Chairman Kuecker reported that he recently received a letter from Bill Dunn, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, in regards to some information that was recently requested from Mike Hanson that he has not yet supplied to MPCA. Kuecker will contact Bill Dunn to see what kind of deadline would be acceptable in getting this information submitted.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to adjourn as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to set JD #5 final hearing date for October 10, 2006 at 9:30am. There being no further business to come before the Ditch Authority, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to adjourn.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant