

June 24, 2014
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 24, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Jim Schmidt. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Jim Schmidt, Tom White, Norm Holmen, Kevin Stevens, John Oeltjenbruns; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; Kathy Marsh, Gordy Olson, Jared Morrill, and Tom Appel.

Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2014 regular board meeting. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2014 board of appeal and equalization meeting.

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Commissioner Holmen gave the board an update on an AMC meeting he attended.

Commissioner Schmidt gave the board an update on a Plum Creek Library System meeting he attended.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, informed the board that she has been contacted by the Deutschmann family in regards to donating four new benches to replace existing benches on the courthouse lawn as a memorial on behalf of their family. There was also some interest and a donation from a class at Windom High School to donate a bench. The county would have the expense of the difference on the fifth bench and installation of all benches. Thongvivong asked the board if there was enough interest for her to proceed. The consensus of the board is for Thongvivong to continue working on this project and possibly come up with some other funding sources.

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Gordy Olson, Interim Planning and Zoning Administrator, met with the board regarding a few items. Olson presented information regarding a re-zoning request from Westbrook Divisions, LLC, for their recently purchased property in Section 30 of Westbrook Township. The request was to re-zone the property from agricultural to commercial. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 19, 2014, regarding this request. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve Westbrook Divisions, LLC, re-zoning request from agricultural to commercial for their recently purchased property in Section 30 of Westbrook Township.

Olson also presented information regarding a Conditional Use Permit request from Duane and Jan Voit for a gravel mining permit in the NE1/4 of Section 34 of Southbrook Township. The Planning Commission held a public hearing on June 19, 2014, regarding this request. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Stevens,

unanimous vote to approve the Conditional Use Permit for Duane and Jan Voit for a gravel mining permit in the NE1/4 of Section 30 Southbrook Township with the following conditions: (1) Shall be in compliance with the Cottonwood County Ordinance #36 for Mining, Extraction and Excavation; (2) A Reclamation Plan be filed with the Planning and Zoning Office; and (3) a \$5,000 bond will be required for the initial 5 acres mined and then a \$1,000 bond be required for each additional acre.

Olson informed the board that the County Comprehensive Plan was last updated in 2005. Olson feels that the needs and infrastructure of the county haven't really changed, but that a digital zoning map should be done. Olson should meet with Jared Morrill, Planning and Zoning Technician, Kay Clark, SWCD office, and Drew Hage, Development Planner, to discuss what should be done.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Thongvivong presented a letter from the SWMN Emergency Medical Services (EMS) stating that Kim Hall's appointment to their Corporate Board expires in July 2014. Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to re-appoint Kim Hall to the SWMN EMS for a three-year term.

Thongvivong informed the board that she was contacted by the SWCD office, where Jared Morrill, Planning and Zoning Technician, is housed, that there are times when the SWCD office closes early, opens late, or closes early for adverse weather and that because Morrill is a county employee, he will not be able to work in the office when closed. The consensus of the board is to have Morrill work at the N71 building, bring some work to the courthouse, or schedule outside appointments at those times.

Thongvivong informed the board that she was contacted by the SWCD office regarding two TSA "grant" employees. The SWCD office has been asked if they would take over the payroll for these two individuals and provide them with insurance benefits. The SWCD office is wondering if the county would have a problem with the "grant" employees obtaining their insurance coverage through the county. SWCD would reimburse the county for their insurance premiums as is currently done with SWCD employees. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow "grant" employees through SWCD to receive insurance benefits the same as what employees of SWCD receive from the county; and, SWCD will reimburse Cottonwood County for all insurance premiums paid on behalf of SWCD, including "grant" employees.

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Commissioner White brought up the discussion from the last DVHHS meeting regarding pending consolidation of the financial offices. Chairman Schmidt appointed himself and Commissioner White to assist with office space/building needs for County owned buildings. Commissioner Stevens was appointed as alternate.

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Commissioner Holmen informed the board that there is an Odell Wind Farm meeting on July 9, 2014, that he would like permission to attend if his questions are not answered at the July 1 board meeting. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow up to two commissioners to attend the Odell Wind Farm meeting on July 9, 2014 at the Windom Community Center.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept the Schoper-Bush Dam Inspection Report dated May 27, 2014.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 a.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

James Schmidt, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, County Coordinator