

December 22, 2009
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 22, 2009 at 3:30 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Gary Sorenson. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey, Jason Purrington, Cheryl Peters, Gale Bondhus, Mike Hanson, Ron Gregg, Brian Cooley, Ray Elston and Bob Liesenfeld. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2009 meeting as amended.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to present a contract for interpreter services between the Cottonwood County Sheriff's Office and Southwestern Mental Health Center that will commence on January 1, 2010. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to accept interpreter contract and allow Chairman to sign.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the county's policy on mileage reimbursement. A memo will be sent out to all employees reminding everyone of the policy in place when driving own personal vehicle when a county vehicle is available.

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Brief discussion was held regarding Jim Vellema's additional duties. The board will discuss the maintenance needs of the Community Health Services Office after the first of the year.

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Court Administrator Cheryl Peters met with the board to review three bids that were submitted for 2010 Court Appointed Attorney as follows: Lindee Law Firm, LLC - \$75.00/hour; Lynn Johnson Law Office, LLC - \$75.00/hour; Muske, Muske & Suhrhoff, Ltd. - \$75.00/hour. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept Court Appointed Attorney Contract for 2010 with Lindee Law Firm, LLC at a rate of \$75.00/hour.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus and County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to ask that the board consider setting additional GIS fees and to amend the motion made on December 1st to include parcel data layer as part of the base charge. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the proposed GIS fee recommendations as presented (on file in Commissioner's Office) by Bondhus and Gregg made on December 1st to include parcel data layer as part of the base charge.

Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Bondhus to get quotes for four computers and one monitor for the Assessor's Office.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to present a few items. Hanson reported that the Planning Commission held a public hearing on December 14th to consider the conditional use application submitted by Elmendorf Hutterian Brethren to construct a structure to house a generator in Mt. Lake Township Section 25. The Planning Commission recommends approval of this permit with three conditions as mentioned. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit for Elmendorf Hutterian Brethren Colony to construct a structure to house a generator based on three conditions mentioned and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Hanson asked that he be allowed to upgrade two computers in the Environmental Office. After much discussion, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to table the discussion of the purchase of a computer for at least 30 days and wait until the board can get further information as to the usage of the computer.

Hanson expressed his concerns regarding the recent pay study and how the points were converted to pay ranges.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg and Highway Shop Supervisor Brian Cooley met with the board in regards to the possible purchase of a tandem truck and snow plowing equipment. A state bid in the amount of \$98,932.00 for a 2010 Mack MP7-405HP tandem truck with auto transmission was presented as well as three quotes for snow plowing equipment as follows: Aspen Equipment - \$61,324.88, TBEI - \$62,266.85, Towmaster Truck Equipment - \$73,387.02. After much discussion, there was a motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns to purchase the 2010 tandem truck off the state bid in the amount of \$98,932.00 and the snow plowing equipment in the amount of \$61,324.88 from Aspen Equipment as recommended. Voting as follows: Aye – White, Oeltjenbruns, and Holmen. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried to allow for the purchase.

Gregg reported that the City of Jeffers has requested county involvement in the reconstruction of CSAH 32 (Whited Street) in conjunction with the city's replacement of sanitary sewer and water main. Gregg will have to work on putting together an agreement between the City of Jeffers and Cottonwood County.

Gregg informed the board of some potential new landfill citing rules that MPCA has been asked to look into that could affect the Cottonwood County Landfill in the future.

Gregg reported that 24 applications have been received for the two heavy equipment operator positions.

Commissioner White gave an update in regards to the Plum Creek Library System bookmobile.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the county's policy regarding payout of accumulated vacation hours upon termination.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to declare that the county offices were officially closed all day on Wednesday, December 9th due to inclement weather conditions and in accordance with County Policy Number 420.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the Interview Committee for the Emergency Management Director. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept and sign 2010 transit grant in the amount of \$120,000.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White to approve 2010 AMC dues as follows: Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) - \$6,751; Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administration (MACSSA) - \$740; Local Public Health Association (LPHA) - \$648. Voting as follows: Aye – Oeltjenbruns, White, and Holmen. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update regarding a recent Private Industry Council meeting he attended.

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Commissioner Kuecker reported that he has a copy of the Red Rock Rural Water System Annual Report if anyone is interested in looking at it.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the 2008 Audit Report. Commissioners Sorenson and Kuecker will be meeting with the State Auditors tomorrow morning to go over the Exit Interview. Commissioner White will then meet with the State Auditors after the Exit Interview to discuss the planning of the 2009 Audit.

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After much discussion, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to set the 2010 levy at \$6,649,315, which is a 3.2% increase from 2009. The total certified levy for 2010 represents county levy of \$6,530,869 and special levy (2008 unallotment) of \$118,446.

The 2010 final budget will be set at the December 29th board meeting. Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that he would like to split out the Workman's Comp premiums from MCIT into the different departments so he will get this done before the next board meeting as well.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant