

January 13, 2009  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. 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, Rod Kelsey, Gerald Engstrom and Todd Dibble.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the January 6, 2009 meeting as amended.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board in regards to employee step increases and part-time jailer pay. Purrington asked that one of the employees be moved to the same step as the other full-time jailer/dispatchers. The board said that this request should come from the union. Purrington also asked that new wording regarding shift differential be added to the last page of the LELS deputy union contract for clarification.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson asked for permission to hire Karla Ambrose as full-time Deputy Auditor/Treasurer with part-time Deputy Recorder duties. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to hire Karla Ambrose effective January 21<sup>st</sup> on Step 1 of the 2009 pay matrix with 1 additional step after probationary period if warranted.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority.

Final Hearing for JD #5 was held with no members of the public present. Engineer Gerald Engstrom did report that he has received feedback from a couple of the landowners and they are very pleased with the project. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept engineer's final construction report and final order.

Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and to reconvene as the County Board.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to declare that the county offices were officially closed on Monday, January 12<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. due to the inclement weather conditions and in accordance with County Policy Number 420.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson presented three 2009 appropriations (Rural Mn. Energy Board - \$3,000; RC & D - \$300; Historical Society - \$11,125)

for payment. Motion by Holmen, second by White to approve Historical Society appropriation request for \$11,125. After brief discussion, there was a motion by Holmen to amend the previous motion. Voting on the amended motion was as follows: Aye: Oeltjenbruns, Holmen, White and Kuecker. Motion carried. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve Historical Society appropriation request for \$11,125 (\$10,125 bills and \$1,000 street repair) and RC & D request for \$300.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to not budget for ditch and ditch sinking fund expenses upon State Auditor's request, as they are not county dollars.

\* \* \* \*

Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that a group in support of greater Minnesota regional parks and trails recently contacted him in regards to a possible .3% sales tax increase. Johnson gave them Mike Hanson's name as a contact for Cottonwood County.

\* \* \* \*

Rod Kelsey met with the board representing Riley, Dettman & Kelsey to give a presentation in regards to a pay study for Cottonwood County.

\* \* \* \*

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve January warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$127,675.58
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 9,136.64
County Building Fund	\$ 7,898.93
Ditch Fund	\$ 14,162.16
Road & Bridge	\$126,950.75
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 8,466.26
Landfill Enterprise	<u>\$ 8,533.16</u>
	\$302,823.48

\* \* \* \*

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve changes made to letter regarding buffer strips that will be sent to landowners.

\* \* \* \*

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to authorize per diems for commissioners to attend Outland Renewable Energy workshop on January 15<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm in Jeffers.

\* \* \* \*

Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to reappoint Lowell Tjentland and Tom Fast to another 3-year term on the Planning Commission.

\* \* \* \*

Discussion was held regarding recent Jailer/Dispatcher union requests. Another meeting will be set up in the near future to discuss the requests further.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Sorenson to sign LELS deputy union contract contingent on clarification of wages and shift differential language.

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Brief discussion was held regarding N. 71 County Office Building for clarification for contractor.

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Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve per diems for commissioners to attend GBERBA Annual Meeting on February 11<sup>th</sup> in Farmamerica.

\* \* \* \*

Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to add Mark Marcy to the listing of Department Head increases (\$1400/year for 2009) that was made last week.

Brief discussion was held as to whether or not to add Mark Marcy to the Labor-Management Committee. The board decided not to do so at this time.

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Commissioner Kuecker voiced his concerns about the process used at last week's meeting in regards to setting salaries. He questioned whether or not the meeting should have been closed to discuss employee evaluations and wage increases and whether a Personnel Committee should be considered in the future.

\* \* \* \*

It was reported that a meeting was recently held with Waste Management in regards to the possibility of hauling garbage from Watonwan County to Cottonwood County.

\* \* \* \*

Veteran's Officer Todd Dibble met with the board to ask that leftover grant money from 2008 be put back on the books for 2009. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to put \$2,565 from 2008 back into the 2009 Veteran's budget advertising line item to reflect unused grant money for advertising.

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Discussion was held regarding Department Head meetings. A memo will be drafted informing the Department Heads of the wishes of the board.

\* \* \* \*

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant