

November 1, 2011
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 1, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Norm Holmen. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Jim Schmidt, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Dave Smith, Jason Purrington, Ron Gregg and Rahn Larson.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the October 25, 2011 meeting as amended.

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Dave Smith, President of Travel Southwest, met with the board to give an update and overview of the organization and explained how the funds received by the counties are being spent. Travel Southwest is currently supported by five counties (Rock, Pipestone, Nobles, Murray and Cottonwood) in Southwest Minnesota. Each county currently contributes \$1,000/year towards Travel Southwest's total income of \$5,000/year. Travel Southwest has no paid employees but only volunteers. Each county is allowed up to three representatives to serve on the committee. Commissioner White currently serves on the committee as a commissioner representative.

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Brief discussion was held regarding a request by Kelly Thongvivong, Transit Director, to re-consider allowing a special trip to Wal-Mart in Worthington once per month that was discontinued in August due to lack of participation. Thongvivong has received several phone calls and a few letters from passengers that participated in the trips to Wal-Mart in the past and they would like to continue the trip even if it is not offered monthly. Thongvivong suggested a new charge of \$10.00/passenger for the trip. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, to reinstate the Worthington trip and to allow the Transit Director to set parameters for the trip using her discretion. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to amend the first motion to allow the Transit Director to set parameters for the trip that can be offered up to one time per month using her discretion. Voting on the amendment was unanimous. A unanimous vote was then cast on the amended original motion.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board for approval to purchase radio equipment with grant funds. Purrington reported that a grant in the amount of \$40,000 with no match required was received from the Regional Radio Board. Purrington presented two state bid price quotes as follows: Motorola - \$39,471.75 (including 3 portable radios) and Motorola - \$42,215.53 (including 4 portable radios). Purrington reported that mobiles for the Sheriff's Department and

Emergency Management will be taken care of through this grant. Purrington stated that the County Highway Department could basically get four portable radios for the price of one if the board were to accept the quote in the amount of \$42,215.53. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept quote in the amount of \$42,215.53 from Motorola with the excess price of \$2,215.53 to be paid by the Highway Department. The Highway Department will in return receive four portable radios.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the Plum Creek Library System. Commissioner Schmidt reported that he will be appointed as the Board Chairman of this group beginning in 2013. Commissioner Holmen voiced concerns that he has heard from some of his constituents regarding return policies from the mobile library. Commissioner Schmidt will do some follow up on this matter and it will be discussed at a future meeting.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg asked for the board to approve the draft contract between Cottonwood County and Waste Management for countywide single stream recycling. Gregg reported that the County Attorney and Waste Management have reviewed the contract as well and are satisfied with it. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote (Commissioner White recused himself from the vote) to accept the contract between Cottonwood County and Waste Management for countywide single stream recycling and to allow the Chairman to sign.

Brief discussion was held regarding the Highway Department budget that was presented at the last board meeting. Gregg will plan to meet with the board at the next board meeting to better explain the overtures of different line items. He will try to get the information to the board ahead of time so they have a chance to review it before the meeting.

Gregg requested final payment on two construction projects (SAP 17-632-02 Whited Street surfacing project in the City of Jeffers and SAP 17-599-93 Amboy Township bridge replacement project). Motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow for final payment in the amount of \$286,390.48 for the SAP 17-632-02 Whited Street surfacing project in the City of Jeffers. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow for final payment in the amount of \$5,018.76 for the SAP 17-599-93 Amboy Township bridge replacement project.

Commissioners White and Kuecker informed Gregg that they have recently received calls from constituents regarding the truck traffic both on 6th Street and on County Road 13 (River Road) that seems to be getting more frequent.

Gregg commented that the Highway Department is in the healing process right now as far as the budget is concerned.

It was reported that the two paintings that were given to the county as part of the Legacy Grant have been received. It was suggested that these paintings be put on display in the rotunda for a short period of time before they are hung.

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Discussion was held regarding a draft copy of a memo that will be sent to all Department Heads in regards to the quote request for department purchases. A few more suggestions were received and will be discussed at the next board meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:39 a.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant