

June 8, 2010
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 8, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Tom White. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom White, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith, Gale Bondhus, Wally Minion, Lloyd Kruse, Brian Fuhrmann, John Jerlow, Eric Schlabach, Barry Bondhus, Herb Scheffler, Diane Wells, David Wells, Klay Walinga, Allan Nissen and Ron Gregg. Absent was Commissioner Ron Kuecker.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2010 meeting.

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A public hearing was held to discuss the possibility of the county approving and establishing a tax on aggregate material removal and production pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 298.75, Subd. 1(6). The board explained why the county is looking into the possibility of imposing an aggregate tax. Many questions were asked and comments were received from the individuals present that will be considered by the board as they make their decision at a later date on whether or not to impose an aggregate tax.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution for Cottonwood County to act as Loan Sponsor for the
"Implementation of Conservation Practices and Effectiveness Monitoring in the
Middle Minnesota Watershed Project"**
Resolution 10-06-08

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners agrees to act as the project sponsor for the Implementation of Conservation Practices and Effectiveness Monitoring in the Middle Minnesota Watershed Project Implementation Continuation Grant, in cooperation with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Environmental Administrator will act as project representative and is authorized to submit the Project Implementation Grant Continuation Request form for the Implementation of Conservation Practices and Effectiveness Monitoring in the Middle Minnesota Watershed Project on behalf of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that submittal of a proposal does not obligate this body to accept a grant and/or a loan if so offered.

WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at a regular meeting this 8th day of June 2010.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of equipment recommended by the Emergency Management Director for woodcutting purposes. The board asked that an inventory be taken of what the county currently has for safety equipment and then they can decide if they would like to continue selling firewood at Talcot Park or discontinue.

It was reported that one of the individuals that was hired as a seasonal worker contingent upon successful completion of all requirements did not meet all the requirements of the position. Hanson was instructed to look through other applications received for the position and possibly re-advertise for one seasonal employee. Hanson was authorized to conduct background check and drug test for potential applicant and bring to the board on June 22nd for possible hire.

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Chairman White handed out a letter addressed to his fellow commissioners in regards to the upcoming election.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to present some information in regards to the Board of Equalization meeting that will be held on June 16th at 6:00 p.m. As a result of local Board of Appeal and Equalization meetings, there was a total of -\$1,500 for residential value changes and -\$10,800 for commercial value changes.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to hire Brian Stresemann and Michael Johnson as seasonal employees for the Highway Department after successful completion of background check and drug test.

Much discussion was held regarding Truck 41 snow equipment that was approved for purchase from Aspen Equipment in December. It seems that the original specifications were not met and the county wants to decline ordering the equipment because it is not the equipment the county wanted. A letter will be drafted and reviewed by the County Attorney before sending to Aspen Equipment in regards to the county's intentions.

Discussion was held regarding recent road tour and the 5-year plan that was handed out during the tour. It was suggested that the 5-year plan is discussed every year to see where the county is at with the plan. A review of equipment replacement should be done each year at budget time also.

It was suggested that if the Highway Department feels that an additional mechanic is needed, further information regarding labor expenses, etc. being spent on work that the county is not able to do themselves due to lack of manpower needs to be brought to the board for their consideration to determine if an additional employee would be cost-effective at this time.

Discussion was held regarding a recycling meeting that Commissioner Oeltjenbruns and Gregg attended on June 7th in Redwood Falls regarding the proposed joint venture with Redwood, Renville, Jackson, Chippewa and Cottonwood counties for recycling purposes. The board agreed to not proceed with talks with Redwood County regarding recycling at this time.

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Commissioner Sorenson reported that he received notification that a regional dispatch meeting would be held on June 24th in Lake Wilson.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve per diem and mileage for any of the commissioners interested in attending the Water Management Summit in St. Cloud on July 12th as part of AMC's redesign.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve 2010 appropriation in the amount of \$300 to Southwest Minnesota Tourism.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve June warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 76,615.16
Long-Term Capital Outlay	\$ 34,492.18
County Building Fund	\$ 683.00
Ditch Fund	\$ 2,385.78
Road & Bridge	\$ 59,097.96
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 4,808.85
Landfill Enterprise	\$ 11,970.68
	<u>\$190,053.61</u>

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow for payment of two bills (ProCellular - \$21.36 and BankCard Center - \$2,094.61) as they were not received before the deadline for bills to be paid this month.

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A monthly trial balance for the month of May was distributed to the commissioners for their review.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Tom White, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant