

May 26, 2009
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 1:00 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 Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey, Jane Hennagir, Jason Purrington, Gale Bondhus, Wayne Jensen, Ron Gregg, Mark Marcy and Cheryl Hanson. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting.

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It was noted that nine RFP's for a pay study were received and will be reviewed by the board members before the next board meeting.

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Two bids were received for the proposed remodeling project at the Family Service Agency as follows: Hanefeld Custom Builders, Inc. - \$221,699 and Bargaen, Inc. - \$206,594. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to reject both bids for remodeling of the Family Service Agency because the costs exceeded the estimates by one-third.

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Chairman Sorenson gave a brief update regarding a letter he received from the Southwest Regional Radio Board regarding the cost-share of the radio equipment.

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Jane Hennagir met with the board representing the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) to present the 2009 annual member report for Cottonwood County.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few items. Purrington gave an update regarding PSIC grant money that is available for the 800-MHz radio equipment. This will be discussed further at a July meeting.

Purrington reported that he has \$4,204.00 in ATV grant dollars available and he would like to purchase a trailer for the ATV with these funds. Purrington presented two quotes for the purchase of a trailer as follows: Windom Farm Service - \$6,606.36 + registration; Miller Sellner - \$6,850.00 + tax & registration. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen to approve Sheriff's request to purchase a trailer for the ATV with grant dollars with the remaining balance being taken out of the Sheriff's Long Term Capital Outlay Fund. Voting as follows: Aye – Kuecker, Holmen, Oeltjenbruns. Nay – White. Motion carried.

Purrington reported that the dispatch computer, which is approximately 4-5 years old, has recently been having some problems. Greg Walsh looked at it and the cost to rebuild it would be a couple hundred dollars. A state bid in the amount of \$714.42 from DELL was also presented for review. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to accept the state bid in the amount of \$714.42 from DELL for the purchase of a new computer for dispatch.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to ask that Al Coners be granted permanent part-time status after successful completion of his probationary period. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to move Al Coners to permanent part-time status effective June 1st and to allow a 1-step increase after successfully completing his probationary period.

Bondhus gave an update regarding a letter that has recently been sent to Timothy Swoboda, Administrator of the Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society in Mt. Lake, in response to his letter dated May 13th that was sent to Bondhus.

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Wayne Jensen met with the board representing Lakeside Township. He requested a reimbursement in the amount of \$30,000 from Cottonwood County to restore some of the township budget that was depleted due to expenses incurred as a result of repairs made to the road leading to the Ethanol Plant. The board agreed that they would not be in favor of contributing any funds from the county because there is currently six hard surfaced county and state roads that can be used to get to Bingham Lake.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg asked that Brian Cooley be granted permanent full-time status after successful completion of his probationary period. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to move Brian Cooley to permanent full-time status effective June 1st and to allow a 1-step increase after successfully completing his probationary period.

Gregg asked that the board consider allowing for the purchase of a new server for the Highway Department and replacing the needed PC stations with used PC stations. The new server is quoted at \$3,694.82 plus tax off the state bid. Three new monitors would then be purchased at a cost of \$168.00 each plus tax. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the purchase of a new server in the amount of \$3,694.82 + tax off the state bid and to purchase three monitors at a cost of \$168.00 each + tax.

Gregg presented recycling goals that the recycling committee came up with at their May 13th meeting. He also asked that the board allow him to proceed with developing a survey regarding recycling and to work on plans for modifications of the Windom recycling shed.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to advertise for two safety projects (SAP 17-605-21 and SAP 17-613-41).

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker unanimous vote to accept the unit prices (on file in the Commissioner's Office) for sealcoat material from Jebro Incorporated of Sioux City, IA as presented.

It was reported that a meeting regarding landfill issues was held between Gregg, Gary Wood, Commissioner Sorenson and Commissioner Oeltjenbruns.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to give updates on several items. Marcy reported that the countywide grant for communications equipment has been written and submitted.

The Emergency Operations Plan is moving along and will be reviewed by Commissioner Kuecker when it is finished.

Update was given regarding the explosion that occurred at the Soybean Plant in Brewster on Saturday evening that Marcy was called to respond to.

Marcy reported that the county should be receiving a check for approximately \$3,000 for the rental of the light tower that was used for the Fargo flood.

It was reported that seven individuals have volunteered to be weather watchers for the county. Marcy is hoping to offer training sessions for these individuals in the near future.

Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to apply for EMPG grant.

Chairman Sorenson administered the oath of office to Mark Marcy for his role as Emergency Management Director as a requirement of the State of Minnesota.

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Cheryl Hanson met with the board representing the Windom Chamber of Commerce. The Chamber Coffee/Ribbon Cutting at the N. 71 County Office Building has been changed to July 10th at 10:00 a.m.

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County Attorney Doug Storey presented draft copies of lease agreements for Southwestern Mental Health and SW/West Central Service Coop. Suggestions for changes/additions were made. Commissioner White, Jan Johnson and Storey will work together to get the lease agreements finalized for a July 1st start date.

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Quotes for the 9th Street Office Building carpentry and painting work were presented to the board. Due to some clarification that is needed on one of the quotes, no action was taken at this time.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the RCRCA Joint Powers Agreement/Addendum to September 30, 2009 and enable board representative to sign on behalf of Cottonwood County.

Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave brief updates in regards to Rural Energy and GBERBA. Oeltjenbruns reported that seven counties said that they are interested in pursuing a joint wind energy production project and nine counties said that they were not interested. He also reported that interviews for the GBERBA position to run carbon credits would be held on May 27th.

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Commissioner White reported that he attended the Western Community Action year-end meeting and things seem to be going good.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that Jenny Quade has some concerns with the setup of the Probation Office and has asked for some possible modifications to the office.

Johnson reported that he might need to find some help with cleaning of the courthouse and lawn maintenance at the courthouse while the regular full-time employee is absent.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:04 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant