

September 13, 2005
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 13, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Chuck Severson, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mike Hanson, Karen Boysen, Rahn Larson, Ron Gregg, Gerry Engstrom, Jim Weidaman, William Modestad, Duane Bendixon, Dean Nelson, Paul Steen and Gale Bondhus. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2005 meeting as amended.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Hanson introduced Karen Boysen as the new Watershed Coordinator who will be working with the Des Moines River TMDL Project.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous roll call vote to approve amended agreement by MPCA and resolution as follows:

**WEST FORK DES MOINES RIVER WATERSHED TMDL
JOINT POWERS AGREEMENT
MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY
RESOLUTION 05-09-13**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that Cottonwood County enter into the attached **Amendment to the Joint Powers Agreement which updates the project budget and extends the project expiration date** with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to conduct the following Project: West Fork Des Moines River Watershed TMDL

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that the Project Representative, C. Michael Hanson, be authorized to execute the attached Joint Powers Agreement Amendment for the above-mentioned Project on behalf of Cottonwood County.

WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at a Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners Regular Meeting this September 13, 2005.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Mike Hanson, Greg Johnson and Marlene Smith to attend Annual Feedlot Conference to be held in Winona in October. Hanson will need a 3-night motel stay and Johnson and Smith will need a 2-night motel stay.

Hanson reported that there would be a conditional use hearing on Wednesday evening at 7:00pm in the Conference Room of the Environmental

Office.

The public hearing for the County Comprehensive Plan has been set for September 26th at 7:00pm. The final hearing approval will be held on September 27th at 1:00pm at the regular county board meeting.

Hanson updated the board on the septic system pilot program. He reported that there are currently approximately 95-100 people on the waiting list at this time.

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Rahn Larson met with the board representing the Southwest Minnesota Workforce Council. He gave a brief update and requested that the county consider appropriating \$1960 towards the program as funding for this program continues to be cut. The Southwest Minnesota Workforce Council consists of 14 counties in the region. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to supplement the Southwest Minnesota Workforce Council an amount of \$1960 for the 2006 calendar year. If reimbursement is available through Family Service Agency, this amount will be taken out of the FSA budget. If no reimbursement is available, this amount will be taken out of the general fund.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few miscellaneous items. Gregg gave a brief update in regards to current projects.

Gregg reported that after conducting interviews for the position of solid waste worker that it was his recommendation to hire William Hamilton to fill the full-time temporary position. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to hire William Hamilton as a full-time temporary solid waste worker effective September 14th. He will be paid at the starting rate of the 2005 pay scale.

Gregg reported that MnDOT responded to the proposed increase in monthly lease rate to \$300 for the Storden Highway shop with a counter-proposal. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept the lease payment agreement for the rental of the Storden Highway Shop as proposed by MnDOT. The monthly rate from November 1, 2005 to October 31, 2007 will be \$250. A 2-year option to renew from November 1, 2007 to October 31, 2009 will be at a rate of \$275/month.

Brief discussion was held in regards to completed work on CSAH 29 in Selma Township. Gregg will draft a letter to send to each of the parties involved in this matter.

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Commissioner Kuecker reported that 8 interviews would be conducted next week for the position of Social Worker at the Family Service Agency. Since Kuecker will not be available during this time, Commissioner Holmen agreed to contact Becky Wiens to see if he might be available to help out by sitting in on the interviews.

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Chairman Severson mentioned that he received a call from a constituent

in regards to the possibility of helping out with cleaning up road ditches in the county. No action was taken.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Severson to sign Memorandum of Agreement with Extension to show the reflection of an increase in hours of the Program Coordinator position from ¾ time to full-time.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority. Gerry Engstrom reported that adjustments have been made to the report that was presented at the last board meeting in regards to the proposed improvement of JD #15.

Jim Weidaman, one of the viewers of the JD #15 project, presented information in regards to the project and explained how the re-determination of benefits was figured.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the engineer's final report and amended viewers report, to set the letting date for October 11th and to allow for advertising of bids which will include two options discussed.

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

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to ask that they allow Lisa Will to begin using vacation and sick leave benefits that she has accrued since her start date of March 14th. She is currently on probation for another position (Appraiser) that she transferred to within the Assessor's Office effective August 1st. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Lisa Will to use any benefits that she accrued during the first six months of her employment.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to increase the mileage rate to \$.485/mile effective September 13th and for the remainder of 2005.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to appropriate \$300 to Southern Minnesota Tourism Association for 2006. This is the same amount that was appropriated for 2005. The Windom Convention and Visitors Bureau will be contributing \$300 as well.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to write a landfill debt off the books in the amount of \$10,838.45 that incurred as a result of a fire cleanup at a former business (Conestoga Wood) in Mt. Lake.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to set the 2006 preliminary levy at \$5,625,574. This amount reflects an increase of approximately 3.483%.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve September warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 56,927.41
County Building Fund	\$ 4,645.85
Ditch Fund	\$ 1,944.98
Taxes and Penalties Fund	\$ 399.60
Road & Bridge	\$ 90,221.18
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 3,964.75
Landfill Enterprise Fund	\$ 8,291.31
TOTAL	\$166,395.08

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Brief discussion was held in regards to a bill that was submitted by a Department Head for overtime hours worked. The dates on the claim were from September 19, 2004 to December 13, 2004. This Department Head will be asked to give an explanation to the board, as Department Heads are not eligible for overtime. No action was taken at this time.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve contract between UCare and Family Service Agency.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant