

January 27, 2009  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 27, 2009 at 1:00 p.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; Dan Olsen, Ron Gregg, Mike Hanson, Kathy Marsh and Marlene Smith.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the January 13, 2009 meeting.

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Dan Olsen, Windom Telecommunications, met with the board to present a proposal for phones, voicemail system equipment, phone sets, installation and initial programming at the N. 71 County Office Building. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to accept the quote in the amount of \$4,112.57 from Windomnet.

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Discussion was held regarding a grievance that was recently filed by the Family Service Agency supervisors in regards to their 2009 salary. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Sorenson to send a letter to the supervisors in response to the grievance that was filed and to cancel the meeting that was scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 p.m.

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Brief discussion was held regarding a draft letter that was prepared in regards to Department Head meetings. This will be discussed again at an upcoming board meeting.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several different items. Discussion was held regarding tipping fees at the Cottonwood County Landfill and whether or not to change the rates. Gregg informed the board that Waste Management might be interested in presenting some further information to the board in regards to future waste being brought to Cottonwood County. The board asked that Gregg do some further research in regards to costs involved with the development of a new cell as well as closure of the completed cells.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve payment in the amount of \$87,174.84 for snowplow equipment for Unit No. 47.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to transfer Unit 40 to the landfill from the Highway Department for a fee of \$17,500.

Gregg reported that MPCA has requested some additional changes to the Supplemental Environmental Project Proposal, which will be added and resubmitted.

Gregg asked that the board approve a change to the truck decals that are used by the Highway Department. The board agreed that Gregg should make the decision.

Discussion was held regarding the concern of rural residents pushing snow across county roads. This activity causes drifting and could be a hazard to the snowplow operators. The board suggested that letters be sent out to the landowners when necessary.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. He presented a copy of the 2009 County Feedlot Officer Annual Report. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Sorenson to sign the 2009 Annual County Feedlot Officer and Performance Credit Report.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Hanson to advertise for two part-time seasonal positions (maintenance and entry station attendant) for Talcot County Park.

Hanson reported on setback permits that were issued by the Environmental Office in 2008, which also included the type of construction and estimated value of construction.

Hanson informed the board that the Annual Township Officer Weed Meeting would be held on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:15 p.m.

Hanson gave a brief update on the number of septic systems that were completed in 2008.

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Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to appoint Leland Thiesen and Phil Harder to another 3-year term on the Planning Commission and Monica Muller to a 3-year term on the Extension Committee.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Sorenson to sign 2008 OSHA 300 Summary that is to be posted from February 1, 2009 to April 30, 2009.

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Brief discussion was held regarding a date that needs to be set for Board of Equalization. The board asked that the County Assessor attend an upcoming meeting to give a recommendation as to the date.

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In response to the State's projected budget shortfall, the Department of Transportation's Office of Transit has reduced its 2009 budget for the public transit participation program. The amended contract reflects a reduction of \$1200. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to sign amended 2009 transit grant contract.

Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update in regards to a recent Energy Board meeting that he attended.

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Commissioner Holmen presented a proposed resolution authorizing Southwestern Mental Health Center, Inc. to utilize the restricted center dissolution program funds as collateral in securing a loan for the construction of a new intensive residential treatment facility. Commissioners Sorenson and Holmen will try to find out more information and get further questions answered at the next SWMHC meeting.

Brief discussion was held regarding Jackson County's intent to make the Auditor/Treasurer position appointed instead of an elected position.

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Commissioner Kuecker gave an update in regards to meetings that he recently attended at SWCD, Red Rock Rural Water and SRDC.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson presented three 2009 appropriations (Mn. River Board - \$893; Energy Board - \$3,000 and Bookmobile - \$1,000) for payment. The board agreed to pay the bookmobile appropriation for \$1,000 but to wait on the other two appropriations.

Johnson reported that he recently received notice of tax court for Adam Sayles of Mt. Lake.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the pay study that was recently completed for Cottonwood-Jackson CHS and the impact it will have on Cottonwood County. This will be discussed further at the CHS meeting scheduled for January 29<sup>th</sup>.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that the county's insurance fund has to remain an open account for 15 months before it can cease making payments.

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Update was given regarding Jailer/Dispatcher union requests. Chairman Sorenson reported that research has been done in regards to whether any of the peer counties are offering a shift differential. Another meeting with the LELS jailer/dispatcher union will be set up in the near future.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve 2009 budget change request form for Family Services.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to sign memorandum of understanding between AFSCME Council 65 and Cottonwood County.

Chairman Sorenson reported that he received notice from Brown-Nicollet CHS in regards to a tattoo parlor in Cottonwood County that has not yet obtained a permit.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow blanket approval for Commissioners to attend informational meetings that Mark Marcy will be conducting in regards to the new radio system.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:28 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