

May 1, 2012
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 1, 2012 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; Lloyd Kalfs and Ron Gregg.

Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 24, 2012 meeting as amended.

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Commissioner White informed the board that Kate Robert's computer (RSVP) is in need of replacement. The board questioned whether there might be an extra computer at Family Services that she might be able to utilize. More research will be done in regards to this item before a decision is made on whether or not to purchase a new one.

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Commissioner Schmidt gave an update regarding the Plum Creek Library System Agency Agreement (Joint Powers Agreement) Revision Process. He reported that all counties have signed the agreement with the exception of the City of Marshall.

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Lloyd Kalfs, SWCD, met with the board for approval of the septic system loan amendment agreement. Kalfs reported that Cottonwood County has agreed to decrease the amount that they have requested for the GBERBA & Des Moines SSTS project from \$300,000 to \$225,000 for the 2012 calendar year so that Watonwan County can utilize an extra \$75,000 for some of their project needs. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the septic system loan amendment agreement as requested.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 12-05-01

BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Minnesota Stat. Sec. 161.36, the Commissioner of Transportation be appointed as Agent of Cottonwood County to accept as its agent, federal aid funds which may be made available for eligible transportation related projects.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cottonwood County Engineer is hereby authorized and directed for and on behalf of the County to execute and enter into an agreement with the Commissioner of Transportation prescribing the terms and conditions of said federal aid participation

as set forth and contained in "Minnesota Department of Transportation Agency Agreement No. 00955", a copy of which said agreement was before the City Council/County Board and which is made a part hereof by reference.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gregg gave an update regarding the Thomas Property gravel mine. He reported that he received an estimate to determine the depth and quality of gravel deposits on the Thomas Property. He proposed that the county rent an excavator and digging approximately 20 holes to take samples for half the cost quoted for the borings. After further discussion, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to accept the quote from American Engineering Testing Inc. to perform 20 borings at a depth of 30' to determine the depth and quality of gravel deposits on the Thomas Property. The cost was quoted at \$5,000.

Gregg reported that a preconstruction meeting was held for the construction of cell 7 at the landfill. The beginning date is May 8th and the estimated completion date is July 20th, 2012. Andy Geiger was present at this meeting as well.

Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to accept the retirement resignation from Dave Teichroew with his last day being May 31, 2012 with appropriate payout of benefits. A new job description will be put together for this position to be presented at a future meeting.

Discussion was held regarding Kyle Pillatzki's request to join the AFSCME Highway Department union. Correspondence will be sent to Ken Leas, AFSCME union representative, indicating the boards' intentions.

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Transit Director Kelly Thongvivong gave an update regarding the 2012 and Beyond Initiative: Improving Transit in Greater Minnesota. Much discussion was held at the Spring Transit Workshop regarding Coordination, Cooperation and Consolidation.

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Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the re-pointing of three FSA merit positions and changes to job titles/job descriptions as follows:

- Hay points increased from 245 to 282 - Financial Assistance Specialist (Lead Eligibility Worker)
- Hay points increased from 208 to 233 - Financial Worker (Eligibility Worker)
- Hay points increased from 245 to 259 - Child Protection Specialist
- Change Children's Mental Health Case Manager/Child Protection Specialist job title to Child Protection Specialist

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Discussion was held regarding the Southwestern Mental Health Center contract that County Attorney Nick Anderson helped put together. There were two options (Promissory Note A or Promissory Note B) for the board to consider. After much discussion, there was a motion by Schmidt, second by White to accept going along with Promissory Note A which is \$131,000 renewable after 10 years. Voting

as follows: Aye – Schmidt and Holmen. Nay – Kuecker, Oeltjenbruns and White. Motion failed.

Motion by White, second by Schmidt to have Cottonwood County request that the Southwestern Mental Health Center Board go back to the drawing board and to come back with different options along with a time table regarding the current lease of the existing building. Voting as follows: Aye – Oeltjenbruns, White, Schmidt and Holmen. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried.

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Discussion was held regarding the proposal that SWCD provided for the inspection of ditches in Cottonwood County. Two options (Option A & Option B) were presented for consideration. Option A included a whole county review of all open ditches requiring buffer strips and Option B included a partial county review of all open ditches requiring buffer strips.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority to take action on the acceptance of the proposal from SWCD.

Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to accept SWCD's Option A proposal for a whole county review of all open ditches requiring buffer strips in Cottonwood County at a rate of \$30/hour not to exceed \$5,000.

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

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Discussion was held regarding the proposed timeline for the transition of landfill duties to Andy Geiger. Commissioner White shared his thoughts regarding the initial timeline and suggested that the shift in duties be moved forward to June 2012 as opposed to January 2013. Andy Geiger concurred with the earlier start date of these duties. Chairman Holmen suggested that further discussion be held at the next board meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding the location of personnel files and whether or not they could be moved into the Commissioner's Office since Kelly Thongvong is now responsible for Human Resources in Cottonwood County. Further discussion will be held at the next board meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Executive Assistant