

November 23, 2010
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 23, 2010 at 1:00 p.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, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Nick Anderson, Dominic Jones, Gale Bondhus, Rob Anderson, Paul Kirchner and Ron Gregg. Absent was Commissioner Gary Sorenson.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting as amended. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2010 meeting.

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Assistant County Attorney Nick Anderson met with the board to discuss the needs of what the County Attorney's Office will be after the first of the year. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve request to begin advertising for the position of Assistant County Attorney for 2011.

Brief discussion was held regarding the monthly cost of rent for the County Attorney's Office. Anderson is requesting that the county pay the full cost. This will be discussed in more detail with the landlord of the building.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Anderson permission to obtain quotes for new office furnishings for the County Attorney's Office.

Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow for trade of outdated laptop for receptionist counter in County Attorney's Office. County Attorney Doug Storey will keep the laptop and the receptionist counter that Doug Storey owns will remain in the County Attorney's Office.

Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Anderson to obtain bids for his needed office space.

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Dominic Jones met with the board representing Red Rock Rural Water to present a loan resolution. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote (Commissioner Sorenson was absent) to adopt resolution providing for the issuance, sale and delivery of an \$1,768,000 taxable general obligation water revenue bond (Build America Bonds-Direct Pay), Series 2010 of Cottonwood County, Minnesota, to pay a part of the cost of water system improvements; establishing the terms and conditions therefore; and awarding the sale thereof.

Jones gave a few other updates in regards to Red Rock Rural Water that he wanted the board to be aware of.

County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to present quotes for the remodeling project in the Assessor's Office and surrounding area. Seven quotes were received as follows: Kim Miller Construction - \$38,100; Tri-State General Contracting - \$35,657.00; Borsgard Construction - \$34,031.96; Dallas Smith Construction - \$34,965.00; Wilcon Construction, Inc. - \$40,856.00; Buhler Construction - \$34,500.00; Fredin Construction/Cabinetry - \$70,807.80. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns to accept quote from Buhler Construction in the amount of \$34,500 + \$800 for additional work as stated in bid. Voting as follows: Aye – Holmen and Oeltjenbruns. Nay – Kuecker and White. Commissioner Sorenson was absent. Motion failed. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to go along with construction project and to accept low quote in the amount of \$34,031.96 from Borsgard Construction.

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Mt. Lake Community Development Director Rob Anderson and Mt. Power Hydraulics President Paul Kirchner met with the board to ask that the board consider sending a letter of support on behalf of Mt. Power Hydraulics' attempt to petition the Commissioner of Revenue to receive a waiver for the repayment of JOBZ property tax obligations in 2008 and 2009. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns to draft letter of support on behalf of Mt. Power Hydraulics. Voting as follows: Aye – Holmen, Oeltjenbruns and White. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign Plum Creek Library System Agency Agreement.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the outside lighting at the N. 71 County Office Building. It was suggested that additional lighting be added to the parking lot and along the sidewalks. It was noted that some reflectors have been placed near the entrance of the parking lot so hopefully this will help with some of the lighting issues as vehicles are entering and exiting.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg presented information as to the costs regarding one mile of County Road 99 using county forces. The cost was \$20,158.75.

Gregg reported that CSAH 15 was also repaired as there were five soft spots within a two-mile segment. The total cost was \$20,337.03.

Gregg reported that Mathiowetz Construction will begin raising the manholes at the landfill beginning tomorrow.

Gregg asked for approval to purchase four litter screens for the landfill. Gregg was asked to obtain a few quotes to present at a future meeting.

Gregg asked approval to purchase a new heater for the east bay of the scale building at the landfill. Gregg was asked to obtain a few quotes to present at a future meeting.

Update was given in regards to 2010 construction projects. CSAH 13 grading project is approximately 98% completed and due to the turn in the weather will have to be completed in the spring. Topsoil finish work, seeding, mulching and base work remains to be completed.

CSAH 32 (Whited Street) is also approximately 98% complete and will not be completed this year. Topsoil finish work, seeding and installation of manhole castings remains to be completed.

Gregg asked for approval to purchase 10,000 tons of gravel from Muecke Sand and Gravel, Inc. at \$3.15/ton. The board decided to hold off on this approval until a later time.

Chairman White signed a contract for the manhole work at the landfill that was approved at an earlier date.

Gregg requested approval to purchase an 8.5 foot pickup plow to help with snow removal around the courthouse and shop areas. Two quotes were received as follows: Crysteel - \$5,710.53 and Dick's Welding, Inc. - \$6,396.47. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$5,710.53 from Crysteel. Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson agreed to pay \$5,000 towards this purchase out of the courthouse maintenance budget.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept resignation from Caleb Hanson (landfill operator) effective December 3, 2010 with appropriate payout of benefits.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns to post internally for one week and then to advertise for a solid waste worker as well as a landfill operator with management experience. Voting as follows: Aye – Holmen, Oeltjenbruns and White. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried.

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Update was given in regards to Environmental/Planning & Zoning/Parks. It was also noted that SWCD put together a draft proposal for provisions of services to the county but agreed to begin helping the county immediately without a contract. SWCD will be invited to attend the December 14th board meeting to discuss the draft proposal in more detail.

Brief discussion was held in regards to the possibility of a stipend for Leslie Makovsky for additional work that she has been expected to help with in the absence of employees in the Environmental Office/Planning & Zoning/Parks Department.

Brief discussion was held regarding information that was recently sent to the board from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. Commissioner Kuecker will draft a letter to send to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Chairman White gave an update in regards to a camper that was left at Talcot Park. The camper will be removed in the next few weeks.

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Commissioner Holmen gave an update regarding a phone call he recently received from Orville Klassen in regards to crushed tile.

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Brief discussion was held regarding a meeting that Commissioner Kuecker recently had with County Recorder Kathy Kretsch and County Attorney Doug Storey. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize the County Recorder to go out to the Environmental Office to attempt to obtain certain documents that still need to be recorded.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to authorize approval for two sheriff's deputies to attend training in Mankato on January 24th and 25th and to register by December 15th to receive reduced tuition fee.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept letter of resignation from Nicole Inman from her part-time jailer/dispatcher position effective November 15, 2010 with appropriate payout of benefits.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Windom Chamber of Commerce to use courthouse rotunda on Friday, November 26th from approximately 6-8pm for Santa's visit.

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It was reported that Greg Johnson has decided not to continue appealing his termination of employment from Cottonwood County. He is withdrawing his appeal.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the courthouse chimes. There has been a recent request of the Windom Lions Club to play a song composed by Jim Austerman on the courthouse chimes and this request was denied by the Lions Club. Chairman White plans to contact the Windom Lions Club to discuss this further.

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Overtime report by month was requested by Chairman Tom White. He feels this is an oversight of management duties.

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Three quotes for repair work to be done at Mt. Park shelter house were presented as follows: Curt Fast - \$1,113.94, Herrig's Construction - \$3,296.13 and Greg Hildebrandt Construction - \$1,120. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$1,113.94 from Curt Fast and to send claim to MCIT.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to authorize Commissioner Holmen to sign RCRCA Joint Powers Agreement 30-month extension.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve proposed changes to Policy Number 360 "Overtime/Compensatory Time" and to post for 30-day comment period.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave a brief update regarding a River Board meeting he recently attended. He reported that Brown County recently withdrew from the River Board.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority.

Discussion was held regarding the JD #32 improvement project. It was reported that no bids were received the first time the improvement project was advertised. When it was re-advertised, one bid was received but this bid did not include benefits from the viewers. The contractor that submitted the bid feels that there was an error made on his first bid so he asked that he be allowed to submit a corrected bid. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote not to accept the submission of a corrected bid that was filed six weeks after it was due.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to reject single bid received because it exceeds benefits for the improvement to JD #32.

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

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 5:48 p.m. to give an update and to discuss strategy for recent union negotiations. Individuals present were: Commissioners Holmen, Kuecker, Oeltjenbruns and White; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong and Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to open the closed session at 6:39 p.m.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:39 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Tom White, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant