

March 22, 2005  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 22, 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 Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Ron Gregg, Bob Haken, Mark Marcy, Richard MacDonald, Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith, Tom Sanders, Brian Weber, Clint Dykes, Carol Paplow, Curt Schenk, Gary Schenk, Randy Schenk, Thomas Wickie, Elmer Deutschmann and Herb Scheffler. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 8, 2005 meeting.

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Highway Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several different items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve request to advertise a Township Bridge Replacement Project. The location is in Storden Township between sections 9 and 16.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to add one additional phone to the Highway Department Midwest Wireless plan. This phone will be used by the sign man to communicate with law enforcement and Gopher One call personnel to coordinate utility locates.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow for purchase of Chevy ½ ton crew cab, short box pickup in the amount of \$21,981.45 plus tax and license off the state bid with no trade of present vehicle (Unit 16 of the Survey Department).

Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to authorize addition of water line and purchase of water heater for the new shop addition at the Windom Highway Department and to accept the low quote.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve sending two or three employees to Household Hazardous Waste Training on April 5 – 7 in Baxter, MN.

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Sheriff Bob Haken and Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss a few items. Marcy presented some follow-up information he had received in regards to the HEAT Team that he is proposing that the county become involved with. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to enter into 2-year agreement with the HEAT Team and to trade the county's existing equipment in lieu of dues that will be assessed to become a member of the organization.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to sign Emergency Management Performance Grant so the county can remain eligible to apply and receive grants for 2005 and 2006.

Two quotes were presented for the purchase of a 45 watt, 160 channel capable radio and were as follows: Alpha Wireless - \$2,926.57 and Com-Tec - \$3,067.20. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept low quote from Alpha Wireless for the purchase of a radio to be used in the Emergency Management command trailer, which is to be purchased with Emergency Management funds.

Two quotes were presented for the purchase of night vision goggles and were as follows: Galls - \$2,999.99 + shipping & handling and Streicher's - \$3,003.95 with shipping & handling. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept quote from Streicher's for the purchase of night vision goggles as their quote included shipping & handling.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow chairman to sign E-911 Maintenance Service Contract.

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Plum Creek Library System Director Richard MacDonald met with the board to give them an update on the Plum Creek Library System and to inform them of the services that they provide to the area libraries.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to reappoint Dr. Rod Dynes as the County Coroner.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt the following resolution:

**Resolution 05-03-22**

**WHEREAS:** Minnesota Community Action Agencies are celebrating a 40 year history of promoting economic stability within our communities through the provision of leadership, resources, support and advocacy to families and individuals in financial need; and

**WHEREAS:** Minnesota Community Action Agencies offer opportunities for economic stability, self sufficiency and advancement to thousands of individuals and families in all 87 counties each year through the provision of resources to meet basic needs, welfare-to-work and job skills development services, educational and asset development options for long-term economic advancement, home ownership opportunities, and advocacy efforts that ensure Minnesota families and individuals can live with dignity in our communities; and

**WHEREAS:** Minnesota Community Action Agencies provide leadership in creating and advocating for responsible policy development that addresses the need to eliminate the conditions that keep people in poverty; and

**WHEREAS:** Minnesota Community Action Agencies collaborate with a broad range of community partners including local government, school districts, human service organizations, non-profit groups, the business community, the faith community, and civic organizations in the development

and implementation of strategies that assist people to leave poverty and to own a stake in their communities; and

**WHEREAS:** Minnesota Community Action Agencies provide a significant return on investment to Cottonwood County; and to counties throughout the state, as demonstrated through outcome-based measurement research; and

**WHEREAS:** Minnesota Community Action Agencies rely on the state Community Action Grant and the federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) as core funding to provide Cottonwood County with critical safety net services, innovative and cost effective programs, responsible and forward-thinking community development efforts, and millions of additional leveraged dollars through local, state, and federal partnerships; and

**WHEREAS:** Requests for Community Action services has increased over the past two years while significant decreases in our state's Community Action Grant allocation, and potential loss of federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), has resulted (or will result) in the loss of Community Action capacity to meet the needs of residents in Cottonwood County, contributing to further destabilization of our local economy; and

**WHEREAS:** If funding for the Community Action Grant is not restored, and federal Community Services Block Grant (CSBG) is not reauthorized, critical services to Cottonwood County residents will be reduced and will result in placing severe financial stress on our households, communities and county;

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT:** The County Board of Commissioners supports actions that would increase state funding through the Community Action Grant, and actions that would secure on-going federal funding through the reauthorization of the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), to support Minnesota's Community Action Agencies. These actions will ensure that adequate resources are in place for Cottonwood County, and all of Minnesota's counties, to promote strengthened economic stability and greater prosperity for our state and for all Minnesotans.

S/Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous roll call vote to adopt the following resolution:

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**Sponsored Resolution of Support for  
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA)  
Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)**

**Resolution 05-03-22A**

The County of Cottonwood certifies that the project being proposed by Western Community Action, which is located in our jurisdiction, has the county's approval to apply to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for grant program funding.

S/Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution for mandatory distribution amendment with VALIC Financial

Advisors, which states that the county has no mandatory distribution in the current plan.

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Brief discussion was held regarding two recent instances where a full-time position was created and the two present part-time employees who were in the same position as the new full-time position created had to apply through countywide internal posting. This situation could have been avoided because these two employees could have been considered as an intra-departmental promotion. The consensus of the board is to post internally countywide only if position cannot be filled by intra-departmental promotion.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to change Jeff Minor's resignation date from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup> and to approve all appropriate payout of benefits as of this date.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit for Mitch Voehl and Dan Olsen for the construction of a residence, garage, and storage shed in the northwest quarter of section 13 in Great Bend Township based on conditions mentioned and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve GBERBA appropriation in the amount of \$2,000. Hanson will contact Cottonwood County SWCD to see if they will pay half of the \$2,000.

Much discussion was held regarding proposed quarry in Germantown Township that has already been approved by the Planning Commission. Tom Sanders informed the board that a petition for an EAW would be sent off within the next day or so as the 30 required signatures have been obtained to start the process. The board listened to all individuals in attendance that wanted to speak in regards to the proposed quarry. After a lengthy discussion, there was a motion by Kuecker to table the discussion for 45 days and to allow the county and various other state departments to determine the environmental impact on the Red Rock Falls County Park. Motion failed for lack of a second. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to table the discussion and to put it on the agenda for the May 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant