

March 3, 2009
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. 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; Ron Gregg, Brian Cooley, Tiffany Harder, Donna Stresemann, Tom Baumgard, Kay Clark, April Sullivan, Mike Hanson, Dave Bucklin, Tom Kresko, Barb Cullen, Candace Webster, Gale Bondhus and Bob Pankratz. Absent was Commissioner Sorenson.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2009 meeting as amended.

* * * *

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Gregg reviewed the 2008 Tri-County Recycling Report and reported that Tri-County would like Cottonwood County to participate in their program for another three years. The board suggested that Gregg begin discussions with Tri-County regarding the possibility of getting out of the contract and to ask for further clarification as to the rebate amount for 2008.

Gregg reported that only one bid was received for countywide recycling. The bid was from Waste Management for an annual cost of \$217,416.00. After much discussion the board decided to acknowledge the bid and to take the matter into consideration by the board.

Brian Cooley, Highway Department Shop Supervisor, gave a presentation to the board regarding concerns about the 2008 Ford Diesel truck. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Cooley to get quotes for a similar gas pickup as requested.

Gregg reported that the Highway Department would be sponsoring a Coffee at the Windom Shop in honor of two departing employees, John Weis and Kyle Pillatzki, on March 6th at 9:00 a.m.

* * * *

Dave Bucklin, Tom Kresko, April Sullivan, Mike Hanson and Kay Clark met with the board to discuss drainage issues in Cottonwood County and to try to get the word out about the protocol to follow. There is a Joint Notification Form available and Kay Clark agreed to help come up with a Project Checklist that might be helpful to landowners as well.

* * * *

Barb Cullen and Candace Webster met with the board representing the State Auditor's Office to review the 2007 Audit Report. It was reported that the

county had approximately 4.47 months of expenditures in the fund balance for 2007.

* * * *

Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to ask permission for Marlene Smith to attend the ArcGIS Desktop II and III classes at Mankato State University March 9-13 at a cost of \$600 + room, meals and travel costs. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Marlene Smith to attend the training at a cost of \$600 + room, meals and travel costs.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve rent of farmland on Pat's Grove to Kent Freking for \$525, which is to be payable April 1st.

Hanson reported that Greg Johnson, Leslie Makovsky and himself would be out of the office on March 11th, as they will be helping with the Children's Water Festival in Mankato.

* * * *

Tiffany Harder, Donna Stresemann and Tom Baumgard met with the board to present a proposal from the Recycling Department.

* * * *

County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to present two quotes for a filing cabinet for the Assessor's Office. The two quotes were as follows: Dan's Office Supply - \$818.00 and Livewire Printing - \$739.99. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$739.99 from Livewire Printing.

Bondhus reported that the laptop that was approved at the last board meeting did not get ordered on time and that she did receive two new quotes. After further discussion, the board suggested that she start the process over and to also get quotes from the Citizen Office and New Star.

Bondhus presented some information as to reimbursement amounts for 2007-2009 for production tax on the wind turbines.

* * * *

Commissioner Holmen reported that Schneider Corporation would be conducting training for the GIS Committee on March 23rd & 24th in Windom. The committee is hoping to rent a computer room at the BARC building for \$100/day. Ron Gregg was asked to see if Schneider Corporation would pay for the room rental.

* * * *

Brief discussion was held regarding the LELS Jailer/Dispatcher union contract. It was reported that the union has agreed to the two-year contract and the board is waiting for the signed contract for final approval by the board.

* * * *

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow per diem and bus cost for any Commissioner that attends the trip on March 11th to the State Capitol.

* * * *

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow permission for Commissioner Kuecker to attend Shallow Lakes Forum in Chaska on March 30th. The \$50 registration fee was waived for county officials that are members of the Minnesota River Board.

* * * *

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of some energy savings measures that can be done at the N. 71 County Office Building. Commissioner Kuecker presented some figures for new overhead lighting that will be more energy efficient. The board agreed that it is worth pursuing. Kuecker will contact South Central Electric for further information.

* * * *

Brief discussion was held regarding the information handed out for disposition of fines, fees and other money.

* * * *

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Tom White, Board Vice-Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant