

June 14, 2011
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 3:45 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Ron Kuecker. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Jim Schmidt, Tom White; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Andy Geiger, Cheryl Peters, Kay Clark, Ron Gregg, Gale Bondhus, Lisa Will, Alan Coners, Craig Myers, Larry Anderson, Duane Voit, John Madson, Gary Einertson, Hans Remmers, Jim Becker, Lynette Tibodeau, John Tibodeau, Kenneth Anacker, Allan Nissen, Wendy Meyer and John Regehr.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2011 meeting as amended.

* * * *

Parks Director Andy Geiger met with the board to ask for permission to hire seasonal entry station attendant for Talcot Park as the individual that was previously hired was unable to fulfill his commitment with the hours required. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to hire Austen Smedsrud as a new seasonal employee for the Parks Department effective June 16th.

Geiger gave an update regarding the John Deere lawn mower that is currently broken down and in need of repair.

Brief update was given in regards to the Parks Department as well as the Planning & Zoning Office. Everything seems to be going good at this time.

* * * *

Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow Commissioner Holmen to sign 6-month extension to the Joint Powers Agreement addendum through Area II. This extension was initially for a 12-month period but has since changed to a 6-month extension.

* * * *

A public hearing was held in regards to True County Assessing. There were several individuals from the public present for this portion of the meeting. County Assessor Gale Bondhus explained the concept of True County Assessing and the benefits that this might have for the county. She reported that three local assessors would be retiring in April of 2012. Each individual present for the hearing was given a chance to make an initial comment as well as follow up and closing comments as information was presented and discussed. One of the biggest benefits that Bondhus feels would occur if True County Assessing were to be adopted would be more uniformity in the way the county does the assessing. Local boards would continue as they have in the past. After hearing from all individuals that wished to comment at the public hearing as well as

taking into consideration all the information that was presented to the board in the weeks leading up to the public hearing, there was a motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt the resolution as follows:

Resolution 11-06-14

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 273.052 states that any county in the State of Minnesota is authorized and empowered to provide for the assessment of all taxable property in the County by the County Assessor; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 273.055 states that the election to provide for assessment of property by the County Assessor, as provided in 273.052, shall be made by the Board of County Commissioners by resolution to be effective at the second assessment date following the adoption of the resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners finds that the assessment of all taxable property under the supervision of the County Assessor shall result in a fair and true assessment of property within Cottonwood County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby elects to provide for the assessment of all property in Cottonwood County by the County Assessor, in accordance with Minnesota Statute 273.052, et. seq.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the effective date of this resolution shall be the second assessment date following the adoption, or January 2, 2013.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the offices of all township and city assessors in Cottonwood County shall be terminated 90 days before the above assessment date and shall turn over all tax records relating to property in Cottonwood County to the County Assessor at that time.

Adopted this 14th day of June, 2011.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

*

*

S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

*

*

Court Administrator Cheryl Peters met with the board to ask permission to reupholster 16 jury room chairs in the courtroom and to present a quote for this repair. The one quote obtained was in the amount of \$3,778.98 from Goodyear Upholstery. This is the same company that reupholstered some of the other chairs in the courtroom. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to allow for the repair of the jury room chairs at a cost of \$3,778.98. This expense will be taken out of Court Administration Long Term Capital Outlay.

*

*

*

*

SWCD District Administrator Kay Clark met with the board to ask for approval of the 2011 budget between Cottonwood County and SWCD. Because the written agreement was not completed at this time, the board asked to wait to approve the budget at the same time as the agreement is finalized and approved. This will be done at the next board meeting.

Clark presented the MPCA Clean Water Partnership Loan Agreement for the Little Cottonwood River Watershed and asked for the board to adopt a resolution allowing for the signature of the contract with MPCA. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION OF THE COTTONWOOD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
11-06-14A**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners, that it hereby designates Kay Clark, SWCD District Administrator as Project Representative for the Implementation of Conservation Practices and Effectiveness Monitoring in the Middle Minnesota Watershed Continuation Clean Water Partnership Project for Cottonwood County.

The Project Representative shall have the authority to represent the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners in all Project matters that do not specifically require action by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that, as Loan Sponsor, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners enters into the attached Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement along with Renville County, as Project Sponsor, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to conduct the Implementation of Conservation Practices and Effectiveness Monitoring in the Middle Minnesota Watershed Continuation Clean Water Partnership Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that the County Board Chair, Ron Kuecker be authorized to execute the attached Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement for the above referenced Project on behalf of the Board as Loan Sponsor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that the SWCD District Administrator, Kay Clark be authorized to execute loan disbursement requests for the above referenced project to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on behalf of the Board.

WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at a regular board meeting this 14th day of June 2011.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to set \$336,000 as the amount that will be included on the General Obligation Note for the Clean Water Partnership Loan Agreement for the Little Cottonwood River Watershed.

Clark reported to the board that the installation of septic systems could be affected if there would be a government shutdown especially the systems that need loan dollars to complete.

Clark reported that a meeting would be held tomorrow between SWCD and Andy Geiger and Alan Coners in regards to septic systems.

* * * *

Commissioner Tom White left the meeting at this time due to a possible conflict of interest in regards to the information that Ron Gregg would be presenting to the board.

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items of business. Gregg presented a draft copy of the request for proposal for countywide recycling services for Cottonwood County and asked for final input from the board. There were a few suggested changes to be made to the draft copy before sending out. Motion by Schmidt, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote (Commissioner White was absent) to approve the recycling request for proposal as discussed with recommended changes.

Gregg presented a copy of the job description for the part-time position he would like to advertise for. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow Gregg permission to post internally and advertise for the part-time clerk typist position.

* * * *

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve June warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$116,777.45
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 1,437.08
County Building Fund	\$ 50,000.00
Ditch Fund	\$ 4,654.45
Taxes & Penalties Fund	\$ 1,159.20
Road & Bridge	\$216,783.67
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 4,429.94
Landfill Enterprise	<u>\$ 35,488.22</u>
	\$430,730.01

* * * *

Chairman Kuecker gave an update regarding the information he obtained in regards to the repair of the roof at the N. 71 County Office Building that was discussed at the last board meeting. Kuecker reported that the low quote from Westbrook Home Center did not include the Owens Corning shingles that were asked for in the specs and what the other two businesses used in their quotes. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to accept the quote in the amount of \$29,742.62 from Lamperts for the replacement of the entire roof at the N. 71 County Office Building and to accept the low quote in the amount of \$15,760 from Matthew Buckentin to complete the work.

* * * *

Motion by Schmidt, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to appoint Anita Winkel to serve on the Plum Creek Governing Board as a representative of Cottonwood County.

* * * *

Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to schedule a special meeting for June 21st at 8:30 a.m. in the lower level of the Cottonwood County Law Enforcement Center. This will be a Joint Session with the Jackson County Board of Commissioners. The purpose of this meeting is to conduct a Strategic Planning Session regarding Human Services and Community Health. Expenses for this meeting will be shared between the two counties.

Brief discussion was held in regards to the possibility of a state shutdown and how this could impact the Probation Office in particular as the Department Head for this office is a state employee. No plan was made at this time.

* * * *

Commissioner White gave an update regarding an RSVP meeting he attended last Thursday. He reported that RSVP plans to raise their per capita contribution from \$1.39 in 2010 to \$1.42 in 2011. This will not have an impact on Cottonwood County as the latest census reported a decline in population.

* * * *

Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson handed out information in regards to wind tower settlements that have been received for 2011. A total of \$221,573 was receipted into Cottonwood County. The county will retain 80% of the wind tower tax and the three townships (Carson, Mt. Lake and Storden) will receive the remaining 20%.

* * * *

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow approval for the commissioners to receive a per diem for the Minnesota Ag Water Resources Sediment Seminar on June 24th if they choose to attend.

Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve Andy Geiger and John Oeltjenbruns' attendance and expenses incurred at the SW MN Energy Tour that they recently attended in Iowa.

* * * *

Chairman Kuecker reported that a letter was recently sent to Millie and Susan Horkey in regards to their nuisance complaint. Andy Geiger was going to plan to meet with them in person in regards to this matter.

Kuecker reported that Kim Hall and Jason Purrington have begun to prepare information that they will plan to present at the next board meeting regarding equipment needed for the ARMER system.

It was reported that a letter from Chairman Kuecker was sent to MPCA after the last board meeting and a letter on behalf of Ron Gregg will be going out on Wednesday of this week.

Brief discussion was held regarding labor-management and a question that was recently raised by one of the unions. Kuecker will plan to contact the union representatives to inquire as to whether or not they would like to schedule a meeting.

* * * *

Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to adjourn as the County Board at 6:20 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant