

February 8, 2005  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 8, 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 Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mike Stone, Alan Saffert, Bob Haken, Mark Marcy, Ron Gregg, Mike Hanson, Elmer Brandt, Roger Knudson and Justine Wettschreck. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2005 meeting as corrected.

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Mike Stone and Alan Saffert met with the board representing the Cottonwood Slayton Veterinary Service in regards to animal control. Some of the cities within Cottonwood County have an agreement with the veterinary clinic in regards to animal control. However, Cottonwood County as a whole does not have an agreement or an animal control ordinance. The board decided to try to get some samples of animal control ordinances from other counties, as the next step may be to develop a county ordinance of our own.

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Sheriff Bob Haken met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept resignation from Dick Jeffrey and to authorize appropriate payout of benefits.

Haken mentioned that he recently received notice that he had been awarded a grant in the amount of \$1,318 for the purchase of another defibrillator. Since the Sheriff's Department already has one defibrillator and have all been trained on that defibrillator, Haken would like to purchase the second defibrillator from the same company. Haken will obtain another quote to present at a future board meeting.

Discussion was held regarding an Emergency Response Unit that has recently approached the Sheriff's Department to see if they would be interested in becoming a part of their response team. The current 13-member team has representatives from Watonwan, Martin, Rock, Jackson, Dickinson, and Emmett Counties. The cost of joining is \$1500/year and there is a 6-month probationary period for all new members. This group meets once/month and this fee would include all necessary training. Haken will do some further checking and has been invited by this group to attend a training session in Jackson County next week to see what it is all about.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to give them a brief update in regards to the equipment and where and how it is being

used. Marcy also asked to get permission to seek bids for equipment purchases from funds received from the last Emergency Management grant. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to seek bids for equipment purchases.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several different items. Bids were opened on February 7<sup>th</sup> for the following projects: SAP 17-602-19, 17-602-20, 17-603-17, 17-617-15, 17-629-01 and City of Mt. Lake Alternate "B". Bids were as follows: Duininck - \$1,216,267.25; SMC - \$975,406.55; Kruse Paving - \$1,091,486.70; Central Specialties - \$1,092,597.35. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept low bid from SMC in the amount of \$975,406.55.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize advertising of Clerk Typist II position for the Highway/Solid Waste Department.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve payment of \$51,202.69 for new sign truck. This amount includes the addition of a mini halogen work lamp and matador work light.

Three quotes were received for annual signage needs and were as follows: Earl F. Andersen - \$23,880.48; M & R Sign - \$23,861.30; Newman Traffic Signs - \$23,679.00. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept quote from M & R Sign in the amount of \$23,861.30 based upon problems/concerns that were mentioned with the style of the post used by Newman.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize payment request #4 for the construction of cell #6 at the landfill in the amount of \$116,125.70 to Mathiowetz Construction.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns to adopt resolution in support of 2005 Transportation Funding Proposal. Voting aye: Sorenson, Oeltjenbruns, Holmen, Severson. Voting nay: Kuecker. Motion carried.

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**Resolution in Support of 2005 Transportation Funding Proposal  
as developed by Association of Minnesota Counties  
Resolution 05-02-08**

**WHEREAS**, the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) has developed a comprehensive plan to address the transportation funding needs of the state; and

**WHEREAS**, the current existing level of highway funding in the state of Minnesota does not adequately meet the needs of the state, county, and city highway systems; and

**WHEREAS**, the current existing level of highway funding in the state of Minnesota does not adequately provide for necessary improvements to the highway system; and

**WHEREAS**, Cottonwood County recognizes that there is a need for increased transportation funding statewide.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Cottonwood County supports the Transportation Funding proposal as detailed by the Association of Minnesota Counties.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Gregg reported that four employees are interested in the landfill operator training opportunity and he will choose two of those individuals to attend the upcoming training.

Discussion was held regarding a call that Commissioner Sorenson recently received from the Westbrook City Council in regards to the supply of diesel fuel in Westbrook. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow the City of Westbrook to fill out of the Westbrook Highway Department tank and to charge \$.05/gallon surcharge for handling fee and paperwork due to their problems with local supplier having fuel available to them.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Hanson reported that Jim & Nikki Jorgenson have now submitted a variance application for the proposed dairy farm in the Westbrook area. The public hearing to consider this application will be held at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday, February 23, 2005, at the proposed property.

Elmer Brandt and Roger Knudson voiced their concerns in regards to the potential dairy farm and asked that the board impose a moratorium and to make sure an Environmental Assessment is completed before proceeding further.

Hanson reported that the conditional use hearing for the proposed quarry is scheduled for February 15<sup>th</sup>.

Hanson informed the board that representatives from MPCA are interested in meeting with them in regards to the Watonwan River Watershed and to also update them on water sampling results. An appointment will be made for a future meeting.

Hanson mentioned that the grant available for the TMDL Project for the Des Moines River is good through September 30, 2006 so he would like to again proceed with hiring a full-time Watershed Coordinator. Hanson will do some further checking with some of the other counties involved to see how they have handled this particular position.

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Commissioner Sorenson mentioned that the Assessor's Office was interviewing this week for the position of Office Manager. Because there is not another board meeting for two weeks, Sorenson wanted to know if there would be consensus to offering the position before the next board meeting and to approve the hire at the February 22<sup>nd</sup> board meeting. The board members each agreed to a tentative approval.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve February warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 61,335.92
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 8,683.85
County Building	\$ 584.30
Ditch Fund	\$ 397.20
Ditch Sinking Fund 1	\$ 2.73
Ditch Sinking Fund 2	\$ 8.19
Ditch Sinking 3	\$ 2.73
Taxes & Penalties Fund	\$ 94.50
Road & Bridge	\$ 50,975.84
Landfill Operations	\$ 4,830.59
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 4,449.46
TOTAL	\$131,365.31

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Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and convene as the County Ditch Authority to discuss matters relating to JD #5. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to set viewing and hearing with landowners on March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. and to set the formal hearing for re-determination of benefits on JD #5 on March 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. during the regular board meeting. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and reconvene as the County Board.

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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