

April 4, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 4, 2006 at 9:00 a.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, Gary Sorenson, Chuck Severson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mike Hanson, Ron Gregg, Andy Olson, Karen Boysen and Craig Myers. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 28, 2006 meeting.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few different items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 06-04-04 and to authorize Chairman Kuecker to sign General Obligation Note that needs to be approved in order to utilize the reallocation of Low Interest Loan Septic Money (\$121,000) in the Cottonwood River Watershed that was increased by Board approval at the March 7, 2006 meeting. The General Obligation Note has to be increased from the original amount of \$355,300 to \$500,000, to allow for this reallocation. Increasing the General Obligation Note to \$500,000 will also give the County some leeway if more funds become available from other counties in the project that do not utilize all their septic loan money within the next year.

Hanson reported that the Planning Commission met on March 27, 2006, to discuss fees for the Mining, Extraction & Excavation Ordinance and they came up with a recommendation to propose to the board. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to adopt recommendation as proposed by the Planning Commission but to add additional fee of \$100.00 to be charged for initial registration of an existing mine. Fees for Mining, Extraction & Excavation Ordinance will be as follows:

Conditional Use Hearing	\$ 300.00
Renewal Fee (Waived if applying for CUP)	\$ 200.00
Registration Fee for Existing Mine	\$ 100.00
Reclamation Bond (Minimum)	\$5,000.00, after 5 acres \$1,000.00 per actively mined acre that has not been reclaimed and certified.

Discussion was held in regard to cell phone cost reduction proposal as presented by Hanson. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to authorize Hanson to contract with Cellular One/Alltel to receive the Greater Freedom cellular plan with 1600 minutes and 2 additional PAL phones.

Hanson reported that the Planning Commission would be meeting again on Thursday afternoon. He updated the board in regards to what they are hoping to get accomplished throughout the next few months.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve Annual Boat and Water Safety Grant Agreement that is available through the DNR. The Sheriff's Department has a few reimbursable expenditures from January 1 – December 31, 2005 that may qualify for this grant.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen to adopt resolution in support of the efforts of the SRDC. Voting as follows: Aye: Sorenson, Holmen, Oeltjenbruns, Severson. Nay: Kuecker. Motion carried to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution
06-04-04A**

Whereas, Cottonwood County has demonstrated by its actions that it is committed to improving the economic conditions and quality of life of its people, and

Whereas, recent years have brought instability to agriculture, scarce capital for investment and shrinking markets have seriously aggravated the already critical economic problems, and

Whereas, the current serious economic distress requires immediate and direct attention and action to assist area residents in their pursuit of economic independence and to assist area business persons towards successful competition in the business climate of today; and

Whereas, the Southwest Regional Development Commission has been instrumental in the creation of employment opportunities, the retention of existing opportunities, and the dissemination of information that provides assistance to industry and business in the achievement of these objectives; and

Whereas, the continued designation of the Southwest Regional Development Commission as an Economic Development District will expand and enhance the Regions' opportunities to diversity and strengthen our economy;

Therefore, be it resolved, that Cottonwood County supports the efforts of the Southwest Regional Development Commission and wishes to continue to actively participate in the activities of the Economic Development District; to contribute towards the Goals and Policies as described in the Overall Economic Development Program for the region; and to promote the redevelopment implementation strategy for the nine counties comprising the Southwest Regional Development Commission.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Brief discussion was held in regards to recent letter received from Kelly Thongvivong for consideration of her request in regards to her present position. Commissioners Kuecker and Holmen were appointed to meet with Thongvivong to discuss her request further and to come up with a recommendation for the board to consider.

Commissioner Severson gave an update in regards to the lease at Southwestern Mental Health Center in Windom. He reported that due to some remodeling that would be going on, SWMHC will be losing 99 square feet of office space. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to set 3-year lease rates at \$14,209 for 2006, \$14,500 for 2007, and \$14,800 for 2008, based on 2781 square feet.

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Commissioner Sorenson updated the board in regards to another option that the Southwestern Mental Health Center Board of Directors may have for bonding for the project of a new building site in Worthington.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Motion by Severson, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to authorize Gregg to advertise two (SAP 17-599-83 Dale Township Bridge Project and SAP 17-602-21 CSAH 2 Reconstruction Project) upcoming construction projects. Bid opening for these projects will be on May 1st and May 8th at 1:00 p.m.

Gregg reported that he recently spoke to Sheriff Jason Purrington and he is in support of the 911-residence signage that is estimated at a cost of \$48,000 or approximately \$33.00 per residence. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to form a committee consisting of Ron Gregg, Mark Marcy, John Oeltjenbruns and 3 township representatives to address all the issues and conduct the assessment process of this undertaking. Gregg will contact the Township Association to see which 3 township representatives might be willing to serve on this committee. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson will also attend meetings as needed.

Two quotes were received for spraying technology to improve current road ditch spraying program and were as follows: Avoca Spray Service - \$10,000 and Miller Sellner - \$8,934.42. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$8,934.42 from Miller Sellner.

Gregg reported that the 2006 Cottonwood County Road Tour would be held on April 7th from approximately 8am – noon.

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Andy Olson met with the board to discuss some concerns he has with the Des Moines River TMDL project and how the advisory board was appointed.

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Chairman Kuecker suggested that the board take a look at upcoming capital improvements that the board is possibly considering as well as the costs that may be involved with these projects and to prioritize them. This will be discussed again at the next board meeting. An engineering firm will be at the Courthouse on Friday to look at the Commissioner’s Room as well as the Transit Garage.

Commissioner Holmen reported that he recently met with Gale Bondhus, County Assessor, in regards to some concerns she has with the upcoming 2006 Local Boards of Appeal and Equalization Meetings and her possible absence during some of this time due to health reasons. Motion by Severson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Cottonwood County to contract with Laurel Nelson to assist at 2006 Local Boards of Appeal and Equalization Meetings in April and May on an as-needed basis and to have County Attorney draw up contract.

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Family Service Agency Director Craig Myers met with the board to discuss a few different items. Myers reported that Southwestern Mental Health Center is asking for consideration of payment from the county because of work that is being done to one of the rooms at SWMHC and the work that will be involved with moving offices. The board directed Myers to contact Sentence to Service to see if they might be able to help out with moving furniture, etc. No compensation will be offered.

Discussion was held in regards to six FSA positions that were recently pointed on the Hay System. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to authorize Auditor/Treasurer Johnson to present recommendation as to where to place six new positions on the county matrix. This will be presented at the next board meeting.

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Commissioner Sorenson reported that he was recently involved in a conference call in regards to pandemic flu funding. Sorenson reported that the State Community Health Advisory Committee (SCHAC) would be making a recommendation to the Minnesota Department of Health in regards to how they think the funding should be split amongst the counties. The money received will be used specifically for planning/drills.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to office hours at the Family Service Agency. It was suggested that these hours be reviewed at the next board meeting at Family Services.

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Commissioner Kuecker gave an update to the board in regards to some of the expenses that were paid last month.

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There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant