

April 25, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 25, 2006 at 1:00 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, Gary Sorenson, Chuck Severson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Jan Voit, Bruce Nagorske, Gerald Engstrom, Klay Walinga, Chuck Dewanz, Carl Nehlsen, Neal Grunewald, Jason Purrington, Darren Kelvig, Mike Hanson, Kathy Marsh, Pete Brand and Carol Brand. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 11, 2006 meeting as amended.

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Heron Lake Watershed District Administrator Jan Voit met with the board to give an update in regards to the Heron Lake Watershed District and to present the annual report. Voit also reported on some events that are currently being worked on and will be held in the upcoming months.

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Discussion was held in regards to five Family Service Agency positions that needed to be added to the county pay scale after being pointed on the Hay System. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson presented a proposed pay scale for each of the five positions. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to change Child Protection Assessment/Investigative Specialist proposed pay scale so that the starting salary is \$32,130.84/year. Johnson will adjust the pay scale accordingly to reflect this change. After the adjustment is made, this individual will be on Step 7 of the 2006 pay scale.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority.

Gerald Engstrom presented the preliminary report for the proposed improvement of JD #5 for review. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept preliminary engineers report as presented for JD #5 and to appoint Jim Weidemann, Bill Moldestad and Duane Bendixen as the three viewers for this project based on their acceptance.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and to reconvene as the County Board.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington and Darren Kelvig, Ethanol 2000, met with the board to discuss some security concerns the federal government has with the ethanol plants in regards to security measures that should be in place should the President ever declare a "red" alert on all petroleum and ethanol plants. Kelvig

informed the board that Ethanol 2000 is in the process of changing some of their current security measures. The board suggested that Kelvig work on the security plan of Ethanol 2000 so that he can get a better understanding of how the county might fit into the overall plan. The board does not want to commit to something that the county cannot deliver.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign renewal of maintenance agreement for the 911 system with GeoCom in the amount of \$3,296.18. This agreement is effective May 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few different items. Hanson presented two quotes for the purchase of a new color printer. After much discussion, the board directed Hanson to get a little more input regarding the two quotes. This will be discussed again at a future meeting.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to allow Hanson to hire Ashley Anderson, Micah Rupp and Alex Skarset as 3rd year seasonal employees for 2006.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit for the construction of a building site in Carson Township based on six conditions mentioned and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission. This building site will consist of a residence and garage, storage shed, and screen house on property located in the shoreland area of the Watonwan River.

Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve disbursement request for recently awarded AgBMP loan funds in the amount of \$56,000.

Hanson reported on some potential changes to the Zoning Ordinance that will be considered at a public hearing on May 18, 2006 at 7:00pm.

Motion by Severson, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve agreement that County Attorney Doug Storey drafted to be sent to Dennis Johnson with correction as stated.

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Extension Office Manager Kathy Marsh met with the board to give an update in regards to the temporary summer program assistant/clerical position. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to authorize hiring of Julianne Olson for this position. She will be working at the Extension Office from June 5th – August 25th.

Marsh reported that Elizabeth Tusa recently declined the position of 4-H Program Coordinator as she has since accepted a different position. The University has offered the position to another individual who has accepted the position and will begin on May 15th.

Veteran's Officer Pete Brand met with the board to inform them that he has decided to retire effective May 31st. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to accept letter of retirement with appropriate payout of benefits effective May 31, 2006.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to Interest-Based Bargaining and whether or not refresher training should be held for the individuals that will be involved in the process. The board agreed that they would like to start the process sometime in late June if possible. Lori Morrell will be contacted for assistance with the refresher training. The board will then need to consider who will be involved in the negotiating team.

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The board recently received a Workforce Investment Act Joint Powers Agreement from the Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council for consideration of approval. Because more clarification was requested, this will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

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Motion by Severson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to change the Commissioner's board meeting agenda deadline to the close of business day on Wednesday the week prior to a board meeting. Agendas will be posted by 9:00am on the Thursday prior to the next Tuesday's meeting.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the Board Administrative Assistant's current job description. Updated job description will be sent to the board members for their review before the next board meeting.

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Proposal for a Statement of Probable Cost was received from I & S Engineers & Architects, Inc. in the amount of \$1,200. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to hire I & S Engineers to proceed with giving the county a cost estimate for work to be done in the Commissioner's Room.

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Commissioner Severson gave a brief update in regards to conversations he recently had with a few parties that might be interested in purchasing the transit garage from the county if it ever becomes for sale.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update in regards to a recent Energy Board Meeting that he attended. He reported that the Metro Council and Energy Task Force have tentatively agreed to each commit \$20,000 to be placed into a fund to get things started and to get the power that is being generated here to the metro area.

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Motion by Severson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to pay bill in the amount of \$1273.92 (\$450 Safety budget and \$823.92 Commissioner's

budget) to Minnesota Safety Council for training that was held on April 11th.

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Commissioner Severson gave an update in regards to the Plum Creek Library System. He reported that due to automation system problems, Plum Creek Library System might approach each of the nine counties in the system in the upcoming months to ask for a one-time appropriation of \$20,000 to \$25,000.

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The board recessed the meeting at 4:38 pm to view and tour property owned by Jack Kelly that could potentially be used by the transit system for the storage of their vehicles.

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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