

March 1, 2005
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 1, 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 Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Chrystal Dunker, Ron Gregg, Gale Bondhus, Mike Hanson, Bill Thompson, Pat Basfield, Joe Oschwald and Cassie Carlson. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 22, 2005 meeting.

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Chrystal Dunker, Prairie Ecology Bus Center Executive Director, met with the board to present a short video clip and to give a 2004 update. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to appropriate \$1000 for 2005 to the Prairie Ecology Bus Center which is to be used to seek matching funds from the school districts in Cottonwood County for programs through the Prairie Ecology Bus Center.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Three quotes were received for airless paint sprayer and were as follows: Earl F. Andersen, Inc. - \$4,111.25; Vogel Paint & Was Co., Inc. - \$4,575.00; and Advantage Signs & Graphics, Inc. - \$7,150.00. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to purchase airless sprayer in the amount of \$4,111.25 from Earl F. Andersen, Inc. This sprayer will be paid for with leftover sign funds.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to hire Tiffany Berglund as part-time Clerk Typist II for the Highway/Solid Waste Department at Step 4 of the 2005 pay scale effective March 1, 2005. She will serve a 6-month probationary period.

Gregg informed the board that the 2004 Annual Solid Waste Report was mailed last Friday.

Discussion was held regarding the recent variance hearing for the proposed dairy. The board agreed that it would be fine for Gregg to be contacted for advice or as a consultant for questions regarding the road leading to the dairy.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the current way that Mark Marcy is being compensated for his work as Emergency Management Director. The board agreed that it would be best to issue Marcy a supplemental check for his Emergency Management hours, which would be separate from his deputy hours.

County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the hiring of Lisa Will as County Assessor Office Manager at Step 1 of the 2005 pay scale effective March 14, 2005.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to authorize approval of early pay run to New Star Sales & Service for recent computer purchases and installation in the Assessor's Office.

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Commissioner Kuecker reported on the values of the current County Transit building and Woven-n-Wood building. The value of the County Transit building is assessed at \$40,200 and the value of the Woven-n-Wood building is assessed at \$82,500. No further action was taken at this time.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to recess as the county board and to convene as the Ditch Authority to discuss a matter regarding the possibility of a private tile crossing two county tile systems by putting in a "T". Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns to allow the landowners involved to hook on branches of JD #20 & JD #6 and to put a "T" in the line as an outlet without imposing an outlet fee. Plan designs for this project will be provided to the County to be included in the records of the present ditch system. Voting aye: Sorenson, Oeltjenbruns, Holmen, Severson. Voting nay: Kuecker. Motion carried.

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

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few miscellaneous items. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize Hanson to submit a suitable bid to the City of Windom Parks Department for the 1998 TORO 3000-D lawn mower.

Hanson reported that the Planning Commission approved the conditional use permit for the quarry yesterday by a vote of 4-1.

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Bill Thompson & Pat Basfield met with the board representing MPCA to give an update regarding the Watonwan River Watershed. Cassie Carlson also gave a brief update regarding the GIS mapping that she will be working on.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow county to buy back copier from the insurance company for \$100. This is the copier that was struck by lightning at the Environmental Office.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to add Sheriff's Department gasoline bill to the monthly Commissioner warrants as a regular item to avoid finance charges.

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Commissioner Severson updated the board on a few informational items. He also mentioned that most of the surrounding counties have all appropriated funds for the Highway 60 project committee. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to appropriate \$200 to the Highway 60 project committee.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to adjourn as the county board and convene as the Ditch Authority. Petition was received by landowners of JD #15. The signatures of the required percentage of eligible acres were received. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept petition for application of improvement for open ditch on JD #15 and to appoint Jerry Engstrom as engineer for the project contingent on acceptance of work.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant