

December 18, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 18, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Norm Holmen. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Jane Hennagir, Gale Bondhus, Ron Gregg, Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith, Sherry Sevcik and Kathy Kretsch. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the December 11, 2007 meeting as amended.

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Jane Hennagir, Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) Account Executive, met with the board to give a power point presentation on Joint Exercise of Powers as part of MCIT's on-site risk management training.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to discuss a few different items. Bondhus presented a change request for the 2008 budget due to equipment that she is requesting for the Assessor's Office. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to increase 2008 Long Term Capital Outlay Fund for the Assessor's Office from \$6,000 to \$15,500.

Bondhus asked for consideration of promoting Lisa Will and moving her from Appraiser to Deputy Assessor based upon further completion of training. Bondhus reported that Lisa recently received her income designation, which will allow her to do commercial work as well. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to move Lisa Will from Step 6 of the Appraiser position to Step 3 of the Deputy Assessor position effective December 16, 2007.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow County Assessor to get quotes for equipment that was requested for 2008.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several different items. He reported that the recycling contract is up for renewal and after meeting with a few representatives with Murray County, he recommends signing the Tri-County Recycling Contract for one year while reevaluating the county's recycling program and looking at different options. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize County Engineer to renew recycling contract with Tri-County Recycling for 1-year period.

Gregg gave an update in regards to the GIS project website. He reported that Schneider Corporation recommended that the Beacon website be opened to the general public to monitor the counter traffic to see if there is a drop in counter service. Information in regards to this will be given out to some of the realtors in the area.

Discussion was held regarding pushing snow into the right-of-way. Gregg has some concerns as this can cause harm to the drivers as well as the equipment. He asked that the Sheriff's Department be allowed to hand out citations for this activity. After much discussion, the consensus of the board was to allow the Sheriff's Department to issue a warning to people that push snow into the right-of-way followed by a citation if necessary.

Gregg presented an outstanding landfill bill in the amount of \$4,830.30 + finance charges for Springfield Amoco for the board's review. Eric Erickson, owner of Springfield Amoco, asked for some price reduction to help defray the cost of the cleanup not covered by the Petrofund. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to reduce the billing to \$1,877.98 based on what the Petrofund will pay and to refigure the finance charge for 1-year based on this amount with payment to be paid in full by January 15, 2008.

Gregg requested that the Road & Bridge 2007-2008 budget be amended to reflect the purchase of the motor grader approved with 2007 budget dollars be paid in 2008. The amount of the motor grader plus tax is \$149,587.77. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to amend 2007 & 2008 budgets to reflect this change and to pay for motor grader in 2008.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few different items. Hanson reported that the ISTS grant pilot program has been extended for 1-calendar year and there are still 33 individuals that are eligible for \$500 incentive funds. The new due date for the final report is February 15, 2009. Motion by White, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow for the 1-year grant extension.

Hanson gave an update regarding Talcot Park. He reported on some of the sites that have been upgraded with 50-amp service and electric meters. He informed the board that Red Rock Rural Water is all hooked up and should be ready to go this spring.

Brief discussion was held regarding mowing contracts. The board agreed that mowing contracts would need to be put up for bid for the upcoming season. Hanson also reported that he is looking to get a new pickup off the state bid.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Hanson to attend Minnesota State Mining Conference on February 7-8 in St. Cloud.

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County Recorder Kathy Kretsch met with the board in regards to the statewide marriage index system and the work that will be involved with entering the data. After discussing the situation with the two Deputy Recorder's, it was determined that Nancy Macgregor would be interested in entering the data if she were allowed to work overtime. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to amend 2008 County Recorder's budget to reflect \$5,000 change from part-time seasonal help to overtime.

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Commissioner Sorenson reported on some questions that he asked Lisa Onken of the Southwest MN Housing Partnership in regards to the regional

application for Healthy Homes Single Family Rehabilitation. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Holmen to sign Cooperative Agreement for Multi-County Healthy Homes Project.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to set the final 2008 levy certification at \$6,240,000.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept 2008 final budget with proposed changes made at today's meeting.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to set the 2008 Commissioner salary at \$18,500 with Board Chairman to receive an additional \$500 and to keep the per diem rate at \$65.00 for 2008.

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Discussion was held regarding the grievance that was received from the AFSMCE unions. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Holmen to draft letter with the assistance of the County Attorney in response to the union's grievance dated December 13, 2007.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to set January 2008 meeting dates as follows: January 8th, 15th and 29th.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize Sheriff Purrington to sign renewal of annual Fire Alarm Detection and Fire Sprinkler System inspection contract for the jail.

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Discussion was held regarding the digitizing of ditch system blue prints. This will be discussed in more detail at the January 15th board meeting.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to pay all 2008 AMC dues, which include \$6,346 to Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC), \$632 to Local Public Health Association (LPHA), and \$537 to Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administration (MACSSA).

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Holmen to sign agreement with The McDowell Agency to provide background check services for Cottonwood County.

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Commissioner White gave a brief update regarding RSVP and reported that the numbers are looking good.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant