

August 5, 2008  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 5, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman John Oeltjenbruns. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners John Oeltjenbruns, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Linda Fransen, Margaret McDonald, Tom Wickie, Marilyn Erickson, Loy Storey, Steve Nasby, Ron Gregg, Dennis Johnson, Ron Schramel, Tim Lindemann, Jim Kartes and Holli Arp. Absent was Commissioner Sorenson. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the July 22, 2008 meeting.

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Linda Fransen and Margaret McDonald met with the board representing the Cottonwood County Historical Society. They presented an overview of the accomplishments of the past year as well as submitted their 2009 appropriation request for consideration of the board. No action was taken at this time.

Tom Wickie gave an update regarding the roofing project at the Historical Society and asked that the board consider giving additional funding towards the project. No action was taken at this time.

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Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong presented 2009 proposed budgets for the Commissioners, Transit System and the Safety Program. Motion by Holmen, second by White to discontinue the gopher bounty and to delete it from the Commissioners budget. Voting as follows: Aye – Holmen, White, Oeltjenbruns. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution of Sponsorship from Sponsoring Agency  
08-08-05A**

Whereas: The City of Windom, MN is not a State Aid City and not eligible to apply for State Transportation Funds (Bridge Bonding) without being sponsored by Cottonwood County, and

Whereas: The City of Windom requests sponsorship from Cottonwood County for the proposed bridge replacement Project.

Be it resolved that Cottonwood County agrees to act as sponsoring agency for a Local Road Improvement Project identified as S.A.P. 17-597-01, replacing Bridge No. 3960 on 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, in the City of Windom, and has reviewed and approved the Project as proposed. Sponsorship includes a willingness to secure and guarantee the local share of costs associated with this

project and responsibility for seeing this Project through to its completion, with compliance of all applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Be it further resolved that Ronald Gregg is hereby authorized to act as agent on behalf of this applicant.

S/John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gregg asked that the board approve the purchase of a used 1993 tandem truck for use at the Cottonwood County Landfill at a price of \$24,500. After much discussion, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen to allow Gregg to purchase the used tandem truck for an amount not to exceed \$23,000. Voting as follows: Aye – Kuecker. Nay – Oeltjenbruns, Holmen, White. Motion failed.

Gregg presented a quote for the purchase of a desktop computer and monitors for the Highway Department. Because Gregg was unsure whether the quote was off the state bid and a local quote was not obtained, no action was taken at this time.

The board authorized Chairman Oeltjenbruns to sign the contract for the Southbrook Township Bridge Replacement project.

It was mentioned that the new amount for having to get bids is \$100,000 instead of \$50,000.

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Ron Schramel and Tim Lindemann met with the board to ask for consideration of an ingress/egress easement for a home located at 860 13<sup>th</sup> Street in the City of Windom. Lindemann would like to construct steps on the outside of the home to provide a private access to the apartment unit located on the top floor of the home. These steps would be located on the north side of the home and will run from the top floor downward and ultimately terminate on the southern part of a lot owned by Cottonwood County. After much discussion, the board asked that more options be presented before any action would be taken.

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Extension Regional Director Holli Arp met with the board to present the 2009 proposed budget for the Extension Office.

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County Attorney Doug Storey met with the board to present an amended STS contract for their consideration. The amendment is due to cuts in funding for STS as was enacted during the last legislative session. The contracts for STS crew services in Cottonwood and Jackson Counties needs to be amended to reflect a 25% state, 75% county funding ratio if they are to keep full-time STS crews in both Cottonwood and Jackson counties. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to enter into amended contract with the Minnesota Department of Corrections for an amount of \$85,148.37 contingent upon participation of Jackson County.

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Commissioner Kuecker gave updates on a few miscellaneous items. He reported that he was recently contacted about some possible misuse of the

dumpster at Dutch Charlie Park and the Sheriff's Department has since been asked to look into the matter.

Kuecker asked that a closed session be held during the next meeting to discuss upcoming labor negotiations.

Update was given regarding some information Kuecker obtained regarding short-term and long-term storage of manure.

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Commissioner White reported that he talked to Mike Hanson in regards to the pop machines and he was told that the Pepsi machine is taken care of by Pepsi and the Coke machine no longer exists.

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Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow for partial payment in the amount of \$4,500 to Dallas Smith for remodeling work done at the North 71 County Office Building.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve adoption of revised Policy Number 120 "Health and Life Insurance for Active Employees" as the 30-day posting period has expired and no comments were received.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**2009 Transit Grant Application  
Resolution 08-08-05**

Resolved that Cottonwood County enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota to provide public transportation service in Cottonwood County.

Further resolved that Cottonwood County agrees to provide a local share of 15% of the total operating cost and 20% of the total capital costs.

Further resolved that Cottonwood County authorizes the Transit Coordinator and the Auditor/Treasurer to execute the aforementioned Agreement and any amendments thereto.

S/John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

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Brief discussion was held regarding the use of the county website for the bidding process. This will be discussed more at a future meeting.

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Two quotes for new doors at the North 71 County Office Building were presented as follows: Quality Glass - \$12,739.69 and Fairmont Glass & Sign - \$11,800. No action was taken at this time. Commissioner White has agreed to get some clarification in regards to the requirements of the doors.

Commissioner Kuecker gave an update regarding postal options for the North 71 County Office Building. After much discussion, the board decided to do some further research on a few of the options that were mentioned.

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Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Oeltjenbruns to claim a per diem for attending Farmfest as he will be working in a booth as a representative of the Clean Energy Resource Team (CERT).

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Chairman Oeltjenbruns gave an update about the recent meeting between Commissioner Sorenson, Mark Marcy, Todd Dibble and himself regarding Emergency Management. This will be discussed more in the upcoming weeks as budgets are presented.

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It was reported that the MCIT dividend for 2008 would be \$84,683 as compared to \$84,278 for 2007.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson updated the board on a few miscellaneous items. He reported that there is currently a vacancy on the Executive Committee of the Southwest West Central Service Co-op if any of the commissioners are interested. This is a 3-year term.

Johnson informed the board that counties and other political subdivisions or agencies of local government might soon begin requiring employees to use direct deposit for payroll checks.

It was reported that a bill from Computer Technology Solutions in the amount of \$2,000 was received as a result of assistance needed with the set-up of the county firewall.

Brief discussion was held regarding the county budget for 2009 and the recent levy limits imposed on the county. This will be discussed more in the upcoming weeks.

Johnson reported that Fleet Services recently contacted him in regards to the vehicle lease through the Veterans Office. The board agreed to continue to monitor the usage of the vehicle for the next few months and to make other departments aware of the potential use of the vehicle.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant