

April 10, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 10, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Law Enforcement Center 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; Gerald Engstrom, Neal Grunewald, Conrad Heggeseeth, Kevin Heggeseeth, Jan Voit, Dianne Beens, Kristi Sell, Swantje Willers, Laura Sandmeyer, Matt Arlandson, Elaine Lolkus, Jenny Quade and Mike Hanson. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2007 meeting.

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Commissioner White reported that he is planning to attend the MnDOT transportation meeting in St. Peter on April 13th if anyone is interested in going along.

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Commissioner Holmen reported that he recently attended an Extension meeting and the University of Minnesota is proposing a rate increase of 3.5% for 2008 for the Extension Educator position.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority to open bids for the JD #5 project. Three bids were received as follows: Nickel Construction - \$29,725; Minion Excavating - \$39,044.50; Conrad Heggeseeth - \$36,406.75. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to award low bid in the amount of \$29,725 to Nickel Construction.

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

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Commissioner Sorenson reported that interviews were recently held for the Extension summer clerical intern position. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to hire Hilary Graff as summer intern effective May 29, 2007.

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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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Dianne Beens, Advertising Consultant from the *Citizen*, met with the board to ask whether or not the county would again be interested in placing a ½ page ad in the Cottonwood County Visitors Guide that is published yearly. This will be billed at a rate of \$75/month from April through September for a total of \$450. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the ad in the Visitors Guide in the amount of \$450.

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Jail Administrator Kristi Sell met with the board to ask permission to hire a part-time jailer/dispatcher who was recently re-interviewed from a previous interview process less than 6 months ago. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to hire Patrick McCarty as part-time jailer/dispatcher effective April 16, 2007.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Todd Dibble, Veterans Service Officer, to receive a 6.5% increase effective February 26, 2007 as his 6-month probation period has ended.

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Commissioner Kuecker reported that the Family Service Agency union has not yet signed their union contract for 2007-2008. Commissioner Oeltjenbruns will call Family Service Agency Director Craig Myers to discuss this further.

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Swantje Willers, Laura Sandmeyer and Matt Arlandson met with the board representing the Sentencing to Service (STS) Program to seek approval of a two-year contract. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to approve STS Contract in the amount of \$71,613 for the period from July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2009.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve April warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 75,123.67
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 11,920.25
County Building Fund	\$ 62.56
Ditch Fund	\$ 1,985.98
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 52,260.32
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 5,297.15
Landfill Enterprise Fund	\$ 14,866.15
TOTAL	\$161,516.08

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Kelly Thongvivong to add two units to the new workstation in her office and to accept the quote from Dan's Office Supply as they received the quote for the rest of the workstation.

Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few different items. He presented two quotes as follows for the purchase of a computer upgrade in his office: New Star Sales & Service - \$851.61 and Davis Typewriter - \$846.61. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to accept quote from New Star Sales & Service as they are familiar with the current system but to recommend getting 1 gigabyte of RAM instead of 512MB.

Hanson informed the board that the Environmental Office received a number of complaints regarding manure spreading and spilling from Leo Olsem's dairy operation in Section 5 of Southbrook Township. Hanson has been in contact with MPCA in regards to this situation and he will start the process of addressing the issue.

Hanson updated the board in regards to three homes and the motel that are located on the Northeast side of North Highway 71 that have their own individual septic treatment systems. It seems that none of these systems will meet present day code requirements. Due to a number of factors including lot size, setbacks, well location, and others, a complying septic systems will not fit on these properties. Hanson reported that he is working with the City of Windom to come up with a solution but it appears that the best option might be the annexation of these properties.

Hanson presented information in regards to the funding that is currently available for low interest loan money for septic system upgrades.

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Discussion was held in regards to tax abatement and whether the county needs to develop a written policy. After much discussion, the consensus of the board was to follow the state statute in regards to this issue and not to develop a written policy.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that he would like authorization to hire another full-time employee in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office. Johnson was asked to bring his request to the next board meeting, as it was not listed as an agenda item for today's meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant