

December 29, 2009
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 29, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Gary Sorenson. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey, Todd Dibble, Jason Purrington, Wayne Brede and Ron Gregg. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the December 22, 2009 meeting as amended.

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Veterans Service Officer Todd Dibble met with the board to give an update regarding the status of an Enhancement Grant that he recently applied for. Dibble reported that the county would be receiving \$3,000 for advertising purposes and that he planned to use the funds for print and radio ads.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to present quotes for a track kit for the ATV that can be purchased with remaining funds (\$4,426) from the DNR ATV grant that the county received. The two quotes were as follows: Windom Farm Service - \$4,350.94 and Doug's Sports Center - \$4,501.09. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept the low quote in the amount of \$4,350.94 from Windom Farm Service for the purchase of a TIGER TRAX XGENIII kit for the 2007 Arctic Cat 500 ATV.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns to set 2010 salary and per diems the same as 2009, which is \$18,500 with the Chairman to receive an additional \$500 and \$65/day for per diems. Voting as follows: Aye – Kuecker, Oeltjenbruns and White. Nay – Holmen. Motion carried.

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Discussion was held regarding the possibility of imposing a tax on aggregate mined in Cottonwood County. County Attorney Doug Storey will do some further research on this matter as to how to best proceed.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to write-off self-funded insurance balance in the amount of \$-104,858.04.

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Brief discussion was held regarding Emergency Management position. The commissioners will plan to review the applications throughout the week.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve payment in the amount of \$17,750 to Carter Construction for the Family Service Agency remodeling project, which will be paid for out of the Building Fund.

Commissioner Kuecker expressed his thoughts in regards to AMC dues. Kuecker feels that Family Services and Community Health Services should pay for their own portion of the AMC dues. This will be discussed with each agency.

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Wayne Brede met with the board to get feedback from them in regards to the salary range assignments. Brede also handed out information pertaining to the outcome of the benefits review that he completed for the county. A meeting will be set up in the near future to discuss the pay study process with all Department Heads.

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As per Minnesota Statutes, the County Board is required to set the minimum salaries for elected county officials who will be elected in 2010 and take office in January of 2011. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to set full-time minimum salaries as follows: County Auditor/Treasurer - \$40,000; County Recorder - \$33,000; County Sheriff - \$40,000; County Attorney - \$40,000.

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Commissioner White expressed his interest in possibly attending the upcoming U-LEAD Advisory Academy, which consists of 8 different sessions. The registration is \$1,055. White will try to find out further information to present at an upcoming meeting.

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Brief discussion was held regarding parking at the N. 71 County Office Building and designating certain areas for the vehicles to park that are left overnight so that snow can be cleared more easily.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to declare that the county offices were officially closed all day on Thursday, December 24th due to inclement weather conditions and in accordance with County Policy Number 420.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to set 2010 final budget as presented. (See attachment to minutes)

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Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to adjourn as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority at 12:30 p.m.

A draft copy of a letter and plan of action regarding ditch buffering enforcement was reviewed. The board needs further clarification before any action will be taken.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve and set ditch levies as presented by Commissioners in respective districts.

There being no further business, there was a motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority at 12:50 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant