

February 26, 2008
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 26, 2008 at 1:00 p.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; Andy Olson, Mark Marcy, Ron Gregg, Kay Clark, Jason Purrington and Mike Hanson. Absent was Commissioner Gary Sorenson. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 12, 2008 meeting.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve adoption of revised Policy Number 386 "Resignation/Termination" as the 30-day posting period has expired and no comments were received.

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Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign addendum (Termination Agreement) for administrative services between Cottonwood County and Hanratty and Associates for flexible spending accounts for the county.

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Brief discussion was held regarding a Social Security meeting that will be scheduled in the upcoming weeks that will be offered to the public.

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Andy Olson met with the board to discuss his concerns regarding home foreclosures and the Homeowners and Bank Protection Act. He handed out information to the board pertaining to the Lyndon LaRouche Political Action Committee and stated that he would like the county to consider adopting a resolution in support of the Homeowners and Bank Protection Act.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss several different items. Marcy presented two quotes for the purchase of a wireless internet card as follows: Pro Cellular - \$59.99/month + contract and activation fee; Sprint - \$41.00/month with no contract required. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to purchase wireless internet card for \$41.00/month from Sprint for 4-month trial period and to report back to the county board in 3 months for update.

Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to apply for EMPG grant for 2008.

Marcy gave an update regarding the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) grant.

Marcy updated the board on upcoming training that would be held in the Windom area over the next several months as well as talked about the recommended Homeland Security Training Requirements that the county board is encouraged to participate in. Marcy also reported that Severe Weather Awareness Week is April 21-25 this year.

Brief discussion was held regarding recent news articles relating to FEMA trailers.

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Kay Clark met with the board representing the Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC & D) to present an application submitted on behalf of Cottonwood County Solid Waste for the planting of trees along the landfill property in the hopes of reducing wind in that area. It was reported that the Soil & Water Conservation Board has already approved the application. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the grant application to RC & D on behalf of Cottonwood County Solid Waste.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Gregg presented the 2007 Annual Report for the Cottonwood County Highway Department.

Quotes for 2008 appliance recycling were presented as follows: Eagle Appliance Recycling - \$10/appliance; R & S Appliance Recycling - \$4/appliance; SW Recycling - \$5/appliance. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to award low quote to R & S Appliance Recycling at a rate of \$4/appliance.

Gregg presented adjusted rates for TV and computer disposal at the landfill as well as rates for fluorescent lamps and bulbs. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to amend prior motion made by Kuecker to approve adjusted rates as presented with one change to rate charged for compact fluorescent bulbs. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve rates as presented and to accept compact fluorescent bulbs for free at the landfill.

Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the Highway Department's purchase of gas in the amount of \$59.75 on the county credit card. This purchase was made on February 22, 2008.

Gregg reported that he is working on a revised 5-year construction plan that he will forward to the board for their review when it is completed.

Quotes for the purchase of a new copy machine for the Highway and Solid Waste Departments was presented as follows: Davis Typewriter - \$5,919 + tax; New Star Sales & Service - \$6,102 + tax. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept the low quote in the amount of \$5,919 + tax from Davis Typewriter.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen to allow Chairman to sign Option Agreement for easements for a gas pipeline that will run through Pat's Grove.

Brief discussion was held regarding a situation that happened a few weeks ago with one of the employees at the Highway Department. Gregg reported that no action has been taken, as he does not feel that the situation relates to a performance issue. Commissioner Holmen will plan to meet with this individual along with Ron Gregg to let him know that his actions were not appropriate.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few issues. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign renewal of Geo Comm agreement for map maintenance and software support at the Sheriff's Department. This years contract agreement has increased \$466 from last years contract bringing the total to \$3,716. Geo Comm has recorded over 160 hours of map maintenance and software support.

Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept Tim Jenniges' resignation as part-time jailer/dispatcher effective February 21, 2008 with appropriate payout of benefits.

Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Purrington to post internally for 7-day period. The applicants who applied for the part-time jailer/dispatcher position that was recently advertised will be considered for this position as well.

Discussion was held regarding a Dangerous Dog Ordinance that is in the process of being worked on. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss several different items. Hanson presented two bids that were received in response to the advertisement for quotes to maintain and mow five county parks. Allen Rahn of Rahn's Lawn Mowing Service submitted a bid of \$13,500 for all five parks. Gloyd Wellman submitted a bid of \$9,900 for all five parks. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$9,900 from Gloyd Wellman for the mowing of five county parks.

Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Hanson to advertise for seasonal park workers for the 2008 season.

Hanson reminded the board that the variance and conditional use hearings for Glen Graff would be held on February 28th.

Hanson reported that based upon the information received from the Wind Energy Meeting held on February 11th and from other Planning and Zoning Administrators, he feels that Cottonwood County should update the Wind Energy Towers and Facilities Section of Zoning Ordinance No. 28. Once this is completed, by resolution and written notice to the Public Utilities Commission, the County may assume responsibility for permitting wind energy conversion systems of less than 25,000 kilowatts. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to authorize the Planning Commission to begin the process of updating the wind tower ordinance.

Brief discussion was held regarding a past letter from the Minnesota Department of Revenue and if any further action needs to be taken by the board.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to move Jolaine Mielke from probation to permanent full-time status effective March 1st and to grant her a 1-step increase, as she has successfully completed her 6-month probationary period as Senior Transit Driver.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign Letter of Understanding regarding the county's audit and who will be conducting it.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve Commissioners' attendance at the April 23rd workshop entitled "The Bullet Proof Mind" Psychological Preparation for Combat that will be held at the Community Center in Windom.

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Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign RSVP Joint Powers Agreement.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson gave a brief update regarding the Southwest West Central Service Cooperative Joint Powers Board. He reported that he would plan to contact an individual about giving a presentation at an upcoming meeting in regards to the structure of this board.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant