

August 23, 2005
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 23, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Chuck Severson, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Diana Anderson, Jan Voit, Melanie Luinenburg, Ross Behrends, Leroy Peterson, Kelli Daberkow, Dan Dols, Andy Olson, Chuck Wolff, Marlene Smith, Mary Ann Anderson, Dominic Jones, Mike Hanson, Kay Clark, Ron Gregg and Gale Bondhus. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2005 meeting as amended.

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Diana Anderson, Development Director of SW Minnesota Foundation, met with the board to give an update presentation. Anderson reported that 174 grants and 29 loans were awarded in FY 2005. She also mentioned that two new community fund partnerships were established bringing the total to 13.

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Jan Voit met with the board representing the Heron Lake Watershed District to give an update presentation. It was noted that the Heron Lake Watershed District encompasses approximately 472 square miles.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow for payment of Craig Myers' recent use of vacation time based on negotiations at the time of hire. These vacation hours will be deducted from his accumulating vacation time. Myers has agreed to not use any more vacation time during his 6 months of probation. If he should leave prior to the 6 months, he will pay the money back to the county.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to enter into agreement between Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust and Cottonwood County for the services of FirstLab to administer MCIT's Drug and Alcohol Testing Program. The term of this agreement will commence on October 1, 2005.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept quote for an amount not to exceed \$3500 from B & W Control Specialists (formerly Lawn Manicurists) for tree and brush control on the dam at the Schoper Bush Reservoir. This quote is for spraying both inside and outside of the dam.

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Dominic Jones and Kelli Daberkow met with the board representing Red Rock Rural Water. They explained the different phases of the 2005 – 2006 expansion project and asked for the approval of a resolution and joint powers agreement in regards to this project. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 05-08-23

WHEREAS, the multiple county rural water, Red Rock Rural Water System, is in the process of and anticipates the extension of its water supply system for the service of an additional _____ users in the counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Watonwan, Murray, Lyon, Redwood and Martin; and

WHEREAS, the expansion water source and treatment plant are located in the County of Cottonwood, and a large number of users to be included in the proposed expansion are residents of Cottonwood County; and

WHEREAS, in order for the extension project to be financed, it will be necessary for the responsible county or counties to issue bonds necessary to fund the expansion in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 and to enter into joint powers agreements with other counties within the expansion system to govern the repayment of said bonds; and

WHEREAS, because the expansion water source and treatment plan are located in the County of Cottonwood, and a large number of users to be included in the proposed expansion are residents of Cottonwood County, it would be prudent and in the best interests of Cottonwood County and its rural water users to be the issuing county of said bonds necessary to fund said expansion project.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Chairman and the Auditor shall be authorized to execute the joint powers agreement relative to the Red Rock Rural Water expansion project, authorizing Cottonwood County to issue bonds necessary to fund said expansion in the amount of \$5,000,000.00 and to have said joint powers agreement governing the repayment of said bonds; said joint powers agreement being executed with the understanding that the other counties served within the expansion project, Jackson, Watonwan, Murray, Lyon, Redwood, and Martin, will also join in said joint powers agreement.

S/Jan Johnson, County Auditor/Treasurer

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution Pertaining to Joint Powers Agreement
Red Rock Rural Water System
2005 Expansion Bonding
Resolution 05-08-23A**

The County Commissioners of the County of Cottonwood, State of Minnesota, at its duly convened meeting and pursuant to discussions had, and pursuant to motion of Commissioner Sorenson, and seconded by Commissioner Oeltjenbruns, duly resolved as follows:

Hereby approved Joint Powers Agreement among the Counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Watonwan, Murray, Martin, Lyon and Redwood and directing the Chairman and/or Clerk/Auditor

to execute the Joint Powers Agreement relative to the Red Rock Rural Water System expansion, and authorizing Cottonwood County to issue the necessary interim financing bonds and long-term financing bonds to fund said system expansion and to have said Joint Powers Agreement govern the repayment of said bonds; said Joint Powers Agreement being executed with the understanding that the Counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Watonwan, Murray, Martin, Lyon and Redwood would all be parties to this Agreement.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to present his 2006 proposed budget for various departments within the Environmental Office. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to amend 2005 Schoper Bush budget to show reflection of increase in the amount of \$3500 by adding new line item 01-606-6275 "Professional & Technical Services".

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to amend 2005 Environmental Planning & Zoning budget to show reflection of increase in the amount of \$13,000 by adding new line item 01-604-6275 "Professional & Technical Services". The \$10,811 that was budgeted in line item 01-604-6354 will now be changed to \$0.00.

Hanson reported that there would be a public hearing in regards to the county comp plan on September 26th at 7pm in the DNR building meeting room.

Brief discussion was held in regards to office space at the County Office Building.

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Kay Clark met with the board to present an RC & D application that was submitted for approval from the City of Storden for the updating of playground equipment. The request is in the amount of \$2,500. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the project proposal as submitted.

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County Attorney Storey met with the board to present his 2006 proposed budget for the Attorney's Office. No significant changes were noted.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to present his 2006 proposed budgets for the Highway Department, Recycling and Landfill.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow for trade of a Caterpillar 963C Track Loader with two additional options in the amount of \$187,595 based upon Gregg's recommendation. This will be a 2006 expenditure.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to promote Tiffany Berglund from part-time Clerk Typist II to full-time Clerk Typist II effective August 23, 2005.

Gregg gave a brief update in regards to CSAH 3, CSAH 7, overlay projects, Storden Township Bridge, and the upcoming bridge replacement project on CSAH 10 in Germantown Township.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to grant Kevin Donahue's request for continuation of health and life insurance benefits during the term of his military leave and to pay out any remaining military, vacation, sick, holiday, and personal leave hours to his family after his deployment.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to present her 2006 proposed budget for the Assessor's Office. No significant changes were noted.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous roll call vote (Commissioner Sorenson was absent) to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 05-08-23B to Authorize JOBZ Acreage Modification
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners**

WHEREAS, the Job Opportunity Building Zone (JOBZ) Program created in Minnesota Session Laws 2003, 1st Special Session, Chapter 21, Article 1 allows for the formation of tax free zones; and such zones were designated in Mt. Lake and across Minnesota beginning on January 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Parcel No. 22.033.0100 formerly in the NW Quarter of Section 33, Midway Township; now annexed into the City of Mt. Lake consisting of approximately 44 acres was designated as Mt. Lake Subzone 35 (Friesen Property); and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development allows JOBZ boundary modifications to promote expansion and relocation of industries within JOBZ communities; and

WHEREAS, a new business is currently interested in expanding and relocating to Mountain Lake and have expressed an interest in utilizing the JOBZ program; and

WHEREAS, the property where the new business is seeking to relocate is located outside of the designated JOBZ subzone boundary; and

WHEREAS, the JOBZ program is necessary to quickly bring a new business to the City of Mountain Lake and to create additional employment of local residents; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners at its meeting held the 23rd of August, 2005 request and supports the modification of Mt. Lake Subzones 35 and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners upon careful consideration and review, supports the boundary modification transferring 11.77 acres from the Northwest corner of Parcel No. 22.033.0100 to Parcel No. 12.003.0400, the formerly NW ¼ of Parcel No. 20, DOT Plat 17-7, Section 3, Township 105, Range 34, in Cottonwood County, MN containing 11.77 acres, which is in the process of being annexed into the City of Mountain Lake; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners approves the use of tax exemptions and tax credits within the designated zone, (subject to proper review and approval by the other appropriate taxing authorities within the zones), and encourages the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to approve this request.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Commissioner Oeltjenbruns informed the board that he would be conducting an exit interview on Wednesday with Becky Henderson from the Extension Office.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept appointment of Cindy Garcia (5th District) as a representative to the Extension Committee to fill out the remainder of the term.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Severson to sign 2006 Performance Base Maintenance Agreement with the Big Bend Snow Riders Club.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve job description and internal posting of Case Aide/Account Technician position.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant