

June 23, 2009  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 at 1:00 p.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, Nancy Sather, Marlene Smith, Millie Horkey, Evelyn Ray, Susan Horkey, Phil Johnson, Mary Ann Anderson, Buckwheat Johnson, Jason Purrington, Ron Gregg and Craig Myers. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, 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 June 9, 2009 meeting. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Equalization meeting.

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Nancy Sather, Botanist with the Minnesota County Biological Survey, met with the board to give a presentation regarding recent activities of the MN County Biological Survey.

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Millie Horkey and Susan Horkey met with the board in regards to their concern with the deposit of material next to their property on N. 71. They were informed that a letter warning that this property is in danger of becoming a nuisance has been sent to Phil Johnson and he will have thirty calendar days to remove, clean-up, move inside, or properly dispose of the material in question before further action is taken.

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Two quotes were received for signage of the 9<sup>th</sup> Street Office Building, which will be the new location of Cottonwood-Jackson Community Health Services in the near future. Because further clarification is needed on the quotes, no action was taken at this time.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few items. Purrington reported that he did not receive all of the information necessary for the approval of an agreement with the State of Minnesota in reference to the ARMER tower that is proposed being built in Mt. Lake.

Purrington presented three quotes to replace an existing air conditioning unit in the dispatch area of the Sheriff's Department as follows: Schwalbach's - \$3,840.00 (21 Seer – does not include electrical); Adrian's - \$5,935.00 (15 Seer – does include electrical); Elite - \$3,260.03 (13 Seer – does not include electrical). After much discussion and further clarification on two of the quotes, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept quote in the

amount of \$3,840.00 from Schwalbach's and to allow Purrington to obtain quotes for the electrical work that needs to be done and to accept the low quote.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Gregg reported on the performance issues and inefficiencies that have previously been addressed with one of the probationary employees in the Recycling Department. The probationary period for this individual was extended beyond the initial six-month period but the issues and inefficiencies addressed have not yet been resolved. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to terminate Tom Baumgard effective June 23, 2009.

Gregg reported that the land lease agreement between MnDOT and Cottonwood County for the tower construction at the Mt. Lake Highway shop property needs additional information before a final document is prepared.

Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign renewal with MnDOT for rental of Storden Highway shop. The rental rate to be paid by MnDOT will be \$250 for the 1<sup>st</sup> year and \$275 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year with an option for rental the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> year at a rate of \$315.

Gregg presented four bids that were received for the Safety Improvement Projects SAP 17-605-21 and SAP 17-613-41 as follows: M & R Excavating - \$84,699.18; CSI - \$89,931.90; SMC - \$64,313.50; Duininck Bros. Inc. - \$84,856.70. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept low bid in the amount of \$64,313.50 from SMC.

Discussion was held regarding a recent accident that occurred south of Mt. Lake as well as whether or not the recycling committee would like to meet again after the results of the recycling survey are received.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow the Red Rock Sportsmen's Club to build a fishing pier at their expense on county property and then to have the Red Rock Sportsmen's Club take care of the maintenance of the pier. The county will then assume ownership and liability of the pier. County Attorney Doug Storey will draw up the contract.

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Discussion was held regarding interviews that were recently held with four firms that submitted a proposal for a countywide pay study. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept the proposal from Wayne Brede to conduct a pay study for the county for a cost not to exceed \$23,700 pending reference checks.

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Reminder was given regarding upcoming SRDC Annual Meeting on July 9<sup>th</sup> and AMC Conference on August 12-14<sup>th</sup>.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to set Craig Myers' salary at \$85,680 effective June 1, 2009 reflective of his additional duties

as Jackson County Human Services Director. Half of the 2009 Total Director Budget of \$124,505 will be paid by Jackson County.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to request that all Department Heads present to the board a mid-year budget report (January – June) with the exception of Family Services as they already present a monthly report to the board. These meetings will be scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings in July.

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Commissioner White gave an update regarding the new Community Health Service building and the painting that is currently being done. Mike Hanson will be contacted to see if someone from the Parks Department might be available to help move the RSVP office to Family Services. Permission was given to purchase a baby changing station for the restroom at the new CHS building.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that he received a survey in regards to Region 8 meetings asking whether or not the board would like to continue meetings and if so if they would like to hire a facilitator. The board agreed that they didn't feel the need to continue with the meetings.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns reported that DAC has removed all of their equipment from the transit garage.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant