

August 8, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 8, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Ron Kuecker. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Chuck Severson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Gerald Engstrom, Duane Bendixen, Glen Ward, Neal Grunewald, Nanno Schoneman, Jim Weidemann, Clay Roll, Carl Nehlsen, Bruce Axford, Emily Axford, Bruce Nagorske, Klay Walinga, Ron Gregg, Mark Marcy, Brian Pederson, Jean Johnson, Sherry Pankratz, Mary McLaughlin, Priscilla Jacobson, Kathy McWilliams, Ruth Steinfeldt, Alvin Dick, Donna, Hanson, Marlene Smith and Jason Purrington. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 1, 2006 meeting.

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Motion by Severson, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority to hold final acceptance hearings on JD #15 and JD #5.

Gerald Engstrom presented the Final Construction Report for the improvement of JD #15 and reported that the construction of the project was completed in July 2006. He informed the board that during the construction of the project it was determined that it would be better to construct the project one foot below the original tile line grade to allow for construction erosion sediment and better outlet clearance for the branch lines entering the open ditch. A change order was issued for this grade change. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve final payment of this project in the amount of \$8,291.54 to Conrad Heggseth.

Much information and correspondence was handed out to the individuals in attendance for the JD #5 Final Hearing. After much discussion in regards to the communications received from DNR, the board agreed to direct Commissioner Holmen and Gerald Engstrom to get together with Tom Kresko to address the concerns DNR has in regards to the JD #5 improvement. No further action was taken at this time due to DNR objections of the project.

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

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to present his budget and to discuss several items. Gregg presented budgets for Road Maintenance, Road Construction, Waste Abatement (SCORE), Landfill, Administration and Equipment Maintenance & Shop.

Gregg gave an update in regards to the follow-up on the MPCA landfill concerns. He reported that MPCA would forgive the violation of the contingency plan not being on the premises. However, a fine of approximately \$4,000 will be imposed for other violations such as staking and coverage of MSW. Gregg will forward the letter from MPCA when he receives it.

Gregg requested that the board give him approval to purchase the used tandem truck (Unit 47) from the Highway Department for the landfill. This is a 1989 International tandem truck with an estimated value of \$8,500. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve the purchase of the used tandem truck from the Highway Department for the landfill.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to sell the existing tandem truck at the landfill using sealed bids and to sell as-is.

Gregg gave brief updates in regards to the Mt. Lake Outlet Structure replacement project as well as the Mt. Lake Bike Path.

Letter was received from Mike Schmidt, Highway Department, asking that the board consider granting him a 6-month medical leave and to continue to pay the county portion of the monthly health care premium. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to authorize Mike Schmidt 6-month medical leave as requested. This leave will begin on August 19th.

Gregg left information for the board in regards to current project updates.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to present the 2007 proposed budget for Emergency Services.

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Brian Pederson, Southwest Initiative Foundation, met with the board to give an annual update and to talk about some of the things the organization is involved with.

Jean Johnson and Sherry Pankratz also met with the board representing Early Childhood Family Education to show their appreciation of how funding received from the Southwest Initiative Foundation has helped their programs to reach more families in Cottonwood County.

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Mary McLaughlin and Priscilla Jacobson met with the board representing Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP). They gave an update and introduced four (Kathy McWilliams, Alvin Dick, Ruth Steinfeldt and Donna Hanson) of the many volunteers that work to make this program such a success. They also asked that the board consider their request in the amount of \$15,817 for 2007 funding. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve RSVP 2007 appropriation request in the amount of \$15,817.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported that the library levy for 2007 is \$54,913, which is distributed amongst the three libraries of the county.

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Marlene Smith, Assistant Environmental Officer, met with the board for consideration of recommendation of the Planning Commission for approval to construct a Buddhist Temple in Section 18 of Rosehill Township. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit for the construction of a Buddhist Temple granted to Somporn Saepimmasone based on conditions mentioned (with a slight change to condition #2) and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to let them know that the new boat that was purchased through a DNR grant was ready to be picked up. Purrington also informed the board that the cost of the original quote was slightly higher so a different boat with more equipment included was purchased instead. Purrington asked that the board consider issuing payment for this purchase in the amount of \$21,359.01 so that the boat can be picked up.

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

**2007 Transit Grant Application
Resolution 06-08-08**

Resolved that Cottonwood County enter into an Agreement with the State of Minnesota to provide public transportation service in Cottonwood County.

Further resolved that Cottonwood County agrees to provide a local share of 15% of the total operating cost and 20% of the total capital costs.

Further resolved that Cottonwood County authorizes the Transit Coordinator and the County Auditor/Treasurer to execute the aforementioned Agreement and any amendments thereto.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer
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S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman
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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve July warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$279,472.78
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 9,854.10
County Building Fund	\$ 1,195.53
Ditch Fund	\$ 3,411.52
Road & Bridge Fund	\$121,989.44
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 7,551.71
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 9,730.56</u>
TOTAL	\$433,205.64

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Discussion was held regarding the Deputy Veteran's Service Officer job description. The board agreed that they would like to wait until the new Veteran's

Service Officer begins his duties to see if anything on the job description may change. No further action was taken at this time.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority for preliminary discussion on County Ditch 15. After much discussion in regards to the matter, it was determined that further research needs to be done before proceeding.

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

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve 2007 appropriation to Cottonwood-Jackson Community Health Services in the amount of \$122,632.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to request by I & S Engineers & Architects to see the mechanical plans for the Courthouse so they can better proceed with their proposal for the remodeling project in the Commissioner's Room. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson will contact Alissa Swenson to discuss this further.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to advertise county bus for sale using sealed bids. This will be coordinated with the Highway Department as they also have some equipment to sell as well.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve payment of VISA bill in the amount of \$381.58 for equipment purchased by the Extension Office.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve payments to Center Stop in the amount of \$83.12 and Holiday Inn in the amount of \$391.75 for purchases made through the Assessor's Office.

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Commissioner Sorenson gave an update in regards to the Storden City Council meeting that he and Auditor/Treasurer Johnson attended the day before. After much discussion, there was a motion by Severson, second by Holmen to authorize Auditor/Treasurer to prepare tax-forfeited buildings for demolition. Voting as follows: Aye: Severson, Holmen, Kuecker, Oeltjenbruns. Commissioner Sorenson abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns updated the board in regards to tax-forfeited property in Mt. Lake. After much discussion, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to instruct Auditor/Treasurer to conduct private sale to adjacent landowners of the tax-forfeited property by sealed bid.

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Chairman Kuecker handed out some information that was recently compiled in regards to insurance coverage of peer counties that can be used for comparison purposes and may be useful for Interest Based Collective Bargaining.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to sign agreement with Government Management Inc. Group for cost-allocation plan for next two years at a cost of \$3,575/year.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant