

September 8, 2010  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Special Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. The sole purpose of this meeting was to conduct a Loudermill Hearing at the request of Greg Johnson. This meeting had originally been scheduled for August 25<sup>th</sup> but was later postponed per request of Greg Johnson and all media was properly notified of the change. Presiding over the meeting was Vice-Chairman Ron Kuecker. Chairman Tom White excused himself from attending the meeting due to a possible conflict of interest. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Greg Johnson, Dan Birkholz, Rahn Larson, Jason Purrington and Susan Hanson.

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County Attorney Doug Storey explained the purpose of the Loudermill Hearing and reported that Greg Johnson was provided a Loudermill Hearing Notice on August 12, 2010 informing him that the county board was contemplating disciplinary action which could include termination. The Loudermill Hearing is an opportunity for Greg Johnson to be able to tell his side of the story. Storey reported that the County Board has received copies of the criminal complaint that has been filed by LaMar Piper as well as the Investigative Report that was prepared by Deputy Jeff LaCanne.

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Dan Birkholz, counsel for Greg Johnson, presented information to the board that he felt the board did not already know. He stated that Greg Johnson began working for Cottonwood County in 1990 as a part-time seasonal employee. He is currently in charge of the parks. Greg likes his job and has held this job for 20 years. In 1997, Greg went back to school to obtain his septic license and in 2009 obtained his boiler license.

Birkholz referred to a calendar that is used by the Environmental Office to mark off days for vacations, etc. Greg had originally blocked off November 9<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> as vacation but Greg didn't take off on November 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> as planned. He claimed four regular work days and one sick day for the period of November 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> on his time sheet. Greg took November 13<sup>th</sup> off as a sick day as he wasn't feeling well. Birkholz mentioned that Greg has had ongoing issues with his sciatic nerve. Birkholz did admit that Greg travelled to Missouri on November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Birkholz stated that once Greg Johnson became aware of his mistake, he made sure the hours were corrected. Birkholz stated that mistakes are made on time cards. When questioned when Greg Johnson believes he became aware of the mistake, Dan Birkholz stated that Greg found out sometime in January or February 2010 after reading minutes from a county board meeting.

Birkholz asked that the board keep an open mind until getting this issue resolved.

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There being no further business, there was a motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 1:23 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Vice-Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant