

July 22, 2008  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 22, 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, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Liz Maiers, Mark Marcy, Marlene Smith and Ron Gregg. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by White, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the July 8, 2008 meeting as amended.

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Liz Maiers met with the board representing the Southwest Initiative Foundation to give an update and to thank the county for their continued support of the program.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to give a power point presentation in regards to Emergency Management and to explain the duties and responsibilities involved with the program.

Marcy reported that an EOC grant application would not be submitted at this time due to lack of time necessary to prepare the application.

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Assistant Environmental Officer Marlene Smith met with the board to ask approval for three individuals (Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith and Greg Johnson) to attend the Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers Annual Conference, which will be held October 21-23 in Alexandria. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to allow these three individuals to attend the Conference.

Brief discussion was held regarding a recent telephone call that was received by Commissioner Sorenson about the stockpiling of manure. Copies of rules and regulations will be forwarded to the board.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg reported that the Civil Rights Department of MnDOT has verified that the low bidder for the Southbrook Township bridge replacement project has satisfied the DBE goal for the project. Bids that were opened on July 7<sup>th</sup> were as follows: Minnowa Construction, Inc. - \$819,082.50; Duinick Bros. Inc. - \$812,168.00; Structural Specialties - \$803,594.62; Robert Schroeder Construction - \$857,101.40; M & K Bridge Construction - \$878,902.00; Graves Construction - \$919,906.36. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to award the low bid for Project SP 17-599-86 in the amount of \$803,594.62 to Structural Specialties.

Gregg presented the results of two bids for the snowplow equipment for the new tandem truck as follows: Aspen Equipment - \$81,089.00; Crysteel Truck Equipment - \$81,550.00. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to award low bid in the amount of \$81,089.00 to Aspen Equipment.

Gregg reported that the City of Mt. Lake has requested that the Cottonwood County Highway Department complete the design and plan preparation for the Mt. Lake Bike Trail. The estimated cost of the design and plan preparation is approximately \$8,000. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow the Cottonwood County Highway Department to complete the design and plan preparation for the Mt. Lake Bike Trail at an estimated cost of \$8,000, which is to be paid for by the City of Mt. Lake and/or the Mt. Lake Lake Commission.

Brief discussion was held regarding the recent request to use the county website for the bidding process. This will be discussed more at the next board meeting.

Discussion was held regarding a possible request for an easement of property adjoining the County Highway Department in Windom. Because this was not on the agenda, no action was taken.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 08-07-22**

**In support of the completion of the expansion of Trunk Highway 60 to a four-lane from the City of Windom to the City of St. James**

**WHEREAS**, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners is committed to the best interest of the citizens of Cottonwood County and the surrounding communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Trunk Highway 60 is a major transportation artery for the commerce in southwestern Minnesota and provides a vital economic link from the Twin Cities metropolitan area to Interstate 90 and communities adjacent to it; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Transportation **Southwest Minnesota Regional Freight Study** (September 2007) covering Trunk Highway 60 states that "If current agricultural trends continue, freight traffic in Southwest Minnesota will potentially grow by 200 percent by 2030, or double the statewide rate"; and

**WHEREAS**, energy development of ethanol and wind power is a vital state and national interest and these industries are economic engines for Southwest Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Transportation states that Trunk Highway 60 from Iowa to Mankato is a key roadway due to its importance to the region's and State's economy for ethanol plants and shuttle elevators; and

**WHEREAS**, the two-lane to four-lane switch over between St. James, Butterfield, Mountain Lake, Bingham Lake and Windom has caused significant safety issues for motorists, and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Transportation acknowledges that most traffic fatalities occur in rural Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, 15 traffic fatalities have occurred on Truck Highway 60 between Windom and St. James, which is more than the fatalities caused by the tragic collapse of the I-35W bridge in 2007; and

**WHEREAS**, the reconstruction of Trunk Highway 60 to a four-lane highway has been identified as a priority in the State of Minnesota for over 40 years, and the Minnesota Department of Transportation has designated Trunk Highway 60 as Regional Transportation Corridor in the State of Minnesota; and

**WHEREAS**, the four-lane section of Trunk Highway 60 between the cities of Worthington and Windom was completed in 2004 and significant portions of the highway between the Cities of Windom and St. James have already been converted into a four-lane highway; and

**WHEREAS**, the transportation network serving this area is a lifeline connecting many farm and businesses to outside suppliers and customers; and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the best interests of the City of Windom, and the State of Minnesota, to complete the expansion of Trunk Highway 60 to four lanes between the City of Windom and the City of St. James.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS FOLLOWS:**

The Board of Commissioners on behalf of the citizens of Cottonwood County supports the prioritization of completing Trunk Highway from the City of Windom to the City of St. James as a four-lane highway; and further requests that the funding be immediately allocated by the State of Minnesota for the completion of this highway.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

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Chairman Oeltjenbruns informed the board that he received a letter from Clifford and Alice Koons regarding the action that was taken at the Board of Equalization meeting in June.

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Two quotes for painting of the North 71 County Office Building were received as follows: Dave Borsgard - \$2,800 and Curt Fast - \$8,005. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$2,800 from Dave Borsgard.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow for payment in the amount of \$480 to be made to Curt Fast for painting of two rooms at the North 71 County Office Building.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Commissioners to claim per diems for attendance at the following meetings: SWCD Annual Tour on 7/23/08, Highway 60 meeting on 7/24/08, Bureau of Mediation Meeting on 7/25/08 and Red Rock Rural Water System Seminar on 7/29/08.

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Discussion was held regarding mail delivery and postage machine for the North 71 County Office Building. Commissioner Kuecker agreed to do some research on this matter.

Update was given regarding air conditioning and telephone systems at the North 71 County Office Building.

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Update was given regarding STS positions in Cottonwood and Jackson counties. This will be discussed more at the next board meeting.

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Brief discussion was held regarding JD #11 in Dale Township. Commissioner Holmen will let Kendall Ptotter know that the board approved an amount up to \$1,300 for expenses involved with the relocation of outlet pipe and widening of waterway.

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Chairman Oeltjenbruns reported that he received a letter regarding the rehabilitation of houses in the Mt. Lake area.

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Commissioner Sorenson gave a brief update regarding the 2009 Extension budget and reported that Holli Arp would be presenting it to the county board next month.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson gave an update regarding the tax-forfeiture properties in the Westbrook area and the preliminary meeting involving the State Auditors.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:18 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant