

June 25, 2013  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 25, 2013 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, Jim Schmidt, Kevin Stevens, Tom White, Norm Holmen; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Linda Meschke, Jason Purrington, Kathy Kretsch, Gordy Olson, Kay Clark, JinYeene Neumann, Kyle Pillatzki, Alan Coners, Glenn Johnson, Randy Baker, Dave Bucklin and Mike Slater.

Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2013 meeting.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson met with the board to ask for approval of a resolution for notice of public sale of tax-forfeited lands. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows and to set the basic sale price of each parcel on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land #14 (on file in the Executive Assistant/HR Office) at a minimum value of \$50.00:

**Resolution 13-06-25**

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF TAX –FORFEITED LANDS**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT** the parcels of land described in List of Tax-Forfeited Land #14 that is contained herein shall be sold to the highest bidder at public sale. The sale will be governed by the provisions of M.S. 282.01 and by the resolution of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners authorizing such sale. The resolution reads as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that all parcels of the tax-forfeited land listed on list of Tax-Forfeited Land #14 be classified as non-conservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #14, that is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of this land be granted, pursuant to M.S.282.01; that the sale will be held at 10:00 A.M., September 18, 2013 by the Cottonwood County Auditor at the County Courthouse for not less than the basic sale price; and that all sales shall be full payment or on the terms set forth on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #14

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the conditions and terms of the public sale shall be described in the list contained here-in and approved by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners.

Information about the sale of tax-forfeited land in Cottonwood County can be obtained at the office of the Cottonwood County Auditor/Treasurer Cottonwood County Courthouse 900 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave, Windom, MN 56101. Telephone (507) 831-1905.

Given under my hand and official seal at Windom, MN., this 25<sup>th</sup> day of June 2013.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to set the minimum value of the two properties (one property in Mt. Lake and one property in Jeffers) on the list for DNR at a minimum value of \$50.00.

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Linda Meschke met with the board representing Rural Advantage to give an update regarding the South Central MN Food Policy Council. The purpose of this council is to bring together stakeholders from diverse food-related sectors to examine how the food system is operating and to develop recommendations on how to improve it. Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Martin and Watonwan counties are the five counties currently involved. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

#### Resolution 13-06-25A

#### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL FOOD SYSTEMS

**WHEREAS**, representatives from Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Martin, and Watonwan counties have been meeting and discussing food policy issues during the past eighteen months to assess the region's food environment and identify priority food issues; and

**WHEREAS**, south central Minnesota has some of the most productive soils in the world that allows crops to be grown efficiently and cost effectively for food, fiber and fuel and then distributed across the world; and

**WHEREAS**, the food *consumed* in the region is generally imported from thousands of miles away; and

**WHEREAS**, the development of sustainable local food systems can result in a healthier population, stronger local economies and more vibrant rural communities.

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that Cottonwood County supports the development of vibrant local food systems that achieve the following principles:

1. Strengthen the local economy
  - a. Support the creation and diversification of additional small family farms for the production, distribution and sale of local foods.
  - b. Businesses that produce, process, distribute, and sell local grown, healthy food should grow and thrive in south central Minnesota.
  - c. Encourage policies and procedures that promote local food production, sales, processing and distribution.
2. Empower residents
  - a. Enhance access for individuals or businesses to address gaps in local food processing, storage and distribution infrastructure by encouraging and allowing access to local economic development resources.
  - b. Support consumer purchasing and consumption of local grown food through county policies and processes.

- 3. Actively support access to healthy food for all
  - a. Research shows significant gaps between what people are eating today and what USDA recommends.
  - b. Support enterprises that bridge those gaps.
  - c. All residents in our area should have enough to eat and access to affordable, local, healthy, sustainable, culturally appropriate food.
  - d. Encourage businesses to utilize menu and health product labeling techniques to identify healthy food options.
  
- 4. Promote awareness of best practices for food usage
  - a. Increase awareness and encourage people to minimize and/or recycle food waste.
  - b. Integrate food waste management into the decision making process of composting or recycling.
  - c. Explore alternative re-uses for food waste.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners approved this resolution at their regular board meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2013.

S/John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

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Commissioner Schmidt gave an update regarding the Plum Creek Library System direct billing and also had some thoughts regarding what the state of Florida recently passed regarding mandatory drug testing for applicants of welfare benefits.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve payment in the amount of \$1,492.95 to Lorri Cole for painting of the new Probation Office at the Law Enforcement Center.

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Discussion was held regarding the vacant position in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson expressed his concerns about the pay matrix not reflecting the starting wage he feels this job is worth. He would like the board to give consideration of changing the matrix of the Deputy Auditor/Treasurer position so that it is the same as the Appraiser position.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few items. Purrington asked the board to approve the hiring of two part-time jailer/dispatchers. Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to hire Craig Kneeland and Austen Smedsrud as part-time jailer/dispatchers contingent upon successful completion of all hiring requirements.

Purrington reported that he received notification from the state that the Next Generation 911 contract is due to expire the end of this month and he would like the board to consider extending the contract. Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow for an extension of the \$10,000 grant for the Next Generation 911 upgrade to reflect a new contract date of June 30, 2013 – June 30, 2014.

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Purrington asked that the board give special approval for the payment of three invoices. All of these invoices are as a result of grant money needing to be spent by the end of the month so that reimbursement can be received. The invoices were for the purchase of a bank radio charger, an ATV course and skis that hook up to tires on a trailer. Motion by Schmidt, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve the payment of these three invoices.

Purrington and Glenn Johnson, Director of Information Systems, talked to the board about an ID system that the Sheriff's Office is interested in purchasing. This ID system could be used for such things as gun permits, permits to carry, employee ID cards, Emergency Management, etc. Purrington and Johnson feel that this would be a good investment for the county.

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County Recorder Kathy Kretsch met with the board to ask permission for the two employees (Nancy Macgregor and Susan Horkey) in the Recorder's Office to work 10 hours/week of overtime between the two employees to back index the documents in the Recorder's Office. The purpose for this will be to make searches in the future much easier and to save time. Kretsch stated that there is currently \$65,000 in the Technology Fund, which can only be used by the Recorder's Office for real estate matters. Kretsch reported that overtime hours is an appropriate use of these funds. Motion by White, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve up to 10 hours/week for overtime in the Recorder's Office, which will be paid for out of the Technology Fund and not the Recorder's budget.

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Gordy Olson, Interim Planning & Zoning Administrator/Parks Director, met with the board to discuss a few items. Randy Baker was present to discuss some issues he has been having with a septic system on the property he is trying to sell in Rosehill Township. The plan will be to have the septic system re-inspected in the next few weeks to see if it is compliant.

Discussion was held regarding Mountain Park Road. Olson asked for approval to have the County Highway Department upgrade the entrance road to Mountain Park and create a new parking lot. The entrance road to Mountain Park is in poor condition. Deep ruts have been created and vehicles travel all over the park. Vehicles have been climbing the hills and have created an erosion problem as well as an eyesore. Olson's recommendation is to repair the road, create a new parking lot near the shelter house and limit vehicle traffic to the road and parking area. The engineer's estimate was \$9,400 not including the placement of posts. After further discussion, the board decided to expend funds to improve the gating, put new gravel at the entrance and around the mountain and to get rid of the toilets that are a safety concern.

Olson reported that the two estimates received from Ron's Electric for upgrades to Talcot Park were \$2,345 to split up the number of sites running on one breaker and \$3,795 to convert sites 41 to 51 from 30 amp to 50 amp service. The board agreed to get this work completed and to take the funds out of Capital Improvement.

Brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of the City of Windom taking over Dynamite Park from the County. It seems that the only issue right now would be the restrooms.

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Kay Clark, SWCD Administrator, met with the board to give an update on the status of Lloyd Kalfs and reported that Alan Coners will be helping out with septic systems in the interim for Cottonwood County and there may be help from others in the area as well.

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County Engineer, JinYeene Neumann, met with the board to give an update regarding the microsurfacing project. She reported that work began yesterday on CSAH 15. Neumann also reported to the board that the total cost of the project would be approximately \$58,608 more than was originally anticipated due to an error with the figures used.

Neumann reported that the City of Windom has agreed to pay the electrical bill each month for the street lights at Windom Industrial Park (intersection of TH 71 & CSAH 15) that will be erected as part of the project. MnDOT has agreed to furnish two 40' poles and the county has agreed to pay for the LED lights, concrete bases, directional boring and miscellaneous labor and materials for hook up. The estimated cost is \$5,410.00. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the costs that the county has agreed to pay towards this project.

Neumann reported that the closing date to receive applicants for the Heavy Equipment Operator position in the Westbrook shop is June 28<sup>th</sup>.

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Kyle Pillatzki, Landfill Supervisor, met with the board to discuss a few different items. Pillatzki asked that he be allowed to have a booth at the fair to promote recycling in Cottonwood County and to purchase some items for use in the booth. The board agreed that it would be a good idea and told him to go ahead with his plans.

Pillatzki introduced Mike Slater, Tri County Equipment Sales, as he was present to answer any questions the board had about the possible purchase of a compactor for the landfill. The following quotes were presented as follows: Ziegler/CAT (used CAT 826H Landfill Compactor) - \$303,000; Ziegler/CAT (used CAT 816F II Landfill Compactor) - \$267,500; Tri County Equipment Sales (Al-Jon Advantage 500 Refurbished Landfill Compactor) - \$245,000; Tri County Equipment Sales (Al-Jon Advantage 500 Refurbished Landfill Compactor) - \$255,000; Tri County Equipment Sales (Al-Jon Advantage 500 Factory Certified Remanufactured Landfill Compactor) - \$369,000. Tri County Equipment Sales also agreed to allow \$12,500 for a trade-in of the 1984 CAT 953 crawler loader with just over 10,000 hours. After much discussion, there was a motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow for the purchase of the Al-Jon Advantage 500 Factory Certified Remanufactured Landfill Compactor from Tri County Equipment Sales at a cost of \$369,000 and a trade-in of the 1984 CAT as agreed by both parties for \$12,500. Slater also agreed to supply the purchased landfill compactor with new cleats upon delivery. Commissioner Schmidt and Pillatzki agreed to work together on the possible financing options for this purchase.

Pillatzki obtained a verbal quote from GCC (Ready Mix) for the purchase of concrete blocks that the landfill would use to build bunkers for Demo, tires and garbage drop site for homeowners to drop off at instead of having them dump back at the working face. The quoted price was \$50 a piece and Pillatzki would like to purchase approximately 50 of them. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow for the purchase of the concrete blocks in the amount of \$2,500.

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Commissioner Stevens gave an update regarding the law library and the deficit that they are currently facing. The suggestion of the Law Library Committee would be to increase the law library fee. Motion by Stevens, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to increase the law library fee from \$5 to \$10 effective July 1st.

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The board was informed about an informal general gathering of prayer that will be held by the big rock on the north side of the courthouse beginning Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup> from 5:00-5:30pm on Wednesdays for eight weeks. This will be a time of prayer and there will be no preaching of any kind involved.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant