

February 2, 2010
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 2, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Tom White. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Ron Gregg.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the January 26, 2010 meeting.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to review the upcoming construction projects for 2010, which include reconstruction of CSAH 13 from Windom to CSAH 1 (Federal Aid Project), Mt. Lake Trail around Mt. Lake and along CSAH 44 (Federal Aid Project), Reconstruction of CSAH 9 from TH 60 to CSAH 44 and one township bridge project.

Gregg reported that one of the individuals that were recently chosen for the Heavy Equipment Operator position did not meet all of the requirements. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to hire Roger Ambrose as a Heavy Equipment Operator for the Windom Shop on Start of the 2010 pay matrix effective February 16, 2010 after all of the requirements of the position have been satisfactorily met.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to waive ½ of the tipping fee at the landfill for upcoming spring city-wide cleanups throughout Cottonwood County.

Brief discussion was held regarding a conversation that Commissioner Holmen recently had with Representative Rod Hamilton in regards to FEMA emergencies for snow removal.

Commissioner Holmen had a question in regards to the recycling committee and whether or not a meeting has been held recently.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Mike Harrington a 1-year extension on the current lease of approximately 100 acres of land adjacent to the landfill as the current lease allows for an option of a 1-year extension.

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Commissioner Holmen presented a draft copy of a letter to be sent out to landowners who are currently in violation of the state statute regarding the Open Ditch Law. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to send the letter to approximately 13 parcels in regards to the Open Ditch Law. A second letter regarding the property owners Plan of Action will be sent out at a later date.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the hiring of Kimberly Hall as the new Emergency Management Director effective February 22, 2010 on Step 2 of the 2010 matrix contingent upon all requirements of the position being satisfactorily met.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of strengthening the county policy pertaining to drug testing for all new employees.

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Commissioner Kuecker gave an update regarding the Department Head meeting that was held last Thursday with Wayne Brede. As a result of the meeting, individual meetings will be scheduled for any Department Head that would like to meet with Wayne to discuss the results of the pay study.

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Commissioner Sorenson gave an update in regards to some information that he recently received in regards to monthly gas usage for a few of the departments.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the recent staff reduction at the Cottonwood County SWCD. Commissioner Kuecker will try to check to see what other counties are doing with their SWCD's in regards to funding concerns.

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Commissioner Holmen gave an update regarding the Legislative 101 Workshop that he recently attended in Mankato.

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Brief discussion was held regarding a few of the commissioner committee assignments. Robin Wies was appointed to the Southwest Mental Health Center Board of Directors.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Tom White, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant