

April 5, 2011
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 5, 2011 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, Jim Schmidt, Tom White; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Ron Gregg, Kay Clark, Gale Bondhus, Jan Voit and Elmer Wieneke.

Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 22, 2011 meeting. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2011 emergency meeting.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg intended to report on the status of an employee at the county landfill. However, he has not yet received a retirement letter from this individual as was previously indicated that he would. Brief discussion was held in regards to some of the options that Gregg might have with a few of the existing employees when trying to fill the Landfill Operator position. It was suggested that Gregg possibly utilize a recruiting company in the Mankato area if not able to fill the position internally.

Gregg reported that waste contracts for dumpster services at the Windom county highway shop and the Storden county highway shop were due to expire. Gregg reported that the Windom shop owns their own dumpster and the Storden shop rents their dumpster. Gregg received two quotes for services as follows: Waste Management - \$73.08/month without tax included (Windom shop) and \$46.23/month without tax included (Storden shop); and Hometown Sanitation - \$80.00/month with tax included (Windom shop). Hometown Sanitation was not ready to commit to providing services in Storden at this time. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen to approve 2-year contracts in the amount of \$73.08/month w/out tax (Windom shop) and \$46.23/month w/out tax (Storden shop) with Waste Management for dumpsters at two county highway shops. Voting as follows: Aye – Oeltjenbruns, Holmen, Schmidt and Kuecker. Abstaining from the vote was Commissioner White.

A letter that was received from a constituent regarding the condition of the recycling center at the county fairgrounds was read by the board members and Gregg. Discussion was held in regards to what needs to be done to get better control of the situation and questions were raised in regards to the utilization of sentence to serve more often. Gregg was asked to develop a written plan to present at an upcoming meeting of how he intends to handle the situation.

Gregg handed out a few articles for the board's review.

Kay Clark, GBERBA Coordinator, met with the board to request that the county board send a letter of support to Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust on behalf of the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance for membership into their organization as they need a member county to sponsor their request. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to send a letter of support to MCIT on behalf of GBERBA.

Clark reported that SWCD recently hired Lloyd Kalfs for the Water Resource Technician position at SWCD. He will begin his employment on April 25th.

Clark gave an update in regards to some of the things she has recently been working on with the Environmental Office and reported that she is hoping to develop some kind of a checklist relating to feedlots in the near future. Clark also reported that the county may lose \$8,000 to \$10,000 of funding because feedlot reporting was not done in a timely fashion for 2010.

Brief discussion was held in regards to septic systems and how some of these issues might be handled in the near future.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to request permission to seek quotes for new office furniture. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Bondhus to get quotes for a new desk as well as three new office chairs.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to make corrections to Resolution 10-07-13 as presented.

Much discussion was held in regards to Resolution 10-07-13 that was adopted last year establishing a tax on aggregate material removal and production. Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson was asked to send out the same information that was sent to the gravel miners last year to the townships and cities. Information regarding the new aggregate tax that will be imposed beginning this year will be posted on the county website and in the official county newspaper as well.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update regarding an RC & D meeting he recently attended. He stated that there is currently \$500 remaining in mini grants. Jackson County recently requested \$5,200 but a portion of this amount is currently being reviewed by the committee as a questionable designation. Cottonwood County recently received \$900 for trees and \$750 for grazing.

Oeltjenbruns asked that the board consider sending a letter of support to legislators asking that they fund RC & D for an additional year. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to send a letter of support.

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Jan Voit, Heron Lake Watershed District Administrator, met with the board to present the annual update. Voit reported that HLWD currently has 4 full-time staff.

A letter will be sent to Braun Corporation in regards to a replacement part that was ordered by Messer Machine for a wheelchair lift for one of the transit buses.

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Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve payment in the amount of \$31,152.50 to Elite Mechanical for 1/2 of the cost of the two air conditioning units that will be installed at the LEC in the near future.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve 2011 allocation to Regional Radio Board in the amount of \$2,974.73 from Cottonwood County.

Motion by Schmidt, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to amend the 2011 General Administration Revenue Fund budget by \$2,975.00 to reflect the allocation to the Regional Radio Board.

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Commissioner Holmen gave an update regarding a Planning & Zoning meeting he recently attended in Mankato. Holmen questioned whether the county has or needs to adopt a policy regarding the Public Retention Act. County Attorney Nick Anderson was asked to do some further research on this matter. He also questioned if there is a need for a Code of Conduct Policy.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Kuecker to sign lease agreement with Wyatt Bloch for the rental of property adjacent to the landfill with clause as amended.

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Brief discussion was held regarding JD #10 cleanout and a question that was raised by a landowner as to whether it may need additional repair. This individual will be asked to submit a request if it is in addition to the already advertised planned cleanout of JD #10.

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The priority list as submitted by the Commissioners will be further compiled and discussed at a future time.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to proclaim the week of April 10-16, 2011 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week.

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Chairman Kuecker gave an update regarding the Host/Hostess Program for Talcot Park that will be implemented this camping season. Kuecker reported that two applications were received for the position and interviews were conducted by Leslie Makovsky, Mary Duerkson and Kuecker. They felt that Dennis Trei and his wife would be an excellent candidate for the position as they have been longtime seasonal campers at Talcot Park. It was noted that Mary Duerkson also offered her assistance at Talcot Park when Dennis is not able to be there. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to refund the

2011 seasonal camping fees that Dennis Trei has already paid in exchange for agreeing to be the Host Camper for the 2011 camping season at Talcot Park.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the leases at the N. 71 County Office Building and when they are due to expire. Commissioner White agreed to review all of the leases and to put together a list of when they are all due as well as some additional information about each lease.

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It was noted that Minion Excavating is supposedly setting up equipment today to begin crushing the rock that was supposed to be completed by April 1st. If there is no action taking place yet this week, it will be discussed further at next week's board meeting.

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Commissioner Holmen gave an update regarding the status of a sub-committee meeting that was recently held regarding the Federal Labor Standards Act (FLSA). Holmen reported that the process is quite complicated and may not be as easy as he once thought it might be. Some employees feel that they are entitled to overtime and if overtime is taken away there should be an adjustment to their base salary. One of the commissioners voiced his thoughts that employees should not be compensated additional pay if overtime is taken away. It was suggested that perhaps part-time employees or other employees could be used in place of higher paid individuals that are getting overtime. It was agreed that the county needs to get a better handle on overtime as a whole which ultimately goes back to the Department Heads keeping overtime to a minimum. The consensus of the board was to have the sub-committee meet with pertinent Department Heads to see what they might be able to do to reduce the overtime pay by upwards of 50% within their departments. The committee will plan to meet within a few weeks to discuss this further.

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Brief discussion was held regarding lighting retro fit incentive information that Marv Grunig recently dropped off for the county's consideration. The city is offering a rebate for updating fluorescent lighting. The board suggested that the county apply for what has already been updated in the Assessor's Office at this time.

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A monthly trial balance was handed out for the board's review.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:18 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant