

August 14, 2007  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 14, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Norm Holmen. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Gale Bondhus, Jean Fast, Ron Gregg, Jason Purrington, Andy Olson, Jan Voit, Mark Marcy, Todd Dibble, Vicky Wagner, Marlene Smith, Leroy Peterson and Dustin Miller. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2007 meeting as amended.

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Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong presented 2008 proposed budgets for the Commissioners, Transit System, Blandin Seed Capital and the Safety Program.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus presented the 2008 proposed budget for the Assessor's Office. She reported that sometime in the near future, she might ask to advertise for a clerk hire position for her office.

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Jean Fast met with the board to present appropriation requests for Travel Southwest & Southern Minnesota Tourism Association. She asked that the board consider appropriating \$1400 to Travel Southwest and \$300 to Southern Minnesota Tourism Association. No action was taken at this time.

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Chairman Holmen reported on a few different items. He reported that the Senior Dining Community Luncheon would be held on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

Holmen updated the board in regards to some further research that was done regarding County Ditch 15.

Brief discussion was held in regards to employee recognition and if there are any funds available to help with such an event. Because the county does not currently have an established policy for employee recognition in place, no action was taken.

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Commissioner White reported that RSVP would be requesting an increase from \$1.30 to \$1.37 per capita for 2008. The 2008 total request will be \$16,669. This will be presented and discussed further at the next Family Service Agency board meeting.

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Commissioners Oeltjenbruns and Holmen gave an update in regards to a meeting they recently had with Mark Marcy and Todd Dibble regarding Emergency Management and how things seemed to be working.

\* \* \* \*

County Engineer presented the 2008 proposed budgets for the Landfill, SCORE and Road & Bridge.

Gregg asked for permission to use the county credit card to pay for room reservations in Ames, IA for the upcoming GIS Conference for five individuals. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to allow for the use of the county credit card to pay for the rooms that have been reserved in Ames, IA for the GIS Conference.

It was noted that a GIS budget should be developed and a new department should be established for this purpose.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to present the 2008 proposed budgets for the Sheriff's Department and the County Jail.

Purrington informed the board that five of the leased squad cars will be up for renewal this year but that one of those five has been extended for another year due to the low mileage.

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Andy Olson met with the board to voice his concerns in regards to the TMDL project. He wanted to know the status of Cottonwood County's involvement with TMDL.

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Heron Lake Watershed District Administrator Jan Voit met with the board to respond to Andy Olson's concerns in regards to the TMDL project.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss several different items. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept Emergency Management Performance Grant in the amount of \$7,642 and to allow Chairman Holmen to sign.

Marcy gave a quick update in regards to the disaster drill that was recently held in the Jeffers area. He reported that the first responders and other individuals involved did a great job.

Marcy reported that one of the deficiencies noted at the recent disaster drill was communication equipment. He requested that he be given permission to try out two handheld pagers within the Sheriff's Department on a trial period. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to try out two handheld pagers for a trial period and to reevaluate the need for pagers in January of 2008.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to apply for 2007 HMEP grant to hire instructor to host airplane/crash response school in Windom.

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Veteran's Service Officer Todd Dibble met with the board to present the 2008 proposed budget for the Veteran's Office.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson presented 2008 proposed budgets for Court Administration, Law Library, Ethanol, Auditor/Treasurer, Election, Courthouse and Building.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington and Deputy Sheriff Dustin Miller met with the board to present some information in regards to the potential of Cottonwood County getting a K9 Unit. The board authorized the Sheriff's Department to pursue funding and grant opportunities for a K-9 Unit.

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Chairman Holmen gave an update in regards to the Mt. Lake Ethanol plant. Holmen reported that Wendy Meyer is the key contact person for JOBZ within the area.

\* \* \* \*

County Attorney Storey commented regarding the County Ditch 15 situation, as he was not present when it was discussed earlier in the meeting. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson will contact Bill Modestad regarding the situation.

\* \* \* \*

Commissioner Sorenson gave an update regarding the preliminary figures from the architects for the new Southwestern Mental Health Center building to be constructed in Worthington. He reported that the Director of the SWMHC is checking into different grant dollars that might be available to help with the costs.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to authorize use of county credit card for the purchase of two digital cameras and two memory cards for the Assessor's Office.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve August warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$114,968.57
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 13,059.09
County Building Fund	\$ 3,824.02
Ditch Fund	\$ 495.50
Taxes and Penalties Fund	\$ 62.40
Road & Bridge Fund	\$197,289.36
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 7,311.36
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 18,888.58</u>
TOTAL	\$355,898.88

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve adoption of revised Policy Number 313 as the 30-day posting period has expired.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant