

November 4, 2014
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 4, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Jim Schmidt. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Jim Schmidt, Tom White, Norm Holmen, Kevin Stevens, John Oeltjenbruns; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; Kathy Marsh, David Bucklin, JinYeene Neumann, Jacqueline Knips, Sarah Anderson, Ron Kuecker, Susan Amundson, and Rahn Larson.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the October 28, 2014 regular board meeting as amended.

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David Bucklin, SWCD District Technician, met with the board to get approval for two Wetland Conservation Acts. The first Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision is for Lena and Willard Dick for property in section 3 of Lakeside Township. The application is wetland mitigation. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision with conditions as presented for Lena and Willard Dick of Lakeside Township.

The second Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision is for Sharon Pankonin for property in section 16 of Germantown Township. The application is for a ditch clean out. Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act Notice of Decision with conditions as presented for Sharon Pankonin of Germantown Township.

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Tom White, Commissioner, led discussion regarding MRCC (Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus) and their request for Cottonwood County's top five priorities for the 2015 legislative session. After much discussion, the consensus of the board is as follows: (1) distribution tax/levy limits, (2) Human Services – mental health, (3) trails, (4) build support for local road improvement program, and (5) drainage.

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JinYeene Neumann, County Engineer, met with the board to discuss a few items. Neumann presented the TH60 Detour Agreement and Resolution for using CSAH 1 and CSAH 16 for a detour while they construct the middle gap of TH60. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to accept the contract between The State of Minnesota DOT and Cottonwood County Detour Agreement for Trunk Highway No. 60 Detour and Resolution 14-11-04 as follows:

RESOLUTION 14-11-04

IT IS RESOLVED that Cottonwood County enter into Mn/DOT Agreement No. 06873 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for payment by the State to the County for the use of County State Aid Highway No. 1 and No. 16 as a detour route during the contract construction to be performed upon, along and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 60 under State Project No. 1703-70 (T.H. 60).

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairperson of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners and the Cottonwood County Engineer are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Adopted this 4th day of November 2014.

S/Jim Schmidt, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Neumann requested that five current Highway employees have their hourly wages raised to \$17.59 per hour due to being given permission to hire two new Heavy Equipment Operators at \$17.59 per hour. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns to set the wage of \$17.59 per hour, effective November 3, 2014, for the following Highway employees: Joel Grams, Joe Doblal, Kelly Brown, Alex Yonker, and Jeff Yonker. Voting aye – Holmen, Stevens, Schmidt, Oeltjenbruns. Voting nay – White. Motion passed. Neumann was also given permission to advertise if one or both of the prospective employees turn down the position.

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Jacqueline Knips, Parks and Trail Director, presented information regarding the sale of Highwater Park and Sara Park that was asked for by the board at the October 28th meeting. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to advertise for sealed bids for Highwater Park and Sara Park and set the bid opening for Monday, December 15th at 10:00 a.m.

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Sarah Anderson, Assistant Director – Senior Nutrition Program in Southern Minnesota, updated the board on the Senior Nutrition Program in Cottonwood County and reviewed the 2013 Annual Report for Region 8.

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Norman Holmen, Commissioner, requested the Board look at going on record to oppose the Waters of the U.S. as proposed. After discussion, motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Schmidt to sign the letter as presented opposing the Definition of Waters of the U.S. Under the Clean Water Act, Docket No. EPA-HQ-OW-2011-0880.

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Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve Plum Creek Library System Outreach Services Contract dated January 1, 2015, for a period of 12 months at a cost of \$1,000 per month.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, informed the board of a letter she received from The Remick Foundation stating that they would be allocating \$15,000 in grant funds to Cottonwood County the first week of January 2015 to be deposited in the SEED Capital Fund.

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Tom White, Commissioner, informed the board that the Cottonwood County A.C.E. office is pursuing other funding for A.C.E. to make the transition to the BARC building.

Norman Holmen, Commissioner, updated the board on the Emergency Communications Board meeting he attended on Wednesday, October 29, 2014.

Kevin Stevens, Commissioner, informed the board that he has contacted the City of Windom regarding the possibility of the city handling passports.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

James Schmidt, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, County Coordinator