

October 23, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 23, 2007 at 1:00 p.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; Karen Swenson, Andrew Roos, Jason Purrington, Ron Gregg, Pam Ella, Diane Ludvigson, Bob Pankratz, Anna Rasche, Sherry Sevcik, Gale Bondhus, Lisa Zuehike, Sue Amundson, Kathy Marsh, Dan Minion, Alan Wood, Steve Burdick, Kathy Kretsch and Diane Harder. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2007 meeting. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the October 15, 2007 emergency meeting.

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Karen Swenson, Director of Brown-Nicollet Community Health Services, met with the board to present the 2008 Food, Beverage & Lodging Contract and fee schedule. It was noted that there was a 5% increase to the fees excluding some of the seasonal events. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to enter into agreement with Brown-Nicollet CHS for 2008 contract and fee schedule.

Swenson also notified the board that Brown-Nicollet CHS would be having a meeting for all licensed establishments on November 7th at the LEC from 1:30-3:00pm and they are welcome to attend.

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Andrew Roos, Blue Cross Blue Shield representative, met with the board to clarify a few things in regards to some different insurance options that the county would like to make available to the employees. After much discussion and many questions being answered, the board agreed to terminate the self-funded insurance plan and to join the Southwest West Central Coop effective January 1, 2008. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize for the implementation of two plans through the Coop (one being the existing plan being offered to county employees and the other plan being a new VEBA plan (832) with a \$2,250 deductible.) Both plans will be offered beginning January 1, 2008. Informational meetings for all employees will be scheduled in the upcoming weeks.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to present four quotes for a K9 dog as follows: My Body Guard K9 - \$7,500; Bullocks K9 - \$9,500; K9 World

of Dogs - \$8,000; Quality K9 Concepts - \$7,000. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept quote from My Body Guard K9 in the amount of \$7,500 as Ramsey County deals through this kennel exclusively and \$500 training fee will be waived if dog is purchased through this kennel.

Brief discussion was held regarding recent approval to purchase four AEDs for the county. Purrington will be contacting Rod Dynes to see if he would be willing to sign off on the Medical Authorization form needed by Cintas to obtain the AEDs.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. He gave an update regarding the Mt. Lake Outlet Structure as well as the Mt. Lake Township replacement structure. After much discussion regarding two statutes that were recently reviewed by the County Attorney, there was a motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen to declare an emergency on Bridge L6509 in Mt. Lake Township. Voting aye: Oeltjenbruns, Holmen, Sorenson. Voting nay: White and Kuecker. Motion carried.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize the County Engineer to obtain quotes from vendors for the purchase of pipe for Bridge L6509 and to accept the low quote.

Gregg reported that an employee from the Solid Waste Department has decided to withdraw her resignation.

Gregg requested approval to purchase a UTV to be used in the Highway and the Solid Waste Department. He presented two quotes as follows: Worthington Sports Center, Inc. - \$11,404 and Jackson Sports, LLC - \$11,900. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson to accept the higher quote (2008 Polaris Ranger) from Jackson Sports, LLC in the amount of \$11,900 + tax & license based on features and functionality of this UTV. This purchase will be made with 2007 funds and will be removed from the 2008 budget. Voting aye: Kuecker, Sorenson, Holmen. Voting nay: White and Oeltjenbruns. Motion carried.

Gregg presented a request received for a clothing allowance for the non-union employees of the Highway Department. The request is for \$300/year to be used to purchase boots, jackets, jeans, etc. The board agreed to take no action on this request.

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Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve fund transfer in the amount of \$25,000 from the Auditor/Treasurer's Long Term Fund to the General Fund for GIS services.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to amend the Auditor/Treasurer's budget to reflect the transfer of \$25,000 to the General Fund.

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Commissioners Oeltjenbruns and Kuecker gave an update in regards to discussions they have recently had with a few individuals regarding new drainage ditch regulations. Kay Clark, SWCD, is hoping to have someone present some further information to the board before the end of the year.

A public informational meeting will be held on November 1st at 6:30pm regarding the Comfrey Wind Energy project for anyone interested in attending.

Commissioners White, Holmen and Oeltjenbruns are planning to be in attendance at the AMC district meeting on October 25th in Pipestone.

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Commissioner Kuecker gave an update in regards to a recent conversation he had with Larry Goeman in regards to the wind turbines and some questions that were asked at the last board meeting.

Kuecker reported that the Cottonwood County Historical Society has recently become the custodian of the old records from the Mt. Lake Hospital.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to write-off two outstanding loans through the Seed Capital Fund as follows: D & L Welding - \$18,118.92 and Sew Much More - \$1,788.68. The SRDC will be contacted to see if they might be interested in administering the remainder of the funds on Cottonwood County's behalf.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the Farm Credit building that is currently for sale. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant