

October 11, 2005
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 11, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Chuck Severson, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Linda Stuckenbroker, Jim King, Mary Ann Anderson, Mike Hanson, Craig Myers, Ron Gregg, Andy Olson, Karen Boysen, Gerry Engstrom and Conrad Heggseth. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2005 meeting.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson informed the board that the Truth in Taxation meeting is optional for Cottonwood County this year and that they would have to decide at the next board meeting whether or not they planned on holding the meeting in December. It was the consensus of the board to hold the meeting as planned.

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Farm Service Agency Director Linda Stuckenbroker met with the board to discuss the recent news that the Cottonwood County FSA office is one of 65 offices in the state being reviewed and considered for consolidation or closure. Stuckenbroker reported that John Monson, State Executive Director, has to have a recommendation by October 21st and then it will be taken under advisement in Washington by November 15th. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to send a letter of support to the State FSA Office objecting to the closing or consolidation of the Cottonwood County FSA Office.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to seek approval of a conditional use permit for Steve and Donna Gode. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit for the construction of a residence, garage and storage building within shoreland of an unnamed tributary of Mound Creek based on conditions mentioned and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

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Family Services Director Craig Myers met with the board to seek approval of the MFIP and CCSA Biennial Service Agreement, which is due October 15th. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve Biennial Service Agreement – Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) and Children and Community Services Act (CSSA) effective January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2007.

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to request approval of snow plow agreements for Jeffers, Westbrook and Mt. Lake. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to move acceptance of all three agreements. Each agreement shall terminate on March 31, 2006 however; the parties may extend the agreement on a yearly basis or modify the mile maintenance costs. The parties shall execute a new agreement if major terms of the agreement are to be changed.

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

County Revenue Fund	\$ 59,802.81
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 5,955.11
County Building Fund	\$ 4,583.41
Ditch Fund	\$ 4,712.56
Taxes and Penalties Fund	\$ 1,000.80
Road & Bridge	\$ 53,983.83
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 4,044.53
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 6,001.57</u>
TOTAL	\$140,084.62

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to adopt Cottonwood County credit card policy.

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Commissioner Kuecker reported on some work that he recently did to come up with a list of peer counties that Cottonwood County may want to use for comparison purposes as needed. Kuecker came up with a list of 7 counties that have a higher population than Cottonwood County and 7 counties that have a lower population than Cottonwood County. The board agreed that this would be a good list to work from when needing to obtain information from other counties.

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Andy Olson met with the board to voice his concerns and opinions in regard to the Heron Lake Watershed Board. He also asked that the county board consider appointing a new Commissioner liaison to sit on the Heron Lake Watershed Board. No action was taken.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority so that bids could be opened for the JD #15 improvement project. Two bids were received and were as follows: Jeffers Dray Line - \$27,344.50 and Conrad Heggeseth - \$21,133.90. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to award low bid to Conrad Heggeseth in the amount of \$21,133.90. The anticipated start date is October 17th and the completion date is November 18th.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and to reconvene as the County Board.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson presented two quotes for an Ithaca receipt printer and were as follows: ACS Networking Services - \$555 + sales tax; printersavings.com - \$585.81 + sales tax. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept low quote from ACS Networking Services for the purchase of a receipt printer in the amount of \$555 + sales tax.

Report was given in regards to the LEC roof. After viewing pictures that were recently taken by Laraway Roofing and discussing the situation further, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to employ Laraway Roofing to do an immediate fix of the leaking roof at the LEC and then work to find a long-term fix as soon as possible. Johnson will try to obtain a copy of the blue prints so that they can be examined.

Two quotes were received for an indoor quality assessment at the LEC and were as follows: Institute for Environmental Assessment (Mankato) - \$1,400 - \$1,550; Institute for Environmental Assessment (Brooklyn Park) - \$2,650 - \$2,950 depending on the number of fungal samples collected. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$1,400 - \$1,550 from Institute for Environmental Assessment of Mankato.

Update was given in regards to two payroll informational meetings that were recently held at the LEC in regards to the possibility of switching from monthly to bi-monthly/bi-weekly. It was reported that only 12 individuals attended one of the two meetings so it seems as if there is not as much interest as was originally thought. No further action was taken at this time.

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Commissioner Kuecker updated the board on some recommendations of changes that would be presented at the next meeting at Southwestern Mental Health Center in regards to their current by-laws.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant