

April 7, 2009
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 7, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Gary Sorenson. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Dan Olsen, Bob Pankratz, Mike Hanson, Ron Gregg, Jon Diemer, Matt Maes, Tiffany Harder and Donna Stresemann. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2009 meeting.

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Dan Olsen, Windomnet Director of Operations, met with the board to give an update regarding the stimulus plan as it pertains to telecommunications. He also asked that the board sign a letter of support in regards to the proposed telecommunications project. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to sign letter of support for telecommunications as part of the stimulus plan.

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Bob Pankratz met with the board to set a bid opening date for the Family Service Agency construction project. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to set bid opening for May 22nd at 1:00 p.m.

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Commissioner Holmen reported that the 1026 for JD #10 came back fine and the project is moving forward.

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Final payment in the amount of \$5,579.00 from Windom Floor & Sleep was submitted for payment. Because there were some questions in regards to the actual bid for installation of the carpeting and vinyl it will be researched and approved at the next board meeting.

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Discussion was held regarding the move of the County Office Building to the N. 71 County Office Building that will be taking place on April 16th & 17th. Greg Walsh will be contacted to see if he might be available to help with the computers, etc.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few different items. Hanson presented three bids for the County Park mowing contract as follows: Gloyd Wellman - \$9,900; Allen Rahn - \$15,000; Lang Jensen - \$9,876. After much discussion, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns to accept Gloyd Wellman's bid of \$9,900 based on the fact that he has done the mowing the past two years and there have been no complaints with

the work that he has done. Voting as follows: Aye – Holmen and Oeltjenbruns. Nay – White, Kuecker and Sorenson. Motion failed. Motion by Kuecker, second by White to accept low bid in the amount of \$9,876 from Lang Jensen to mow the county parks. Voting as follows: Aye – Holmen, Kuecker and White. Nay – Oeltjenbruns. Motion carried.

Hanson reported that after advertising, reviewing and screening applications received for seasonal employment at Talcot Lake County Park, his recommendation would be to hire Alex Scaret and Margo Wright. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to hire Alex Scarset and Margo Wright effective April 16, 2009.

Hanson asked for permission to get quotes for a hand-held GPS unit, laptop computer, rotary laser and grade stick with funds available from GBERBA for the enhancement of Cottonwood County's Septic Upgrade Program. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Hanson to get quotes.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several different items. Discussion was held regarding the current recycling program as well as the recycling bid received from Waste Management. Gregg reported on some ideas for making the current recycling program easier for Cottonwood County residents. After much discussion, there was a motion by Holmen, second by White to reject the recycling bid from Waste Management. Voting as follows: Aye – White, Holmen, Oeltjenbruns. Nay – Kuecker and Sorenson. Motion carried.

Discussion was held regarding the proposal presented by Waste Management for additional waste at the Cottonwood County Landfill. Because there did not seem to be consensus for reducing tipping fees at the landfill for Waste Management to bring Watonwan County garbage to the Cottonwood County Landfill, no further action was taken.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to advertise for the Mt. Lake Bike Path Project (SP 17-090-01).

Gregg presented a listing of the items for the surplus auction that will be held on April 25th at 10:00 a.m. at the Windom Arena. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to advertise and pay for costs associated with the public auction.

Gregg will work on compiling the information regarding the tire collection that was offered on April 4th.

It was reported that MPCA approved the Stipulation Agreement between MPCA and Cottonwood County.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson presented quotes for the purchase of a new fax/copier as follows: Davis - \$3,921 and New Star - \$6,826. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$3,921 + tax from Davis.

Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to send letter to Blue Cross Blue Shield regarding close out of self-insured claims.

Johnson gave an update in regards to the AS400 Disaster Recovery Program.

Brief discussion was held regarding request from Environmental Office to amend budget for postage and to transfer funds from the Auditor/Treasurer's budget to the Environmental Office budget. The board agreed to wait until all offices are moved to the N. 71 County Office Building before taking any further action.

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Discussion was held regarding transit issues and the request to transport preschool children from the rural areas. Information regarding what other counties are doing for transportation of preschool children was shared. Due to time constraints, limited resources and the cost-effectiveness of providing these rides, the transit system will not guarantee rides outside the Windom city limits for children to get to/from preschool during specific times.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve annual fee of \$900 to Schneider Corporation for addition of Account Management Component to Cottonwood County's existing Beacon Site. This will enable the county to charge a subscription for advanced services beyond what is already free.

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Chairman Sorenson gave an update in regards to the recent District 8 meeting that was held in Slayton. The group is looking at how counties may be able to partner in different areas such as Human Services, Emergency Management, Information Technology, etc. Commissioner Kuecker will talk to Mark Marcy about Emergency Management and the status of the county's grant if a shared position is ever considered.

Sorenson presented a copy of a proposed contract for a shared Family Service Agency Director with Jackson County. This will be acted on at the next board meeting.

A letter regarding a grant opportunity for PSAP Consolidation was received but because it had already been discussed with the Sheriff at the last board meeting no further discussion was held.

Sorenson reported that a SCHSAC Video Conference Orientation would be held on April 13th at 1:00 p.m. in Jackson for those interested in attending.

The Southwestern Mental Health Annual Meeting will be held April 8th at 5:30 p.m.

Discussion was held regarding recent MCIT Training regarding Open Meeting Law and MN Government Data Practices Act. Robyn Sykes from MCIT will be contacted to see if she can give us more information regarding Data Privacy.

Sorenson reminded the board that nominations for the Farm Family of the Year are due by April 13th.

Sorenson gave an update regarding the Bio-Science Conference he attended in Worthington.

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Commissioner Kuecker gave an update regarding the energy savings efforts at the N. 71 County Office Building. A quote from Ron's Electric will be presented at the next board meeting.

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Commissioner White gave an update regarding the first Department Head Meeting that was held on April 1st.

White also reported that he gave Mary Jensen, RSVP, permission to purchase fax/copier/printer for approximately \$50.00. A receipt will need to be submitted for payment.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Commissioner White to attend Tobacco Youth Influences Focus Group meeting on April 7th.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the doors at the N. 71 County Office Building as well as the unsealed wells on the property.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:03 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant