

December 2, 2008
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman John Oeltjenbruns. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Jason Purrington, George Gmach, Mark Marcy, Ron Gregg, Mary Bezdicek, Pat Stewart, Bob Ferguson, Roger Ringkob, Craig Myers, Loren Tusa, Ruth Hansen and Craig Rubis. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the November 25, 2008 meeting as amended.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow for a blanket approval of December commissioner warrants.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 08-12-02

Whereas, Cottonwood County is committed to the promotion, use, and development of renewable energy; and

Whereas, Cottonwood County is a member of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board; and

Whereas, the Rural Minnesota Energy Board (known at that time as the Energy Task Force) was instrumental in developing the policies that resulted in the creation of a production tax in lieu of property tax to be placed on the energy produced by wind energy conversion systems; and

Whereas, the purpose of said production tax was to enable Counties to pay for infrastructure improvements and maintenance related to wind energy installations; and

Whereas, the Minnesota State Legislature has reduced the ability of the Counties to use the production tax for its intended purpose:

Therefore, be it resolved, that Cottonwood County does hereby support the efforts of the Rural Minnesota Energy Board to amend the Minnesota Statutes in such a way as to provide that the Wind Production Tax shall not be included in the levy limitation language, thereby restoring the use of the production tax to its initially intended purpose.

S/John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION 08-12-02A
IMPLEMENTING THE FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION REGULATIONS ON
DRUG USE AND ALCOHOL MISUSE**

WHEREAS, the Cottonwood County Transit System and the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners has an obligation to insure that its employees perform their jobs safely, efficiently and in a professional manner.

WHEREAS, the Cottonwood County Transit System and the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners recognizes that alcoholism and other drug dependencies has a significant potential for causing safety hazards for transit system employees.

NOW THEREFORE, the purpose of this document is to set forth the Cottonwood County Transit System Policy regarding urine drug testing and breath alcohol testing for safety-sensitive positions in accordance with the terms of 49 CFR Part 655. I further certify that the employee training conducted under this part meets the requirements of 49 CFR Part 655.

S/Kelly Thongvivong, Transit Coordinator
S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

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A public hearing for aggregate taxes was held with no members of the public present and no comments received. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to adopt Resolution 08-11-04 as was previously passed on November 4, 2008.

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Commissioner Kuecker updated the board about a letter he received from Kathy Kretsch in regards to the microfilm conversion being completed by FNTI. It was reported that both Kretsch and Mr. Doty have signed a new contract with FNTI as previously approved by the board.

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Chairman Oeltjenbruns gave an update in regards to a letter he received from the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR). It was reported that a review of Cottonwood County's compliance with the Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) match requirements was conducted and everything checked out fine.

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Commissioner Sorenson gave an update in regards to recent union negotiations. The three AFSCME (Family Services, Solid Waste and Highway) unions have tentative agreements and the LELS (Deputies) union will be meeting as a group within the next week or so to discuss the proposed contract.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few items. Purrington reported that two individuals were interviewed for the part-time deputy position and his recommendation would be to hire Justin Derickson on a part-time basis. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to hire Justin Derickson as a part-time deputy sheriff effective December 2nd.

Brief discussion was held regarding the Emergency Management vehicle situation. Purrington stated that he is fine with transferring the Dodge pickup from the Sheriff's Department back to Emergency Management and removing the decals, light bar, etc. and transferring the Expedition back to the Sheriff's

Department.

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George Gmach met with the board representing Employers Association, Inc. to give a presentation in regards to a possible pay study for Cottonwood County.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Cottonwood-Jackson CHS board at 10:55 a.m.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to reconvene as the County Board at 12:00 p.m.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss a few items. Marcy reported that the Dodge pickup will be transferred from the Sheriff's Department to the Emergency Management Department and he will work with the Sheriff to come to an agreement.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White to transfer the Safety budget to the Emergency Management budget for 2009. Voting as follows: Aye – Sorenson, White, Holmen and Oeltjenbruns. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg gave an update regarding the landfill stipulation agreement and reported that a special meeting has been scheduled for December 12th for representatives of MPCA to meet with the county board in regards to this matter.

Gregg reported that Murray County has requested a renewal contract with the Tri-County Recycling Center. Gregg is requesting that the board consider a 90-day extension of the current contract to allow time to evaluate the current program and possible changes. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to offer request for 90-day extension or 90-day contract to Murray County.

Gregg reported that Brian Cooley and Tom Baumgard began work yesterday.

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Information regarding total paid expenses to date for the N. 71 County Office Building was handed out to the board.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve per diem for all commissioners to attend upcoming RCRCA/Area II Joint Annual Meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:10 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant