

July 24, 2012
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 24, 2012 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, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Ron Gregg, Kay Clark, Gale Bondhus, Kim Hall, Joe Voth, Sally Larson, Dave Bucklin and Rahn Larson. Absent were Commissioners Jim Schmidt and John Oeltjenbruns.

Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2012 meeting as amended.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg presented the Highway Budget update for the month of June. Commissioner White questioned whether it might be beneficial to have all of the commissioners present for some of the budget questions. Further information will be discussed at the next board meeting when all the commissioners are present.

Gregg reported that all of the summer projects are to be completed by August 31st and then the contractors have until September or October to get their bills submitted.

Gregg was asked if there are still outstanding projects that need to be taken care of. Gregg reported that all outstanding projects have been turned in and the county is now waiting on the State.

Gregg asked for approval of payment for three Ford pickups from Higley Ford. Because the Ford pickup trucks were already approved when accepting the quote, there was a motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve payment to Higley for all license and fees owed to them for the purchase of three vehicles.

Gregg reported that in his absence he asked his staff to start working on possible projects for the \$2,000,000 bonding for road improvements. He presented draft copies of possible overlay projects. Commissioner White questioned Gregg as to whether he understood the passed motion had prioritized county levy hard surfaced road repairs last and wondered if this was not a waste of effort to propose overlays first.

Brief discussion was held regarding the \$500 landfill penalty. Further discussion will be held at the next board meeting. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to pay the \$500 fine from MPCA for failure to report to MPCA in a timely manner. This fine will be paid for with landfill funds.

A landfill bill was received from the Metropolitan Council in the amount of \$675.00. The charge was for an Industrial Discharge Permit Fee which allows the county the right to discharge at their facility if necessary.

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Kay Clark and Sally Larson met with the board representing the Cottonwood County Fair Board. They presented an Income and Expense Report and also gave an update regarding building improvements that have been done at the fairgrounds over the past three years.

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Update was given regarding a meeting that was held last Thursday between Cottonwood and Jackson Counties regarding the recent Jackson County Environmental Office vacancies and the possibility of contracting with Cottonwood County for environmental needs during the interim period. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve contracting services with Jackson County Environmental Services during the interim period before the hire of new employees in the Jackson County Office at the rates as presented.

Further discussion was held regarding preliminary thoughts of possibly working together with Jackson County to pursue discussions of looking at shared positions within the two counties to include SWCD, Environmental Offices and Parks. Commissioner White reported that another meeting date has been scheduled to meet with Jackson County and he would like approval to submit a per diem for his attendance. Motion by Holmen, second by White to allow Commissioner White to participate in an additional meeting to discuss Environmental Office issues between the two counties. Voting as follows: Aye – Holmen and White. Nay – Kuecker. Motion failed.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to present a proposal and agreement from Pictometry for an aerial flyover to be used with the GIS system. The term of the contract is 6 years and would include two flights but there would be an option to terminate the contract before the expiration date and not pursue the second flyover. After much discussion as to whether or not to enter into a 6-year contract, there was a motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to make an offer to Pictometry to enter into a contract for a one-time flyover in the spring of 2013 at a cost of \$45,742.50.

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Emergency Management Director Kim Hall met with the board to ask for approval of the State of Minnesota Communications Facility Use Agreement for the use of antenna space and shelter space on or within MnDOT's Jeffers Communications Facility and Mt. Lake's Communications Facility. The term of this agreement is for ten (10) years, commencing on September 1, 2012 and expiring on October 31, 2022. The total cost would be \$300/year/site for a total of \$600/year. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the contracts with the State of Minnesota MnDOT for tower rental in Jeffers and Mt. Lake.

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Joe Voth, 2012 Windom Area High School Class President, met with the board to ask that the county accept a donation in the amount of \$448.18 that the Windom Area High School Class of 2012 would like to use towards the purchase of a new park bench for the courthouse lawn. The class voted to donate a bench to the courthouse square as they would like to continue to make the community a nicer place. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to accept the

wonderful gift given to the county by the class of 2012 for the purchase of a new park bench.

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Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant/HR Specialist, presented information to the board in regards to a wellness incentive, which will be offered to Cottonwood County as a member of the SWWC Service Cooperative over the next two years. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Cottonwood County to participate in this program, which will be an option for each individual employee if they choose to participate or not.

Thongvivong, Transit Director, presented further information to the board in regards to a transit meeting that she recently hosted for the transit drivers and representatives from Western Community Action and MnDOT to further discuss questions/concerns regarding the future of transit in Cottonwood County if WCA were to take over management/dispatching duties of the current transit system. An update was also given in regards to a meeting that Commissioner White, Cathleen Amick (WCA), Bonnie Nielsen (WCA) and Thongvivong had regarding further thoughts regarding the possible consolidation of the two transit systems. Thongvivong asked that a decision regarding the future of transit in Cottonwood County be decided at the next board meeting, as the grant application for 2013 will need to be submitted to MnDOT soon.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority.

A petition for the improvement on JD #31 in Germantown Township was received and it meets all criteria necessary to move forward. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept the petition and to appoint Gerald Engstrom as the engineer for the project.

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

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Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow for the purchase in the amount of \$104.00 made by Jenny Quade, Probation Officer, on the county credit card for prize items for the Safety Bingo Booth during the Night to Unite on August 6th. Reimbursement will be made with supervision fee funds from the Probation budget.

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Discussion was held regarding extra items that are added to the agenda each week at the meeting. It was suggested that if a Commissioner/Department Head knows ahead of time that they will be adding an agenda item the day of the meeting to get that information to Kelly ahead of time so that it can be listed before the agenda gets sent out. This will hopefully help everyone to plan a little better.

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Discussion was held regarding advertising of tax-forfeiture properties. It was suggested that the property address and pictures be included with some of the listings so that it might help to get more people interested in purchasing tax-forfeited properties. An Open House to view the tax-forfeited properties will be advertised

and no private showings will be done this year. It was suggested that a copy of a draft ad be shown to the board for their approval before placing the ad.

Three quotes for the demolition of three tax-forfeited properties were as follows: Lohrenz, Inc. (Jeffers) - \$4,750, (Mt. Lake) - \$3,250, (Windom) - \$3,250; Therkelsen Construction (Jeffers) - \$4,780, (Mt. Lake) - \$7,700, (Windom) - \$5,880; Peterson Smith Gravel (Jeffers) - \$7,450, (Mt. Lake) - \$6,450, (Windom) - \$7,150. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept low quotes from Lohrenz, Inc. for the demolition of all three tax-forfeited properties. The contractor will be responsible for removal, hauling and backfill. The county will be responsible for the tipping fee.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve a conditional use permit granted to Myron Peters (Great Bend Township) for the purpose of building a metal machine shed for cold storage of machinery and hay based with three conditions as mentioned and based on the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

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

Resolution 12-07-24

**Resolution Appointing
Les Anderson, Glen Friedrich, Marlow Nickel, Dave Hulstein, and Gary Schimbeno
to the Red Rock Rural Water System
Board of Commissioners**

WHEREAS, Les Anderson's, Glen Friedrich's, and Marlow Nickel's 4-year terms as Commissioners on the Red Rock Rural Water System (RRRWS) Board of Commissioners are scheduled to expire at midnight on December 31, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Les Anderson, Glen Friedrich, and Marlow Nickel would all like to serve another 4-year term as Commissioners on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners, which terms will commence at 12 a.m. on January 1, 2013; and will expire at midnight on December 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, On June 14, 2012 the RRRWS Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a Resolution which recommended that Les Anderson, Glen Friedrich, and Marlow Nickel all be appointed for another 4-year term on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Reinert's 4-year term as a Commissioner on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners is schedule to expire at midnight on December 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS, Curtis Reinert wishes to retire as a commissioner on the RRRWS Board immediately after his replacement is confirmed by the Cottonwood County District Court; and

WHEREAS, On June 14, 2012 the RRRWS Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a Resolution which recommends that Dave Hulstein replace Curtis Reinert on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners;

WHEREAS, James Evers 4-year term as a Commissioner on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners is schedule to expire at midnight on December 31, 2014; and

WHEREAS, James Evers wishes to retire as a commissioner on the RRRWS Board immediately after his replacement is confirmed by the Cottonwood County District Court; and

WHEREAS, On June 14, 2012 the RRRWS Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a Resolution which recommends that Gary Schimbeno replace James Evers on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners believes that Les Anderson, Glen Friedrich, Marlow Nickel, Dave Hulstein, and Gary Schimbeno are qualified to act as Commissioners on the RRRWS Board of Commissioners and all are worthy of appointment.

RESOLUTION

BE IT NOW RESOLVED, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby appoints Les Anderson, Glen Friedrich, Marlow Nickel, Dave Hulstein, and Gary Schimbeno to the RRRWS Board of Commissioners pursuant to and provided for by Minnesota Statutes 116A et seq.; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that Les Anderson's, Glen Friedrich's, and Marlow Nickel's terms shall be for a period of 4 years which shall all commence at 12:00 a.m. on January 1, 2013, and shall expire at midnight on December 31, 2016; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that Dave Hulstein's term shall commence on the date his appointment is approved by the Cottonwood County District Court and shall expire at midnight on December 31, 2014; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that Gary Schimbeno's term shall commence on the date his appointment is approved by the Cottonwood County District Court and shall expire at midnight on December 31, 2014.

I hereby certify that the foregoing Resolutions were approved by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners on July 24, 2012 by a vote of 3 for, 0 against, 2 absent, and 0 abstaining.

Jan Johnson, Cottonwood County
Auditor/Treasurer

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Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to pay Parks bill in the amount of \$64.62 to Ramerth Hardware.

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Monthly overtime reports were handed out to the board for their review.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:27 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant