

August 14, 2012  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 14, 2012 at 9:00 a.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, Jim Schmidt, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Jason Purrington, Garrett Backes, Mary Bezdicek, Kim Hall, Ron Gregg, Kristi Sell, Dominic Jones, Jim Thomas, Brannon Peterson and Rory Lindvall.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2012 meeting as amended.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to present the 2013 proposed budget for the Sheriff's Department and the County Jail. Purrington reported that he would like to upgrade the lights in the Sheriff's Department at some point in the near future.

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Garrett Backes, Development and Communications Specialist, from the Southwest Initiative Foundation met with the board to give an update and to request Cottonwood County's support of a \$3,510.00 appropriation for 2013.

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Mary Bezdicek, Cottonwood-Jackson CHS, met with the board to ask for a line of credit for the remainder of 2012. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to issue a line of credit up to \$46,500 from Cottonwood County to be used only if needed for the remainder of 2012.

Discussion was held regarding quotes that were presented at the last board meeting for the purchase of a new copy machine for the Windom CHS Office. The two quotes were as follows: Advanced Systems, Inc. - \$8,088, Marco - \$8,641. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to accept the low quote in the amount of \$8,088 from Advanced Systems, Inc. This purchase will be paid for by Cottonwood County through the use of two different accounts in Long Term Capital Outlay.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Andy Geiger to attend the Solid Waste Administrators Association Conference September 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> in Brainerd and the Minnesota Association of County Planning & Zoning Administrators October 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> in Mankato and to use the county credit card as necessary.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve August warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 96,362.61
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 72.11
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 4,323.13
County Building Fund	\$ 798.78
Ditch Fund	\$ 13,903.11
Agency Fund	\$ 104.00
Taxes & Penalties Fund	\$ 413.57
Road & Bridge	\$ 94,044.25
Landfill Enterprise	<u>\$ 37,986.32</u>
	\$248,007.88

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Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve voucher submitted by Commissioner Oeltjenbruns that is 60 days past due.

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Emergency Management Director Kim Hall met with the board to present the 2013 proposed budget for Emergency Management. Hall reported that she has offered to purchase an AED for the Sheriff's Department with funds remaining from the safety budget.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Bids for gravel crushing for the mining project on the Thomas Property were publicly opened and read as follows: Sweetman Sand and Gravel - \$2.30/ton (Alternate #1), \$2.70/ton (Alternate #2); Sterzinger Crushing Inc. - \$2.06/ton (Alternate #2). Motion by Schmidt, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept low bid in the amount of \$2.06/ton (Alternate #2) from Sterzinger Crushing.

Dominic Jones, Red Rock Rural Water, was present to review the sub-lease of the Thomas Property between Red Rock Rural Water and Cottonwood County for the purpose of gravel mining. Language changes to the sub-lease were dependent on the crushing bids. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to sign sub-lease with Red Rock Rural Water that would allow gravel mining on the Thomas Property with current changes as presented. Commissioner Kuecker thanked Jones and the Red Rock Rural Water Board for all of their hard work in putting this all together.

Motion by Schmidt, second by White, unanimous vote to approve Thomas Gravel Pit Agreement between Cottonwood County and Jim & Sandy Thomas.

Gregg answered questions that the board had regarding the Cottonwood County Highway budget as of the end of July.

Gregg reported that Jed Rhubee proposed a counter-offer in regards to the offer made to him to accept the Engineering Tech/Signman position. Gregg reported that Rhubee asked that he be placed on Step 9 of the matrix before he would accept the position. The board agreed to publicly advertise for the position since Rhubee declined the previous offer.

Chairman Holmen asked Gregg if he cared to discuss any further the landfill operation question that was responded to at the last board meeting. Gregg stated that he did not care to discuss the situation any further.

Commissioner Kuecker asked that Gregg consider scheduling a Highway Road Tour sometime yet this fall.

Brief discussion was held regarding gravel roads. Gregg stated that he and his staff are continuing to work on developing a plan for future presentation to the board.

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Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong presented the 2013 proposed budget for the Commissioners.

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County Attorney Nick Anderson gave a brief update regarding Drug Treatment Court. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve Memorandum of Understanding - Rock, Nobles, and Cottonwood Drug Treatment Court.

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It was noted that a repurchase request for a tax-forfeited property that is currently owned by the State of Minnesota was recently received from Robert Ludvigson and Brenda Ayers. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow for the repurchase of the Ludvigson house by Robert Ludvigson and Brenda Ayers.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson presented the 2013 proposed budgets for Court Administration, Law Library, Auditor/Treasurer, 125 Plan, General Administration, Elections, HAVA, Courthouse, Hwy 71 Building and County Coroner.

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Discussion was held regarding the possibility of budgeting for an IT position for Cottonwood County. The board is considering a budget of \$80,000 for a potential position.

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Discussion was held regarding the existing phone system and whether or not the board should consider budgeting funds for the remaining offices throughout the county that do not have an updated phone system at this time. The board is considering a budget of \$25,000 towards the possible purchase of a new phone system.

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It was reported that the insurance premium for 2013 would increase by 14.2%. The overall rate increase through Southwest/West Central Service Coop was 6% to 33%.

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Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to appoint Commissioners Kuecker and Oeltjenbruns to serve on the canvassing board for 2012.

Brief discussion was held regarding a joint county/school district/city meeting that will be scheduled in the next few weeks.

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A breakdown of how the MCIT dividend in the amount of \$182,265 will be distributed amongst departments was handed out to the board for their review.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant