

October 5, 2010  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Tom White. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Wendy Meyer, Travis Hodkin, Jason Purrington and Jim Vellema.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the September 28, 2010 meeting.

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Wendy Meyer met with the board representing the City of Mt. Lake. Meyer reported that the City of Mt. Lake recently purchased Parcel 22.520.0810 and is planning on demolition of the property. The City of Mt. Lake is requesting that the county pay for ½ of tipping fee that is charged by the landfill. The approximate cost is expected to be \$5,000 - \$6,000. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to reimburse the City of Mt. Lake 50% of the tipping fee that is charged by the landfill. This will be taken out of the county's clean-up fund.

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Brief discussion was held regarding upcoming union negotiations. Chairman White appointed himself and Commissioner Ron Kuecker to serve on the negotiating team. Commissioner Kuecker expressed his thoughts about wanting to meet with each union separately. A closed session will be held next week to discuss strategy for upcoming labor negotiations.

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Discussion was held regarding the recent request by the Environmental Office to attend the Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers Conference in Mankato on October 19-21. Commissioner Kuecker updated the board on the information he learned from Mike Hanson in regards to attendance at the training. This will be discussed later in the meeting.

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Travis Hodkin, Elite Mechanical, met with the board to discuss the option of a Geothermal System at the Law Enforcement Center as one of the current air conditioning units needs to be replaced and the other one is getting old as well. Hodkin reported that there is grant money available to offset the costs. Hodkin believes that the county will see an 80% cost savings by going to a Geothermal System. Wenck Engineers will be asked to attend the next board meeting to discuss Geothermal Engineering. Hodkin will be in contact with grant writers to begin the grant process.

Discussion was held regarding some recent issues that have occurred at the LEC while one particular group has been using the meeting room in the lower level. The board agreed to notify this particular group to let them know that they will need to find a new meeting location other than the LEC beginning next week.

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Further discussion was held regarding attendance at the Minnesota Association of County Feedlot Officers Conference in Mankato on October 19-21. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Mike Hanson to attend the full conference (includes mileage, registration and 2 night stay) and Marlene Smith to attend the conference mid-morning on Wednesday, October 20<sup>th</sup> until noon on Thursday, October 21<sup>st</sup> (includes mileage, registration and 1 night stay). No overtime hours will be approved.

Discussion was held regarding the Environmental Office and what options the board may want to consider with the vacant positions. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to change the December 14, 2010 regular meeting to an afternoon meeting instead of a morning meeting as was originally scheduled and to set the 2011 final tax levy certification at 6:01 p.m.

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Two quotes for the repair of foundation at the Courthouse were received as follows: Barga, Inc. - \$4,550 and Herrig - \$2,950. Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson was asked to get clarification on the quote from Herrig to be sure the two quotes were similar and to get the necessary repairs done.

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Discussion was held regarding a pile of concrete that Dale Minion is responsible for getting ground up before December 15<sup>th</sup>. Chairman White will contact Mike Hanson to have him communication with Dale Minion about the timeline.

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Brief discussion was held regarding current employee time cards. It was suggested by Chairman White to include a place for comp time hours on the current time cards. White asked that the Auditor/Treasurer's Office bring forward a recommendation to the board.

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Chairman White informed the board about an expense that was recently received at Talcot Park for electrical work.

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

Commissioner Kuecker questioned the lack of a buffer strip on a piece of land in Commissioner Holmen's District. Commissioner Holmen will do some further research on this matter.

Commissioner Oeltjenbruns reported that he recently had a conversation with the manager of Milk Specialties Company (MSC) in Mt. Lake regarding a problem with a county ditch that they discharge into.

One quote was received for the JD #32 improvement project from Lohrenz in the amount of \$62,960. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to table the acceptance of the quote at this time until checking on viewers' benefits.

There being no further business, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority at 11:38 a.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Tom White, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant