

April 13, 2010
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 13, 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 Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Gale Bondhus, Rory Lindvall, Wayne Brede, Ken Leas, Joel Rostomily and Jan Voit.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2010 meeting.

* * * *

County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to clarify some information she gave to the board at the last board meeting in regards to the pay study. Bondhus also reiterated that her intent for meeting with the board was not to downgrade any positions within the Assessor's Office to a lower pay range than what was originally recommended by Wayne Brede which is what happened. Bondhus simply asked for an adjustment to the Deputy Assessor and Senior Appraiser positions so that the internal equity within the Assessor' Office could be addressed. The board decided to take no further action until they had a chance to discuss this situation with Wayne Brede.

* * * *

Assistant County Engineer Rory Lindvall met with the board to discuss a few different items. Lindvall presented the agenda and map for the upcoming Road Tour that will be held on May 18th. He also presented a listing of the equipment at the Highway Department that has the greatest need as far as possible repairs/replacement.

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow for advertisement of Project 17-613-38 for shoulder widening and aggregate base from the east city limits on County Road 13 to County Road 1.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow for advertisement of Project 17-613-43 for bituminous surfacing from the east city limits on County Road 13 to County Road 1.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow for advertisement of Project 17-090-01 for aggregate base and bituminous surfacing of the Mt. Lake Bike Trail.

* * * *

Wayne Brede met with the board to discuss the recent pay study and present the final report. Brief discussion was held regarding the concerns that Gale Bondhus continues to have with the pointing and placement of positions within the Assessor's Office. Brede suggested that the board discuss these

types of issues after union negotiations. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept receipt of the report presented by Wayne Brede titled "Job Classification and Compensation Study Report for Cottonwood County" dated April 2010 which will be subject to further review by the County Board.

* * * *

Ken Leas, AFSCME union representative, and Joel Rostomily, union steward, met with the board to discuss a grievance that has been filed at the Highway Department. The complaint of the union is that the employees have not moved on the pay matrix from one step to another for the last several years and because of some of the wording in the current union contract, it is causing a conflict when hiring new employees. The board reiterated that the reason for no advancement from one step to another on the pay matrix is due to the fact that the union has always chosen to receive a COLA instead of a step so that all employees (even those on the top of the pay matrix) would see a pay increase. The conflict that has been created with the current language will need to be addressed during the next union negotiations.

* * * *

Jan Voit, Heron Lake Watershed District Administrator, met with the board to present the annual update and to inform the board about upcoming projects and grants that are available.

* * * *

Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update regarding a Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance meeting he recently attended.

* * * *

Commissioner Kuecker gave an update regarding a recycling meeting that Chairman White and he recently attended in Redwood Falls. The purpose of this meeting was to get preliminary thoughts in regards to a possible joint venture with Redwood, Renville, Jackson, and Cottonwood counties for recycling purposes.

* * * *

Commissioner Sorenson gave an update regarding the Springfield Township Meeting that he was asked to attend on April 12th in regards to a new proposed wind project.

* * * *

Commissioner Holmen mentioned that he would like to pursue the idea of aggregate taxes. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting and a possible date for a public hearing may be set.

* * * *

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve placing a 1/2 page ad in the Cottonwood County Visitors Guide for 2010. This will be billed at a rate of \$80/month from April through September for a total of \$480.

* * * *

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow the use of the county credit card for a motel stay for Kim Hall at the Best Western Kelly Inn in St. Cloud while she attends the Public Safety Interoperable Communication Conference April 28-30 and for a motel stay for Kelly Thongvivong at the St. Cloud Holiday Inn while she attends the MCIT Training entitled "Dealing with Difficult Employees" on April 22nd.

* * * *

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve April warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$122,621.69
Long-Term Capital Outlay	\$ 5,663.65
County Building Fund	\$ 2,045.19
Road & Bridge	\$ 66,077.64
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 6,202.90
Landfill Enterprise	<u>\$ 14,127.78</u>
	\$216,738.85

* * * *

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve 2010 appropriation in the amount of \$300 to RC & D.

* * * *

Commissioner Kuecker commented that he had a question come up regarding funeral costs being paid for by Family Services. He will be sure to add this to the agenda at the next Family Service Agency meeting.

* * * *

Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to hire April Johnson and Diana Olson as part-time summer interns for the Extension Office as approved by the Extension Committee.

* * * *

Commissioner Sorenson clarified that the cell phone tower located in the Westbrook area was built and is owned by UniceL but is located on city land so UniceL is leasing it from the City of Westbrook. The mayor of Westbrook is working to add language to the lease agreement that states that space needed on the tower for county equipment would be free of charge.

* * * *

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Tom White, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant