

July 3, 2012
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 3, 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; Jan Klassen, Cathleen Amick, Andy Geigèr, Kim Hall, Ron Gregg, Jim Thomas, Dominic Jones and Dave Bucklin.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2012 meeting.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that there will be eight parcels (1 in Jeffers, 2 in Mt. Lake, 1 in Westbrook and 4 in Windom) that will be included on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land #13 that will be for sale at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesday, September 19th. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows and to set the minimum bid for each parcel to be sold at the tax-forfeiture sale at \$50:

Resolution 12-07-03
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF TAX –FORFEITED LANDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the parcels of land described in List of Tax-Forfeited Land #13 that is contained herein shall be sold to the highest bidder at public sale. The sale will be governed by the provisions of M.S. 282.01 and by the resolution of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners authorizing such sale. The resolution reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that all parcels of the tax-forfeited land listed on list of Tax-Forfeited Land #13 be classified as non-conservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #13, that is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of this land be granted, pursuant to M.S.282.01; that the sale will be held at 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, September 19, 2012 by the Cottonwood County Auditor at the County Courthouse for not less then the basic sale price; and that all sales shall be full payment or on the terms set forth on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #13

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conditions and terms of the public sale shall be described in the list contained here-in and approved by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners.

Information about the sale of tax-forfeited land in Cottonwood County can be obtained at the office of the Cottonwood County Auditor/Treasurer Cottonwood County Courthouse 900 3rd Ave, Windom, MN 56101. Telephone (507) 831-1905.

Given under my hand and official seal at Windom, Minnesota this 3rd day of July, 2012.

S/Jan Johnson, Cottonwood County Auditor/Treasurer

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to set the monthly rental rate for July and August at \$200 for the parcels on the tax-forfeiture sale that are still occupied.

Motion by Schmidt, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Johnson to solicit quotes for the teardown of three tax-forfeiture properties that are to be sold at the public sale.

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Kelly Thongvivong, Transit Director, along with Cathleen Amick, Western Community Action, and Jan Klassen, MnDOT, met with the board to have some discussion regarding the 3 C's (consolidation, cooperation and coordination) which has been discussed in great detail lately with MnDOT and amongst transit systems. The Office of Transit will be using these criteria to determine funding levels for each transit grant application that is submitted for 2013 funding. Thongvivong reported that discussions have recently been held with Western Community Action as well as MnDOT in regards to the possibilities that may work for WCA to begin overseeing dispatching duties of the Cottonwood County Transit System. Because WCA has more advanced technology in place than what Cottonwood County Transit has, both systems recognize that the possibility of consolidation of all duties (dispatching, scheduling, billing, reporting, grant writing, etc.) could benefit each system if both systems were to join forces. Amick provided further information as to how consolidating both systems could work and the possible benefits in doing so. Klassen provided further information on the added federal regulations that each transit system will now be required to comply with that will require more time. After further discussion and questions being asked, there was a motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to move that the county board support the concept of the 3 C's (consolidation, cooperation and coordination) and to continue to move forward with gathering information while working towards the possibility of allowing Western Community Action to begin overseeing all duties of the Cottonwood County Transit System effective January 1, 2013. Thongvivong, Amick, Klassen and Commissioner White (WCA Transit Advisory Committee member) will work together to gather information which will be presented at the August 7th board meeting for further consideration of the consolidation of both transit systems.

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Planning & Zoning/Parks/Solid Waste Administrator Andy Geiger met with the board to present the conditional use permit for the Cottonwood County Highway Department to activate an existing gravel pit and mine gravel with the intent to remove all material suitable of producing Class 5 road gravel. Gravel will be stockpiled and removed from the property within three years. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the conditional use permit for the Cottonwood County Highway Department with four conditions as mentioned and based on the recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Geiger reported that he was hoping to have quotes for the necessary well closure at Talcot Park but no quotes have yet been received.

Geiger reported that a group of Girl Scouts would be cleaning up Dynamite Park on October 13th for National Day of Service.

Geiger gave an update regarding a meeting that he and Commissioner White attended last Thursday in regards to the future possibilities of hauling leachate to the City of St. James Wastewater Treatment Facility. A follow-up meeting was held on Friday of last week at the landfill to examine the leachate storage areas. There is one issue that still needs to be addressed before taking leachate back to St. James but it should be an easy problem to fix. There should be significant cost savings by taking the leachate to the St. James Wastewater Treatment Facility.

Geiger reported that a Household Hazardous Waste Open House would be held on July 18th from 4-6pm and an E-Waste Collection would be held on July 20th and 21st.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Geiger permission to obtain quotes for a portable 5,000 watt generator for the landfill.

Geiger reported that he is currently working on a cost comparison between area landfills that he is hoping to present to the board in the near future.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Geiger to request quotes to place the frost layer on the newly constructed Cell No. 7 at the county landfill. The work will consist of placing and compacting waste in Cell No. 7 from waste in Cell No. 6 and placing one foot of earthen cover over the entire Cell No. 7. Quotes will be accepted until July 9, 2012 at 4:00 p.m. at the office of the Auditor/Treasurer. Quotes will be opened and read publicly at the next board meeting.

Commissioner Kuecker had a question regarding the fall clean-up. Geiger stated that any dates in September should work.

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Emergency Management Director Kim Hall met with the board to ask for approval to be an alternate to attend the International Association of Emergency Management Conference October 26th – November 1st in Orlando, FL in case the individual from the region that has been designated to attend should not be able to go. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Hall to be designated as the alternate.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to present further information regarding a new financial plan for the cash flow of the gravel mining project. Further estimates regarding the costs that may be involved were discussed. Two county maps were presented for the board's review. After much discussion, there was a motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to move that Cottonwood County proceed with the Thomas Property Gravel Mining Project. To fund this project first we access the \$300,000 approved at the April 24, 2012 Cottonwood County Board Meeting. When this money is depleted we use any available money from the Cottonwood County Road & Bridge Department. If there is no money available from the Road & Bridge Department we then use Cottonwood County reserve funds to pay for getting all available gravel harvested and stored. To get the

gravel spread on the county roads we will sell a bond for \$2 million dollars to be paid back over a 5 year term. If less than the full \$2 million dollars are needed to repair our gravel roads we can then use the remainder to start the repairs of hard surfaced county levy roads previously identified by Road & Bridge in bonding recommendations already on file.

Chairman Holmen reported that he and Gregg would be meeting with Jim Thomas on Friday to further discuss the Thomas Gravel Pit Agreement.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority at 11:45 a.m.

The purpose of the meeting is to discuss a petition for partial abandonment for County Ditch #18 which is located in Section 20 & 29 of Storden Township. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is working on behalf of the landowner Pete Peschel to help him with a wetland restoration on his property which would require breaking and abandoning part of the county tile running through the wetland area. 100% participation was received on the petition. Motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to accept the petition and to schedule a public hearing for August 7th at 10:30 a.m.

Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and to reconvene as the County Board at 11:55 a.m.

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Two quotes for landscaping at the N. 71 Building were received as follows: Split Rock Landscape Supply - \$3,860 and Nickel Construction - \$1,838. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept the quote in the amount of \$1,838 from Nickel Construction. Commissioner Schmidt agreed to work with Jim Vellema to make sure that someone is responsible for watering the plants.

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Chairman Holmen gave an update regarding the Southern Prairie Health Purchasing Alliance and reported that he does not see the county liable for reserves of this group in the future. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve Southern Prairie Health Purchasing Alliance Joint Powers Agreement. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to appoint Holmen as a representative of SPHPA and Commissioner Schmidt as an alternate of SPHPA.

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A brief update was given regarding an MCIT sewer system claim that is still being investigated.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to appoint Diane Harder, Susan Hopp, Brenda Anderson and Karla Ambrose to serve as the ballot board for 2012 elections.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow for the purchase of an all-in-one printer/scanner/fax and toner cartridge for the

Commissioner's Office and Auditor/Treasurer's Office and to use the county credit card for this purchase.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant