

March 27, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 27, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Law Enforcement Center in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Vice-Chairman John Oeltjenbruns. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith, John Sheppard, Phyllis Bakken, Ron Gregg, Rob Anderson, Jason Purrington, Michelle Kompelien, Ken Leas and Sherry Sevcik. Absent was Commissioner Holmen. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 13, 2007 meeting.

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Motion by White, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow the Windom Chamber of Commerce to use the courthouse lawn on Saturday, March 31st from 10:30am – 1:00pm for an Easter egg hunt.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to current liquor, 3.2 beer and cigarette license fees and whether the board would like to raise the rates. The board decided to leave the current rates as is.

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A thank you note was received from the Southwest Minnesota Arts & Humanities Council for the recent contribution from the county.

A thank you letter was received from the Southwest Initiative Foundation for the recent contribution from the county.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson presented quotes for the A10-424 PC that is needed for the Auditor/Treasurer's Office. Two quotes were as follows: Davis Typewriter - \$1,039.74 and MPC Corporation - \$1,439.98. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to accept quote from MPC Corporation for an amount not to exceed \$1,439.98, as Davis Typewriter is not able to provide the exact type of system that MPC Corporation is able to.

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Commissioner Kuecker gave a brief update in regards to the Commissioner's Room remodeling project. He reported that the architects had to come down once, as there were some problems that the contractors encountered shortly after they began the project. It was also reported that Borsgard Construction received a bill for the services of I & S Architects & Engineers and Kuecker recommended that Borsgard hold off on paying the bill.

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Mike Hanson and John Sheppard, SRDC, met with the board for the public hearing of the proposed 10-year Local Water Management Plan. This is a 10-year plan with a 5-year implementation schedule. After review of the plan and comments by the board, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to recommend that this document be presented to the Board of Water & Soil Resources for further review.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Gregg presented information he compiled in regards to wages from other Solid Waste Departments in the region and how they compare to the wages in Cottonwood County. The board asked that Gregg compile further information that would include the benefit package of these counties to present at a future meeting. No action was taken at this time.

Gregg also recommended that two employees (Steve Burdick & Bruce Rhubee) in the Highway Department be increased two steps in 2007. The board agreed that they would not do anything at this time.

The board reviewed the current Highway Department cell phone contracts and Gregg requested that no changes be made to the existing contracts. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to allow the Highway Department to keep cell phone package as is.

Gregg presented quotes for the purchase of a pump for the weed-spraying unit. The three quotes were as follows: Northern Tool & Equipment - \$829.99; Minnesota Wanner Company - \$1,000 and Fast Sprayers - \$925.00. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$829.99 from Northern Tool & Equipment.

Gregg presented the board with copies of the 2006 Annual Report for the Highway Department.

Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to allow the county to pay for 1/2 of the tipping fee for the Cities of Cottonwood County that have a spring clean-up program for 2007.

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Rob Anderson of the Mt. Lake EDA met with the board for consideration of approval of proposed Cottonwood County Tax Abatement Policy. Because there is still more research that needs to be done on behalf of the county, no action was taken. This will be brought up for discussion again at a future meeting.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Vice-Chairman to sign boat and water safety grant for 2007.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to instruct Purrington to continue to apply for boat and water safety grant on ongoing basis each year.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept resignation of Adam Koch (jailer/dispatcher) with appropriate payout of benefits.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Purrington to post internally for seven days for the position of jailer/dispatcher. Purrington will also be able to use applicants that he received from previous job advertisement as it has been within the past six months.

Purrington reported that the Sheriff/Emergency Management Administrative Assistant position was recently re-pointed by Springsted, Inc. and the points have increased from 203 to 238 points. Based on the recommended increase in points, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to move Kristen Porath to Step 3 of the 2007 matrix that will be developed for this position by using the same pay scale as the Deputy Auditor/Treasurer position. This increase will be effective April 1, 2007.

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Michelle Kompelien met with the board representing Western Community Action to ask for a resolution of support for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP). Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous roll call vote (Commissioner Holmen was absent) to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 07-03-27

**Sponsored Resolution of Support for
Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA)
Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP)**

The County of Cottonwood certifies that the project being proposed by Western Community Action, which is located in our jurisdiction, has the county's approval to apply to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for grant program funding.

S/John Oeltjenbruns, Board Vice-Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Ken Leas, AFSCME union representative, met with the board to discuss issues regarding the four AFSCME union contracts. He will be revising some of the language as discussed with the board before sending out new contracts to be signed by each of the four unions. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to authorize Vice-Chairman Oeltjenbruns to sign union contracts after they are revised with new language.

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Kelly Thongvong presented miscellaneous information to the board as follows: invitation to SWMHC annual meeting on April 11th; I & S Observation Report; and information from Scott Anderson in regards to recent settlement.

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Commissioner Kuecker reported that he recently received notification that an application for a \$3,000 grant submitted on behalf of the Cottonwood County

Historical Society for the restoration and cleanup of Red Rock Falls Park was approved. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to authorize Commissioner Kuecker to sign WHIP Agreement through NRCS for Red Rock Falls grant.

Kuecker also gave an update in regards to a Red Rock Rural Water meeting that he recently attended. He said that Cottonwood County received nice complements in regards to the local mining ordinance.

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Commissioner Sorenson gave a brief update in regards to some information he learned about the natural gas pipeline.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update in regards to the Energy Board. He reported that the metro deal would no longer be happening as they have a problem with signing a Joint Powers Agreement and want to form their own separate agency.

Oeltjenbruns also updated the board in regards to garbage burning barrels.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to reduce health insurance fund loan by \$120,000 for 2007.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

John Oeltjenbruns, Board Vice-Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant