

January 2, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, January 2, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Jason Purrington, Kathy Kretsch, Mary Ann Anderson, Nancy MacGregor, Susan Horkey, Linda White, Ashley White and Craig Myers.

Auditor/Treasurer Johnson called the meeting to order and distributed the oaths of office to John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Jason Purrington, Kathy Kretsch and Doug Storey. Chairman Kuecker then distributed the oath of office to Jan Johnson.

Johnson then asked for nominations for Board Chairman. Motion by Kuecker to elect Commissioner Holmen as Board Chairman. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to cease nominations and to elect Commissioner Holmen as 2007 Board Chairman. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to nominate Commissioner Oeltjenbruns as 2007 Vice-Chairman and to cease nominations. Presiding over the remainder of the meeting was Chairman Norm Holmen.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the December 26, 2006 meeting as amended.

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Chairman Holmen presented Department/Committee assignments but because of some changes that still need to be made, this will be approved at the next board meeting.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson opened up the one bid that he received for the 2007 official newspaper. Bid was as follows: Cottonwood County Citizen - \$6.90/column inch plus \$2.40 for other two county papers; \$10/subscriber; and \$1,280 for Financial Statement. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to award the bid to the Cottonwood County Citizen as the 2007 official newspaper.

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Family Service Agency Director Craig Myers met with the board to discuss his 2007 salary as well as an additional request in regards to his current hours of vacation. No further action was taken at this time.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to set 2007 meeting dates for the 1st, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month with the exception of December when the board will meet on the 2nd & 3rd Tuesday of the month. The Truth in Taxation meeting was scheduled for December 6th at 5:01pm.

Auditor/Treasurer Johnson presented a few quotes for an air compressor and dryer system for the Courthouse. Because it was determined that it is a repair of the current system, Johnson was instructed to work with Johnson Controls to get the system repaired.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to 2007 appropriation request in the amount of \$3,019 that was received from Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA). Commissioner Kuecker will find out from Mike Hanson which department the funding will come from.

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It was reported that the federal mileage rate for 2007 has increased to \$.485. The federal rate is what the county will follow for mileage reimbursement purposes.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a possible cell phone reimbursement for the deputies within the Sheriff's Department. Purrington was asked to compile a little more information to present at a future meeting.

Purrington handed out information he obtained in regards to a grant for the development of a website for the Sheriff's Department that he recently applied for. The board agreed that they would like to see the current county website utilized and enhanced instead of developing an additional site for the Sheriff's Department.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to set the 2007 meal rates at \$8.00 – breakfast; \$12.50 – lunch; \$16.00 – evening meal with gratuity included in these rates.

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Motion by White, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow the Auditor/Treasurer to pay regular and customary payments for 2007, which might include: payroll and associated payables; utilities; bond payments; contract payments; payments to other government entities; tax settlements; refunds; reissue voids; well sealing; sewer loan contractor payments; emergency payments; insurance payments and lease payments.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to set 2007 clerk hire wages at \$9.70/hour and to set 2007 seasonal salaries at \$8.00 – 1st year; \$8.25 – 2nd year; \$8.50 – 3rd year.

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Discussion was held regarding salary requests for Elected Officials and Department Heads as well as a few additional employees. No action was taken at this time.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to allow Chairman Holmen to sign resolution for RSVP Joint Powers Agreement.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported on the blanket approval of the remaining December warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$109,339.59
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 31.20
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 121.83
County Building Fund	\$ 3,825.00
Ditch Fund	\$ 5,185.20
Ditch Sinking Fund 1	\$ 80.60
Ditch Sinking Fund 2	\$ 241.80
Ditch Sinking 3 (JD 2)	\$ 80.60
Landfill Enterprise Fund	\$ 46.75
Blue Cross/Blue Shield Ins.	\$ 24,310.85
Agency Fund	\$ 12,919.00
Taxes and Penalties Fund	\$ 5,788.54
County Revenue Fund	\$ 70.32
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 34,876.06
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 8,051.42
Landfill Enterprise Fund	\$ 7,571.54
TOTAL	\$212,540.30

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority to set final hearing date for JD #5. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to set final hearing date for JD #5 for February 6th at 9:15am.

Commissioner Sorenson briefly discussed a question he had in regards to one of the ditches in his district.

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

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 12:40pm to discuss strategy for labor negotiations. The following individuals were present: Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Kelly Thongvivong and Jan Johnson. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to open the meeting at 1:37pm.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant