

September 5, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 5, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Ron Kuecker. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Chuck Severson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mark Marcy, Gale Bondhus, Ron Gregg, Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith, Kay Clark, Verlyn Nickel and Terry Tegels. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 22, 2006 meeting as amended.

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Because a GIS Committee has never been officially appointed, Chairman Kuecker appointed Commissioner Holmen, Mark Marcy, Mike Hanson, Ron Gregg and Gale Bondhus to serve on this committee. The purpose of the committee is to gather information, present costs and present method of payment to the County Board. The Auditor/Treasurer and the County Recorder may also need to be consulted at some point, as GIS will affect these departments as well.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss a few different items. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Kuecker to sign Emergency Management Performance Grant application for 2006. This grant is for an amount up to \$6,024.

Marcy requested permission to apply for a pandemic flu grant for developing plans and acquiring equipment and supplies to deal with haz-mat issues when dealing with pandemic flu. This grant will be a joint application with Public Health. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to apply for the pandemic flu grant.

Marcy asked that the board consider allowing him to apply for the 3rd round of the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) grant. This grant is an equipment acquisition grant, which requires no money. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to apply for this grant once for Emergency Management and once for the Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to apply for grant for up to \$1600 to hire instructor to teach 16-hour NIMS class throughout the county.

Brief discussion was held regarding current emergency management mobile command post. It seems that there is a leak in the roof of the command post and Marcy was looking at other possibilities on how to solve the problem

such as possibly using the transit vehicle that was recently advertised for sale. Because there will be another transit vehicle that will be sold next year, the board agreed to have Marcy fix the leak and keep the vehicle he is currently using for the time being.

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Three bids for the sale of the 1996 transit vehicle were opened and were as follows: Kelly Grams - \$1,500; Richard Wilkins - \$2,005; Mark Olshansky - \$2,527.50. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept high bid in the amount of \$2,527.50 from Mark Olshansky for the purchase of the 1996 transit bus.

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The Geographical Information System (GIS) Committee presented information in regards to GIS. They reported that they have recently heard some presentations from different companies and the company they were the most impressed with that offered the most services was Schneider Corporation. The estimated cost for their services was \$183,234 + \$11,100 for additional costs for software and integration of existing E911 system. The committee was asked to obtain some further information regarding costs and sources of funding to present at the next board meeting.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg reported that Salenius Construction of Mt. Lake has been delinquent on their billing for three years and he is requesting that the board take action to write off this loss as numerous attempts have been made to collect payment. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to grant permission to write-off delinquent landfill bill for Salenius Construction.

Gregg reported that one bid was received for the sale of the landfill truck that was recently advertised for sale and was as follows: Fortune Transportation - \$1,278. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to sell landfill truck to Fortune Transportation in the amount of \$1,278.

Gregg reported that he recently entered into contract with Erickson Engineering for the design of the Mt. Lake Outlet structure. The contract amount is \$12,000 for the design of the new structure and \$4,000 for the design of the closure of the old structure to be incorporated into the bike path. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve contract with Erickson Engineering.

Gregg reported that he submitted an application for funding under the Local Road Improvement Program for the reconstruction of two blocks of 1st Ave (CSAH 33) in the City of Westbrook.

Gregg gave updates on 2006 construction projects those of which included: CSAH 2 South, Carson Township Bridge and CSAH 2 North.

Gregg and Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave update regarding a Tri-County Recycling meeting that was recently attended. It was reported that Pipestone County's contract is coming up for renewal.

Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to allow Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith and Greg Johnson to attend Annual Feedlot Officer Conference and Training on October 24-26 in St. Cloud.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Hanson to attend Minnesota Association of Planning & Zoning Conference on October 17-19 in New Ulm.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit for the erection of a wind turbine in Section 32 of Midway Township to Esther Janzen and the City of Mt. Lake based on conditions mentioned and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Hanson reported that the Wetland Conservation Act application for JD #5 needs to be filled out by the Engineer or Ditch Authority.

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Kay Clark and Verlyn Nickel met with the board representing the Soil & Water Conservation District to present their 2007 proposed budget. It was also reported that Dave Bucklin and Kay Clark recently applied for the GBERBA Coordinator position and were hired so they are now taking on these responsibilities as well.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson presented four scenarios for the board's review in regards to the 2007 proposed budget. Johnson was asked to prepare one more scenario for next week's meeting before the 2007 preliminary budget is set.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to split Veteran's Service Officer/Deputy Emergency Management Director position 70/30 for payroll purposes.

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Motion by Severson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to move John Resh and Monica Muller (transit drivers) from emergency hire to part-time status effective September 5, 2006.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve Travel Southwest 2007 appropriation request in the amount of \$1,000.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to appropriate \$300 to RC & D for 2007.

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson to set 2007 appropriation to the Cottonwood County Historical Society at \$38,500. Voting as follows: Aye: Holmen, Sorenson, Kuecker. Nay: Oeltjenbruns, Severson. Motion carried.

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Chairman Kuecker reported that the Honan settlement through Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) has been signed and settled. Honan ended up receiving a settlement in the amount of \$25,000.

Kuecker reported that he and Commissioner Holmen would try to meet with Gale Bondhus regarding her recent request for salary changes sometime this week so that it can be discussed at next week's board meeting.

A certified letter was received and opened while the board was meeting. It was reported that MPCA decided to terminate the final 2 years of the ISTS grant. This will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

Kuecker reported that thank-you notes were recently received from the Sr. Club in Mt. Lake, Sr. Club in Windom and the Prairie Ecology Bus for recent appropriations.

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Commissioner Severson gave another update in regards to the Plum Creek Library System. He reported that Cottonwood County is the only county that has not yet committed \$25,000 towards the automation system. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to commit \$10,000 to Plum Creek Library System for new automation system with other \$15,000 to come from libraries within the county.

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Chairman Kuecker signed the agreement with Fidler for the replacement of software in the Recorder's Office that was approved at the August 22nd board meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant