

March 28, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 28, 2006 at 1:00 p.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 Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Swantje Willers, Laura Sandmeyer, Matt Arlandson, Marilyn Bartsch, Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith, Phil Harder, Gerard Landkammer, Tom Fast, Kim Garletz, Terry Overn, Brian Bosshart, Ed Grunewald, Scott Lyons, Klay Walinga, Dominic Jones, Leland Thiesen and Ron Gregg. Motion by Severson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 14, 2006 meeting.

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Swantje Willers met with the board representing the Sentencing to Service program to give an update and to distribute the quarterly reports, which are provided to assess the function and value of the Sentencing to Service program as it is currently operating in Cottonwood County. Matt Arlandson was also introduced as a new crew leader in Cottonwood County. He will be working mostly with the juveniles and Laura Sandmeyer will be working with the adults.

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Chairman Kuecker read a thank you letter that was recently received from an employee in regards to the closure of the Courthouse on March 13th. He also reported that six applications were received for the position of a temporary summer program assistant/clerical employee at the Extension Office.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported that he received clarification on a few of the quotes that he received for new carpeting in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office. Three quotes were received and were as follows: Windom Floor & Sleep Shop - \$2,919.95; Carpet Plus - \$2,937.94; Bargaen, Inc. - \$3,321.00. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept low quote for \$2,919.95 from Windom Floor & Sleep Shop. This quote includes removal of old carpeting and installation.

Johnson reported that he received two quotes for patching and painting work that needs to be done in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office on the walls. Quotes were as follows: Curt Fast - \$1,555 and Windom Painting - \$1,576. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$1,555 from Curt Fast.

Motion by Severson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Windom Chamber Office to use courthouse grounds on April 8th for an Easter Egg Hunt.

Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss several items. Hanson requested that the county finalize the Delft Individual Sewage Treatment System (ISTS) grant program by issuing a check in the amount of \$11,494.17 to the Delft Sanitary Sewer District for payment that is to be made to Minion Excavating. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to send payment in the amount of \$11,494.17 to the Delft Sanitary Sewer District for payment of Minion Excavating bill. County Attorney Storey will draft a document in regards to payment of the remaining invoice to Dennis Johnson. This will be discussed at the next board meeting.

The next item of business to come before the board was a recommendation from the Planning Commission regarding the Mining, Extraction, and Excavation Ordinance. A lot of research and input has been considered throughout the process of developing this ordinance, which began almost 1 year ago on May 10, 2005, when a moratorium on gravel mining was put in place. Since that time, there has been much cooperation and support amongst the Planning Commission, County staff, contractors, Red Rock Rural Water and everyone else involved in the process of developing this ordinance and all should be commended for their efforts in working together. After reviewing the proposed ordinance as amended from the public hearing and receiving further input from the county board as well as members of the audience for further additions or corrections, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to adopt Cottonwood County Ordinance #35 "Mining, Extraction, and Excavation" with revisions as presented.

Hanson presented recommendations from the Planning Commission in regards to three conditional use permits. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit to Christensen Family Farms (Delton Township Section 1) to increase the physical capacity of swine as required by changes in the Minnesota Pollution Control regulations based on condition mentioned and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit to Christensen Family Farms (Selma Township Section 10) to increase the physical capacity of swine as required by changes in the Minnesota Pollution Control regulations based on condition mentioned and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit to Christensen Family Farms (Selma Township Section 20) to increase the physical capacity of nursery pigs as required by changes in the Minnesota Pollution Control regulations based on a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Much discussion was held regarding the current cell phone contract for the Environmental Office. The board suggested that the Environmental Office should change providers by switching to Midwest Wireless so that all of the county cell phones can be with the same cellular provider. The board also agreed that the

Environmental Office should have only one main phone and two PAL phones for the department.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg presented the results of the Township Intersection signage request. The results indicated that there was not much support of the intersection signage but there were several townships that expressed an interest in 911 signage for each individual residence. The board recommended that Gregg pursue this further and find out more information as well as costs.

Gregg reported that the Highway and Solid Waste Departments would be having a retirement recognition for Dave Stresemann on Friday, March 31st for his 15 years of service to the county.

Motion by Severson, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve final payment for SAP 17-613-39 (4th Avenue project in Windom) in the amount of \$124,873.31.

Gregg mentioned that Waste Management has invited the County Board to view their recycling center in New Brighton on Thursday, March 30th. The board decided that they would decline the offer at this time.

Gregg reported that he has been researching spraying technology to improve the current road ditch-spraying program. After seeing the technology firsthand and looking at all the additional uses for a system of this type, he feels that it would be a worthwhile investment for the county. Gregg had one quote but was asked to obtain a second quote to present at the next meeting.

The 2005 Cottonwood County Highway Department Annual Report was presented to the board.

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Commissioner Holmen updated the board about a few different items. He reported that the Sheriff recently received a draft letter from the Fifth Judicial District in regards to courtroom security officers and whether or not there is a need to establish a uniform policy providing that a post licensed peace officer be in attendance at every court hearing in the Fifth Judicial District. He also reported on a meeting that he recently attended with the Sheriff at Ethanol 2000 in regards to the involvement of the Sheriff's Department if the plant ever had to declare a Code Red. Sheriff Purrington drafted a letter regarding this matter and will deliver to Ethanol 2000.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns updated the board in regards to an Energy Board meeting he recently attended. He stated that the Energy Board is starting to talk to the Metro Council in regards to how to get the power that is being generated by the wind towers in the region to the metro area where they need it. Oeltjenbruns will keep the board updated as to any new developments.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to the transit garage roof. It seems that some of the contractors that bid on the replacement/repair of the roof are

wondering whether or not the county has made a decision as to which direction to go to get the roof either replaced or repaired. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson will try to contact an engineering firm to see how much it might cost to have an engineer come to check the structural integrity of the building before proceeding further.

Johnson reported that he has some preliminary figures for the completion of the attic in the courthouse. The project is estimated to cost approximately \$30,000 to \$35,000.

Brief discussion was held in regards to the current county credit card policy. The policy currently states, "Official county business includes approved travel (hotels, meals, travel expenses) per county policy and any other items approved, per county policies, prior to actual purchase". Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to delete "meals" from official county business under the credit card policy.

Johnson informed the board of the amount of BlueCross BlueShield claims that were submitted this past month.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Kuecker to sign ElderCare Development Partnership (EDP) Application Letter of Endorsement.

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There being no further business to come before the County Board, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to adjourn as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority to discuss matters relating to JD #5. It was noted that the Preliminary Engineering Report has been received from Gerald Engstrom. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to set preliminary hearing date on JD #5 improvement for April 25th at 1:30pm. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant