

August 31, 2011  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Special Meeting/Work Session  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Wednesday, August 31, 2011 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, Jim Schmidt, Tom White; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Ron Gregg, Rory Lindvall, Jerry Hayes and Brian Cooley.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board in special session. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss Recycling and the Highway Department in particular. Gregg handed out copies of recycling budgets that were re-worked since the last board meeting. The information included a budget for the continuation of recycling as it is today and another budget to reflect changes if the county should choose to go to single stream recycling. Discussion was held in regards to household hazardous waste, condition of existing recycling vehicles, recycling services for businesses and the existing reserve account for recycling.

Gregg handed out a revised Request for Bid Proposal for Countywide Recycling Services that was amended since the last board meeting after receiving comments from the board. Gregg highlighted the changes that were made since the last draft and accepted comments/questions from the board in regards to other sections of the proposal. The board agreed to take out the section in the request for bids titled "Revenue Sharing Plan". After much discussion, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to amend the Request for Bids for Countywide Recycling Services as discussed and to send it out for bids.

Maintenance Shop Supervisor Brian Cooley met with the board to discuss the equipment needs of the Highway Department. Cooley expressed his concerns with the condition of the existing equipment. He reported that the county currently has five motor graders that are not covered under warranty at this time. All future repairs will be county costs. Discussion was held in regards to the possibility of leasing motor graders for an approximate cost of \$25,000/year for 7 years. Cooley will do some further research regarding the lease program to present to the board at a future meeting.

Assistant County Engineer Rory Lindvall and Highway Maintenance Superintendent Jerry Hayes were present with Gregg for the discussion regarding the conditions of the county roads. Several maps were handed out for the board's review. Much discussion was held regarding the need for further construction to keep up with the current road system and how to go about solving this issue. There have been a couple of different options proposed in the last several months one of which being increased funding for the Highway

Department over the next five years as well as bonding of funds for road improvements. Gregg was asked to put together some further information as to what projects the Highway Department would target if they were to receive an additional \$2 million in funding and also what projects could be done over and above the \$2 million if they were to receive \$3 million. This information will be presented at a future meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 5:03 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant