

December 23, 2008  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, December 23, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman John Oeltjenbruns. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Jason Purrington, Mark Marcy, Gale Bondhus, Senator Jim Vickerman, Representative Rod Hamilton, Cheryl Peters, Ron Gregg, Kathy Kretsch and Craig Myers. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2008 meeting as amended. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2008 Truth in Taxation meeting. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the December 12, 2008 special meeting.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to inform them of his intent to apply for an "Emergency Vehicle Permit" for Cottonwood County Emergency Management. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow the Chairman to sign the letter along with Sheriff Purrington and County Attorney Doug Storey.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss a few items. Marcy reported that Cottonwood County would be receiving an amendment to the EMPG grant for 2008 in the amount of \$5,000. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to direct Marcy to try to obtain something in writing in regards to the EMPG grant funding amounts for the next three years from Homeland Security.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to transfer Dodge pickup from the Sheriff's Department to Emergency Management for a price of \$10,000 and to transfer \$10,000 from Emergency Management to the Sheriff's Department for the purchase.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to present quotes for the purchase of a new copy machine. Two quotes were received as follows: Davis Typewriter - \$7,921 and New Star Sales - \$8,080. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept quote in the amount of \$8,080 from New Star Sales as this copier better meets the specifications of what was asked for in the request for quotes.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept and sign 2009 transit grant.

Senator Jim Vickerman and Representative Rod Hamilton met with the board to discuss the upcoming legislative session as well as some of the concerns of the county.

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Court Administrator Cheryl Peters met with the board to review five bids (on file in the Commissioner's Room) that were submitted for 2009 Court Appointed Attorney. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve Court Appointed Attorney Contract for 2009 with Birkholz Law as stated in their letter.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson and County Recorder Kathy Kretsch met with the board to ask for consideration of allowing the vacant full-time position in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office to be a shared position with the Recorder's Office. The individual hired would work approximately 4 days/week in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office and 1 day/week in the Recorder's Office. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Johnson and Kretsch to hire joint employee to work 4 days/week in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office and 1 day/week in the Recorder's Office in replacement of a full-time (5 days/week) position in the Auditor/Treasurer's Office as was previously approved.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several different items. Gregg asked that the board hold off on final approval to pay final payment on the SAP 17-629-02 Mt. Lake Dam Project on CSAH 29. This will be approved at a later time.

Gregg requested approval to pay the 2008 installment of the GIS project to Schneider Corporation. The 2008 installment equals \$58,969.00. The payment was included in the Commissioner warrants that had already been approved.

Gregg presented quotes (on file in the Commissioner's Room) for the purchase of an air compressor and an RD 11 Wacker Roller for the Highway Department. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the purchase of an air compressor in the amount of \$8,500 plus tax and RD 11 Wacker Roller in the amount of \$8,800 plus tax from Zeigler as Gregg is pleased with the services that have been provided to the county.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow the Highway Department to advertise construction projects on the county website.

Gregg gave a brief update on the MPCA Stipulation Agreement for the Cottonwood County Landfill.

Gregg informed the board that a new agreement needs to be drafted with a new route for the proposed MnDOT detour agreement for the TH 60 rehabilitation project.

Gregg recommended that a salary increase of 5% be given to all non-union employees in the Highway Department. The board will consider all salary requests at the next board meeting.

Commissioner Kuecker reported on a letter he recently received from Kathy Krestch in regards to increased business over the past few years.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to set the final 2009 levy certification at \$6,441,671.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept 2009 final budget.

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Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve First Lab Service Agreement for Drug & Alcohol Testing for the Transit System and the County Highway Department.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by White to leave Commissioner salary and per diems at the same rate as 2008. Voting aye: Sorenson, White, Oeltjenbruns. Voting nay: Holmen and Kuecker. Motion carried.

Motion by White, second by Holmen to allow Commissioners to receive \$25 for technology/cell phone allowance each month. Voting aye: White and Holmen. Voting nay: Oeltjenbruns, Sorenson and Kuecker. Motion failed.

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Update was given regarding the N. 71 County Office Building and what work still needs to be completed.

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It was reported that all three AFSCME units have signed the union contracts for 2009-2010. Commissioners Oeltjenbruns and Sorenson will review the contracts before the next board meeting.

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Brief discussion was held regarding a letter that the County Attorney drafted in regards to buffer strips. A few recommendations for changes to the letter were made and will be forwarded to the County Attorney.

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Commissioner Kuecker voiced his concerns in regards to the cost of a possible pay study for the county.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept 2008 budget change requests (included with minutes) as presented by the Auditor/Treasurer with two changes noted.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant