

March 24, 2009  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 24, 2009 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Kay Clark, Robin Wies, Jason Purrington, Tiffany Harder, Jon Diemer, Matt Maes, Rick Roemer, Ron Gregg, Brian Cooley, Craig Myers, Priscilla Jacobson, Eva Schmidt, Maxine Walen, Carol Corwin, Mary Jensen, Barbara Pingeon, Lois Ross, Mary Page, Barb Quarve and Deb Maxson.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 10, 2009 meeting as amended. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2009 emergency meeting.

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Kay Clark met with the board representing the Resource Conservation & Development Council (RC & D) to present two project proposal applications. The first application was from Cottonwood SWCD and they are requesting \$1,500 to be used for the purchase of 30 trees from Baileys Nursery to be used as an environmental education project with the Windom and Mt. Lake Schools agriculture classes. Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the grant application in the amount of \$1,500 to RC & D on behalf of Cottonwood SWCD.

The second application was from Mt. Lake Public School and they are requesting \$3,000 to be used for a rain garden project on the north edge of the Sturm Funeral Home in Mt. Lake. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the grant application in the amount of \$3,000 to RC & D on behalf of Mt. Lake Public School.

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Chairman Sorenson gave an update in regards to the N. 71 County Office Building. The possibility of an April 17<sup>th</sup> move date was discussed. Windomnet and Sentence to Serve will be contacted to see if this date is possible.

Commissioner Kuecker gave an update in regards to the energy savings efforts that are currently being pursued.

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Robin Weis, Executive Director of RSVP, and Mary Jensen, Cottonwood County RSVP Coordinator, met with the board to give an update on the RSVP Program and to thank the county board for their continued support of the program. Several RSVP volunteers were present to share some of their experiences with the board.

Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve Geo Comm maintenance contract for May 1, 2009 through April 30, 2010 at a cost of \$3,716.00. There was no increase to the rate from last year.

Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to sign proclamation recognizing Telecommunications Week April 12-18, 2009. The proclamation is in recognition of the dispatchers that work in Cottonwood County.

Purrington reported that on January 21, 2009, Governor Pawlenty signed an Executive Order creating a work group to research regional public safety answering points. There is grant money available through the state that can be used for a feasibility study to see if regional PSAP are a viable option. After further discussion, the board chose not to participate in trying to secure any grant money.

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Jon Diemer, Matt Maes and Rick Roemer met with the board representing Waste Management. They discussed recycling and landfill volumes and presented further information on how Waste Management would market the recycling program if the county chooses to accept their proposal. The board told the representatives from Waste Management that they are hoping to make a decision soon.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Gregg discussed the bid for recycling collection from Waste Management and the future of the recycling program in Cottonwood County. The board is hoping to make a decision regarding the recycling proposals at the April 7<sup>th</sup> board meeting.

Gregg reported that the Cities of Windom and Bingham Lake have requested a half-rate tipping fee for their citywide cleanup program. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow for reduced tipping fee for any municipality at a rate of \$26.67/ton + tax for a total of \$33.34 for City-wide cleanup.

The board reviewed changes to the Cottonwood County Landfill Action Plan, which is part of the Stipulation Agreement between MPCA and Cottonwood County.

Gregg reported that five bids for the Mt. Lake Township Bridge Replacement Project were received and opened on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and were as follows: Sunblad Construction - \$159,939.96; Larson Crane Service - \$145,624.00; Mathiowetz Construction - \$143,563.00; R & G Construction - \$158,176.00; and Midwest Contracting - \$142,114.00. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept low bid in the amount of \$142,114.00 to Midwest Contracting.

Brian Cooley, Highway Shop Supervisor, met with the board to present a report on the trading in of Unit 11 (2008 F250 diesel pickup) for another pickup. He also reported that they have been having problems with Unit 14 (1991 K2500

gas pickup) and it is currently in need of a new transmission, has a bent frame and has had many engine leaks. The three state quotes received for the purchase of two pickups with trade were as follows: \$27,624.00 – Car/Truck City; \$24,964.80 – Car/Truck City; and \$27,810.08 – Elk River Ford. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns to purchase two trucks in the amount of \$27,624.00 + tax and license from Car/Truck City. Voting as follows: Aye – Kuecker, Oeltjenbruns, White, Holmen. Nay – Sorenson. Motion carried.

Brief discussion was held regarding an update on the bridge bonding bill as well as a few concerns regarding the Household Hazardous Waste Collection and the hours for the collection.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 09-03-24  
Authorizing Application for  
Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency  
Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program**

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, State of Minnesota, has been authorized to undertake a program to provide funds for Family Homeless Prevention & Assistance Projects; and

**WHEREAS**, Western Community Action has developed an application for the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program; and

**WHEREAS**, Western Community Action has demonstrated the ability to perform the required activities of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved that Western Community Action is hereby authorized as an entity to be charged with the administration of funds made available through the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program in the county of Cottonwood, in Minnesota.

I hereby certify that the above is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners at their session on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of March 2009 and as appears on the minutes of their record of proceedings.

S/Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

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Brief discussion was held regarding the possibility of developing a surplus list of equipment, office furniture, etc. that Cottonwood County currently has so other departments are aware of what kind of equipment may be available for their own needs.

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Discussion was held regarding some concerns that have recently been raised by the transit drivers in regards to transportation for preschool children next year. This will be discussed more at the next board meeting.

Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update on a few different items. He reported that Mt. Lake Park was recently used for a paint ball war and he questioned whether this should have been allowed to happen in a county park.

An update was given in regards to the Ethanol Plant in Lambertton and reported that they are anticipating a start date of approximately May 28<sup>th</sup>.

Oeltjenbruns updated the board in regards to the energy production tax and reported that it is currently being discussed in the legislation. He also reported that the Wind Forum held in Lakefield had over 100 individuals in attendance.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve registration fee and per diem for Commissioners to attend Bio-Science Conference on April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in Worthington.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Windom Chamber of Commerce to use Courthouse grounds for Easter Egg Hunt on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to pay final payment in the amount of \$495 to Dave Borsgard for painting of N. 71 County Office Building. This amount was for additional work completed over and above the original contract.

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Brief discussion was held regarding upcoming State Auditor training and AMC District meeting that is scheduled for June 4<sup>th</sup>.

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Chairman Sorenson gave a brief update in regards to the legislative meeting he attended on March 16<sup>th</sup> in St. Paul.

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Commissioners Sorenson and White along with Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson are planning to attend the District 8 meeting in Slayton on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant