

April 2, 2013  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 2, 2013 at 9:00 a.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, Jim Schmidt, Kevin Stevens, Tom White, Norm Holmen; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson, Jason Purrington, Gerry Engstrom, Gordy Olson, Deb Most, Gary Sprynczynatyk, Stan Friesen, Jenny Quade, Rahn Larson, Sue Visker, Susan Miller, Melissa Vongsy, Kristen Mandelkow, Cathy Quade, Sherry Sevcik, Kari Hunter, Tracey Voehl, Amy Their, Rob Visker, Ryan Visker, Ron Visker, Becky Wiens, Sally Larson, Holly Larson, Marian Torkelson, Craig Myers and Brenda Anderson.

Motion by Schmidt, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2013 meeting.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington and Probation Officer Jenny Quade met with the board to discuss the move of the law library to the Courthouse and the remodeling project for the Probation Office to move to the Law Enforcement Center. Commissioner Stevens gave an update regarding some recent correspondence he received from the Judge's Law Clerk. After further discussion, the board agreed to proceed with plans to move the law library to the Commissioner's Room at the Courthouse and the Probation Office to the Law Enforcement Center. Quotes were received for the renovation of the existing law library currently located at the Law Enforcement Center and presented as follows: Hanefeld Custom Builders (labor) - \$2,940.00; Jurgens Construction (cut in new door) - \$1,760.00; Lamperts (materials including safety rated door) - \$6,337.55; Reliance Telephone (upgrade of safety cameras at LEC) - \$6,859.00. Purrington reported that there is grant money available through the Department of Corrections to help with some of the expenses but the deadline for submission of expenses is June 30, 2013. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to go along with Purrington's recommendation for the project as presented today.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow the City of Mt. Lake to receive a reduction (50%) of tipping fees on demo from a house in Mt. Lake after the board received further requested information from the City of Mt. Lake.

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Discussion was held regarding possible participation in a surplus sale that the City of Windom and Windom School District are hoping to have in the near future. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow the county to participate in the public auction for disposal of excess property. The Department

Heads will be notified and told to respond to Steve Nasby directly if they have items to sell.

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Gerry Engstrom, Interim County Engineer, met with the board to discuss further the bids (on file in Commissioner's Office) that were received for gravel hauling and how the board would like to proceed. After much discussion, there was a motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to accept proposal #1 for Sweetman Sand & Gravel to haul county gravel to 28.5 miles of road in the east side of the county at a cost of \$111,720.00 and to accept proposal #2 for L & S Construction to supply and haul their own gravel to 30 miles of road in the northwest section of the county at a cost of \$157,500.00. The total amount expended for contract hauling will be \$269,220.00 plus \$4,289.25 gravel tax for a grand total of \$273,509.25. Everyone agreed to move forward with project and to use revenue reserves for any overages of amount budgeted with the funds to be paid back when designated levy money becomes available to pay back.

Engstrom also reported that last summer the county highway maintenance department did a six-mile gravel road re-conditioning project on CR 21 to narrow the gravel surface width to 30 feet. The board was supportive of continuing to move in this direction again this summer. Engstrom will try to put together further information as to what might be able to get accomplished this next year.

Engstrom reported that the requested state funding that was to be advanced should be received in the near future.

Brief discussion was held regarding how long Engstrom should work with JinYeene Neumann once she begins her employment as the new County Engineer. The board seemed to agree to work with her as long as it takes to get the job done.

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Gordy Olson, Interim Planning & Zoning/Parks Administrator, met with the board to discuss a proposed work agreement if he were to remain working with the county for an extended period of time. The board agreed that the work agreement was acceptable. The board did agree to increase the cell phone allowance to \$30/month as that is what the other county employees receive and they also agreed to give him prorated (50%) vacation time, sick leave and holiday pay based on a rate that takes into consideration his 30 years of past work experience. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve work agreement as submitted by Gordy Olson effective April 1, 2013.

Brief update was given regarding a meeting recently held between Commissioner White, Kelly Thongvivong, Andy Geiger and Tim Stahl from Jackson County.

Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve cell phone allowance to seasonal park employees at a rate of \$10/month for supervisor and laborers and \$20/month for Leslie Makovsky. A copy of a cell phone bill with name and cell phone number will need to be submitted for reimbursement.

Olson reported that one of the seasonal part-time employees recently declined the position so he will plan to go through the applications again.

Brief discussion was held regarding 50-amp service at Talcot Park. Ron's Electric has been contacted and will be meeting with Olson in the near future.

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Discussion was held regarding the possible office location of the Information Systems Director position. In the future, the board may want to explore options for digital imaging since the county seems to be running short of space. The board also discussed the possibility of a new IT department helping to give some direction in this area as well.

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Chairman Oeltjenbruns reported that RC & D would no longer be in existence. The remaining funds of approximately \$5,000 will be used to fund the Children's Fair. There will be no county appropriation this year.

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Commissioner Schmidt gave an update regarding a phone call he received from Roger Haar who is interested in taking water out of a ditch on the south side of Storden and using it for irrigation. Haar has also been in contact with SWCD and is currently working with the DNR.

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Commissioner White gave an update regarding a phone call he received regarding another possible donation of funding to Windom Theater, Inc. The issue that might pose a problem is that Windom Theater, Inc. has not yet received 503(c) status and this particular foundation can only fund 503(c) status organizations. Commissioner White will continue to be in contact with this foundation.

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Gary Sprynczynatyk and Deb Most met with the board representing MSSA to present an Outstanding Staff Achievement Award to Sue Visker for her dedication to the individuals she serves. She was nominated for this award by her co-worker Melissa Vongsy. The board congratulated her for this much deserved award.

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Motion by Schmidt, second by White, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 10:45 a.m. to discuss strategy for upcoming labor negotiations. Present for the closed session were: Commissioners Oeltjenbruns, Schmidt, Stevens, White, Holmen; Kelly Thongvivong, Nick Anderson and Jan Johnson.

Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to open the closed session at 11:55 a.m.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 a.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant