

July 26, 2011
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 26, 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; Kay Clark, Crystal Dunker, Cheryl Peters, Jan Johnson, Jenny Quade, Rahn Larson, Leland Thiesen, John Madson, Mike Johnson, Dick White and Bill Miller.

Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2011 meeting.

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Kay Clark and Leland Thiesen met with the board representing the Cottonwood County Fair Board. They presented an income and expense report that contained information from 2005 to 2010. They also reported on the maintenance and improvement expenditures, in particular 2009 to present, as that is when the county began appropriating \$7,500 per year for five years to be used for maintenance and improvement.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the 2011 appropriation to the Ag Society in the amount of \$18,000 as well as a 2011 appropriation in the amount of \$7,500 to be used for maintenance and improvement.

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Commissioner Tom White left the meeting as the bids from private vendors were opened and publicly read to perform single stream recycling in Cottonwood County. The two bids received were as follows: Waste Management - \$205,044/year + fuel surcharge if diesel is greater than \$4.00/gallon; Hometown Sanitation - \$209,000/year with no surcharges imposed. These two bids will be reviewed by the board as well as County Engineer Ron Gregg and awarded at the next board meeting.

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Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve 30-day posting of a new Security Policy on Portable Computing Devices to be added to the County's Personnel Policy.

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Brief discussion was held regarding consideration of using Windom Net for providing some telephone services to the county. Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson will provide information to Windom Net in order to get further estimates from them.

Crystal Dunker, Prairie Ecology Bus Center Director, met with the board to thank them for their renewed support of their programs in Cottonwood County for 2011. Dunker reported that she would be in touch with schools in August to schedule program opportunities/field trips for the school districts throughout the county. Dunker requested that the county consider providing similar funds of \$1,000 for 2012. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to pay 2011 appropriation in the amount of \$1,000 to the Prairie Ecology Bus Center.

Dunker encouraged the commissioners to attend the Prairie Steak Fry in Heron Lake at 5:00 p.m.

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Brief discussion was held regarding a transit meeting that will be held in St. James on Wednesday to discuss Greater Minnesota Transit budget cuts that Transit Director Kelly Thongvivong will be attending.

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Discussion was held regarding the transfer of some wind power production taxes to the Highway Department as well as the possibility of scheduling a work session to discuss the Highway Department. The board seemed to agree that a special meeting should be held at some point to discuss this further.

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Court Administrator Cheryl Peters met with the board to further discuss the ongoing re-upholstery of office furniture in the courtroom and hall. Peters reported that there was a savings of \$1,081.37 from the previous bid (\$3,778.98) received for re-upholstery of 17 chairs in the jury room. Because there is enough fabric remaining from the last project to re-upholster the pews in the courtroom and hall as well as 2 chairs in the hall, Peters asked for an additional quote from Goodyear Upholstery to complete this work. The amount of this bid was \$1,266.88 for a difference of \$185.51 due to the savings on the first project. Peters also asked for consideration of reimbursement for her mileage (400 miles @ \$.51/mile) to and from Redwood Falls on four different occasions. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to pay mileage in the amount of \$204.00 to Cheryl Peters and \$185.51 to Goodyear Upholstery to complete the remainder of the re-upholstery project.

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Jan Johnson, Director of the Southwest Crisis Center, met with the board to give an update regarding Cottonwood County 2010-2011 statistics. Johnson reported that 102 adults and 140 children were provided with direct services during this time. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve 2011 appropriation to the Southwest Crisis Center in the amount of \$500.

Probation Officer Jenny Quade met with the board to ask permission to use the county credit card to purchase children's prizes that will be used at the Night to Unite event on August 8th. The purchase in the amount of \$130.99 will be made from Oriental Trading and will be paid for with supervision fees. Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow for the use of the county credit card for this purchase.

Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow usage of the courthouse lawn on August 8th from 5-7pm for the Night to Unite event.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update regarding the Energy Board and Solid Waste Commission meetings that he recently attended. He reported that John Shepard was in attendance at the Solid Waste meeting and was trying to promote a program for recycling of computers that are then given to families that can't afford them.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that what is stated on the Waste Management contract and what he was told by an individual that works for Waste Management are not consistent. Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote (Commissioner White abstained from the vote) to seek quotes for services of nine dumpsters throughout the county.

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Commissioner Holmen reported that Area II and RCRCRA are now meeting on the same day to help with cost-savings measures.

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Chairman Kuecker gave some updates in regards to a few miscellaneous items. He reported that Matt Buckentin will be finishing up the N. 71 County Office Building roof project today. Some of the ceiling tile will be replaced by Buckentin as there was some damage caused by a rain event that occurred during the roofing project.

Kuecker reported that he attended a Minnesota River Board meeting recently as an alternate for Commissioner Oeltjenbruns. He felt that the meeting included three very good speakers that were very interesting to listen to.

Kuecker reported that he recently attended a meeting with the State Auditors to discuss the upcoming FY 2010 audit. If anyone has any concerns with the audit process or a specific department let Kuecker know.

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There being no further business, there was a motion by Schmidt, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to adjourn as the County Board at 3:40 p.m. in order to convene as the Ditch Authority.

Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve partial payment of JD #10 improvement project to Gustafson Draining. This payment is approximately 1/3 of the total bill.

There being no further business to come before the Ditch Authority, there was a motion by Schmidt, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to adjourn at 3:42 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant