

May 11, 2010  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 11, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Tom White. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Kim Hall, Holli Arp, Ron Gregg, Jason Purrington, Aaron Backman, Frank McDowell, Todd Hagen and Wendell Fredin.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2010 meeting as amended.

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Emergency Management Director Kim Hall met with the board to report that the county would be receiving a Region 5 ARMER grant for approximately \$8,000 that can be used for the purchase of ARMER communications equipment. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept grant and allow Hall to purchase three portable radios at a cost not to exceed \$9,000 using Region 5 ARMER grant funds. Any additional cost in excess of the grant funds will be taken out of long term capital outlay.

Hall was asked to present additional information at the next board meeting in regards to the cost estimates that will be included in the grant for the ARMER System.

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Holli Arp, University of Minnesota Extension, met with the board to ask for acceptance of a Memorandum of Agreement for providing Extension programs locally and employing Extension staff. Arp briefly highlighted a few of the changes from the previous MOA. The term of this agreement will begin on January 1, 2011 and end on December 31, 2013. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve Memorandum of Agreement between University of Minnesota Extension and Cottonwood County.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg reported that the current county map supply is almost gone and he wanted direction from the board as to whether or not to purchase additional maps. The board agreed not to purchase additional maps at this time.

Update was given regarding Tri-County Recycling meeting that was held on May 7<sup>th</sup> in Slayton. There are still a few unanswered questions that Gregg is waiting to find out from Murray County. Gregg reported that Tri-County is committed to their program and they will continue even if Cottonwood and Pipestone counties should decide to take their recycling elsewhere.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve advertisement of SAP 17-632-01 which is the Main Street Jeffers project.

Gregg gave an update regarding gravel mining near the Talcot Lake Area that Commissioners Kuecker and Sorenson had previously agreed to be involved with when discussions were going to be held with Jackson County and the DNR. No discussions have taken place at this time.

Brief discussion was held regarding County Road 45. Gregg said that the highway department will continue working on this issue and this road will be viewed next week during the highway road tour.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board in regards to the County Coroner position. It seems that the County Coroner needs to be appointed by the County Board and also needs to take an oath of office which has not been done in the past. Purrington reported that Dr. Rod Dynes has agreed to be appointed to a 4-year term. Purrington will follow-up with Dr. Dynes in regards to this matter.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns to amend the agenda to allow the Windom EDA to present information regarding the proposed New Vision Windom Elevator Project to the county board for informational purposes only. Voting as follows: Aye – Holmen and Oeltjenbruns. Nay – Kuecker. Absent was Commissioner Sorenson. Motion carried.

The New Vision Project and timeline were explained to the board by Aaron Backman (Windom EDA) and Frank McDowell (New Vision Co-op). Todd Hagen, Financial Advisor/Vice President for Ehlers was also present. Aaron Backman informed the board that he would be in attendance at the next board meeting to ask that the county board call for a public hearing on the proposed establishment of a Tax Abatement Program for New Vision Co-op.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve May warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 93,954.71
County Building Fund	\$ 2,153.90
Ditch Fund	\$ 1,203.37
Agency Fund	\$ 338.70
Taxes & Penalties Fund	\$ 831.00
Road & Bridge	\$ 90,086.92
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 5,564.29
Landfill Enterprise	\$ 6,107.46
	<u>\$200,240.35</u>

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to set public hearing for June 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:05 a.m. to consider imposition of a production tax on the removal of aggregate material.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns informed the board that the Mt. Lake Golf Course will be asking for approval of a gambling permit at the next board meeting.

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Commissioner Kuecker had a few items to discuss with the board. Kuecker handed out responses that were received by Kay Clark from four other area counties in regards to their relationship with their local Soil & Water Conservation District.

Discussion was held in regards to loans by department and whether or not the board should develop a fund transfer/loan policy. This will be discussed more at the next board meeting.

Discussion was held regarding an increased deposit of material on a property on Highway 71 north of Windom that is becoming more unsightly. No action was taken at this time.

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Commissioner Holmen gave an update regarding the Brown-Nicollet-Cottonwood Water Quality Board. He reported that this organization plans to terminate two employees effective May 31<sup>st</sup> and to become inactive as of December 31<sup>st</sup>.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve 2010 appropriation to Area II in the amount of \$3,853.53.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to convene as the Ditch Authority to discuss a lateral petition request.

A petition was received for a lateral for JD #32 in Midway Township. All requirements of the ditch law have been met and a bond was provided. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to appoint Gerald Engstrom as the engineer to complete the preliminary report for the JD #32 project.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and to reconvene as the County Board.

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A monthly trial balance was handed out to the board for their information.

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There being no further business, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 12:20 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Tom White, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant