

February 7, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 7, 2006 at 9:00 a.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, Gary Sorenson, Chuck Severson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Chrystal Dunker, Mark Marcy, Jason Purrington, Ron Gregg, Craig Myers, Greg Warner and Gale Bondhus. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the January 24, 2006 meeting.

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Chrystal Dunker, PEBC Executive Director, met with the board to give an update of the Prairie Ecology Bus Center's activities this past year and to explain how the funds allocated by the county were utilized. Dunker reported that not all of the schools within the county were able to come up with matching funds for some of the programs. She is hoping to make some additional contacts to see if any other organizations might be interested in helping to fund some of these programs. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to appropriate \$1,000 for 2006 to the Prairie Ecology Bus Center. Dunker also completed an activity with the board while at the meeting.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a meeting he recently had with some residents of Highwater Township in regards to GPS. It seems that the City of Lambertton does not have GPS in their area and they would like to see if the county could help Lambertton purchase a unit. Because Lambertton is in Redwood County, Purrington will contact their Sheriff to find out further information.

County Engineer Ron Gregg presented information for consideration of the board in regards to 911 signage for Cottonwood County. The estimate to furnish and install the remainder of the 911 signage is approximately \$113,625. Discussion was held in regards to possible funding sources. More research will be done and information will be gathered before any action is taken.

Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy asked for permission to seek quotes for a new computer for Emergency Management as the laptop he currently has is slowing down. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to authorize Marcy to seek quotes for desktop computer for Emergency Management. It was also suggested that he check with SW MN EMS Board to see if there might be some different grants available for a purchase such as this.

Family Service Agency Director Craig Myers met with the board in regards to the pointing of six different positions that are currently not on the county pay scale. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to allow these six positions (Financial Assistance Specialist (2); Collections Officer; Information System's Specialist, Sr.; Child Protection Assessment/Investigative Specialist; Case Aide/Account Technician) to be sent to Labor Relations for pointing on the Hay System.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept retirement resignation from Arlyss Kremer effective on or before March 15th with appropriate payout of benefits.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to post internally and to advertise, if needed, for the position of FSA Case Aide.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg reported that the Cottonwood County Landfill would require a \$500,000 expansion to allow the disposal of ash generated from the proposed gasification plant in Redwood Falls. Cottonwood County would also need to undergo a modification to the existing MPCA landfill permit. Gregg's thoughts were that he didn't believe that this would be feasible for the county.

Gregg mentioned that he would like to schedule a road tour to review Cottonwood County's upcoming highway and bridge projects. A tentative date was set for Friday, April 7th.

The board reviewed the new road ditch spraying policy and the use of GPS technology.

Gregg presented two computer quotes for the replacement of a computer station for the Highway/Solid Waste Department. Quotes were as follows: Davis Typewriter - \$1681.07 and New Star Sales & Service - \$1463.31. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept low quote from New Star Sales in the amount of \$1463.31.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to send letter of support to Governor Tim Pawlenty for continued support for renewable/alternative fuels for the State of Minnesota.

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Greg Warner met with the board on behalf of Western Community Action to ask for a letter of support in regards to the 2006 CRV Rural Rehabilitation Deferred Loan RFP. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to send letter of support on behalf of Cottonwood County to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency.

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Discussion was held in regards to final approval of the courthouse fire alarm system plan. A few additional items (detector/alarm in Probation Office, detector/alarm in elevator room, and heat sensor for boiler room) were added to the original proposal. It was decided that a burglar alarm system should also be

considered. Motion by Severson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to get quotes according to original proposal as well as additional items listed above.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to ID badges for county employees that currently don't have one. It was suggested that Family Service Agency be contacted to find out further information as they currently have ID badges.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board in regards to consideration of salary requests due to added responsibilities within the Assessor's Office as a result of one less full-time appraiser. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns to move Sue Amundson from Step 3 to Step 6 of the 2006 pay scale. Voting aye: Sorenson, Oeltjenbruns, Holmen, Kuecker. Voting nay: Severson. Motion carried. This wage increase will be effective February 16, 2006.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns to move Lisa Will from Step 1 to Step 4 of the 2006 pay scale. Voting aye: Kuecker, Oeltjenbruns, Sorenson. Voting nay: Holmen and Severson. Motion carried. This wage increase will be effective February 1, 2006.

Discussion was held in regards to the recent request of Bondhus to review her salary and consider an increase based on her years of experience and the average salaries of other counties. Since Bondhus gave additional information at the meeting today, the board asked that they delay consideration of her salary request for an additional week.

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Motion by Severson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve Cottonwood County Election Equipment Plan with amendment and permission to send grant to Secretary of State.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to authorize Veteran's Service Office to lease Chevy Impala from Travel Management as their current lease is due to expire.

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Commissioner Holmen gave a brief update in regards to an RCRCA meeting that he recently attended.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave a brief update about some weekly Planning & Zoning meetings that he has been attending in regards to the county mining ordinance. Oeltjenbruns agreed that the meetings have been moving along well.

Oeltjenbruns also updated the board on a recent GBERBA meeting that he attended. He reported that GBERBA is currently in the process of hiring a coordinator. However, problems with the hiring of this person are causing controversies.

Commissioner Holmen informed the board that he recently conducted an exit interview with Kathy Kretsch after her internal transfer from the Assessor's Office to the Recorder's Office.

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Commissioner Severson brought a request to the board for consideration of an increase to Leslie Makovsky's salary. Motion by Severson, second by Sorenson to give Makovsky one-step increase effective February 1, 2006. Voting aye: Sorenson, Severson, Holmen. Voting nay: Kuecker, Oeltjenbruns. Motion carried.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to the carpet in the Auditor/Treasurer's office. The board gave authorization to pursue getting quotes on new carpet for the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

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There being no further business, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant