

October 25, 2011  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 25, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Norm Holmen. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Jim Schmidt, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Doug Goodrich, Jason Purrington, George Eilertson, Ron Gregg, Bill Moldestad, Duane Bendixen, Jim Weidemann, Jerry Engstrom, Betty Kipfer, Bryan Kipfer, Rahn Larson, Dale Minion, Ron Shea, Richard Krahn, Linda Krahn, Marty Espenson, Trent Harder, Jim Harder, Willard Dick, Alvin Dick and Liz Struve.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the October 11, 2011 meeting as amended.

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Doug Goodrich, Executive Director of RCRCA, met with the board to give an update and present a summary of appropriations, expenditures and grants relating to the RCRCA program. The amount appropriated by Cottonwood County is expected to remain the same at \$7,440.00 for 2012 and 2013.

It was reported that the RCRCA/Area II annual meeting will be held on December 10<sup>th</sup> at Jackpot Junction.

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Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority to hold a final public hearing for consolidated JD #2.

Jerry Engstrom presented the final report for the proposed improvement of consolidated JD #2. The petition requests that an open ditch be constructed to replace the westerly section of Branch "M".

Jim Weidemann (one of the three viewers of the project) gave a presentation in regards to how the benefits for each property owner were determined.

Betty Kipfer voiced her concerns about the amount/acre being set too low. The viewers recommended \$6,000/acre but Betty feels the property may be worth more as a recent sale of property nearby sold for \$8,000/acre.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept the engineer and viewers reports with the exception of the amount figured (\$6,000/acre) for the damages of the land.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to pay \$8,000/acre for damages of 2.7 acres of land as a result of the JD #2 improvement project.

One bid was received for the consolidated JD #2 improvement project as follows: Minion Excavating - \$35,919.51. The deadline for the completion of the project is November 25<sup>th</sup>. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to award the bid in the amount of \$35,919.51 to Minion Excavating.

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

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Liz Struve, Small Business Development Center Director, met with the board to give an update and to ask Cottonwood County to consider investing \$3,000 to the program. There are currently 18 counties in southwest Minnesota being served by the SBDC. The SBDC's sponsoring organization for over 30 years has been Southwest Minnesota State University (SMSU). Due to state funding cuts to higher education, SMSU is limited in their ability to fully support the SBDC. Struve reported that 84% of SBDC clients are still in operation five years later. Census data reports that the national average of business survival after 5 five years is 40-50%. Struve will forward further information requested to help with the board's decision on whether or not they would like to invest \$3,000 in the program.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few items. Purrington reported that he originally asked four vendors (Indoff Inc., Wrightline, Watson and Xybix) to submit a quote for new dispatch furniture for the Sheriff's Department. Indoff was unable to get the type of dispatch furniture requested and Wrightline decided that the dispatch room was too small to work with. Two quotes were received as follows: Watson - \$26,130.27 and Xybix - \$24,616.65. After further discussion, there was a recommendation by Purrington to accept the quote from Watson as they most closely quoted the arrangement of the furniture that was requested and the quote from Xybix had an additional charge for any waiting time (\$75 per man hour straight time and \$115 per man hour for OT plus subsistence expenses) that could be a factor. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to accept the quote in the amount of \$26,130.27 from Watson due to their design and durability of furniture. Funding for this furniture purchase will be covered by the Sheriff's 911 funds.

Discussion was held regarding the emergency power supply at the Sheriff's Department. There have been two recent instances when the power has gone out and the generator has kicked in late and services went down. Purrington would like to explore further backup options with Greg Walsh. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow Purrington to obtain quotes for electrical backup for the dispatch area.

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George Eilertson met with the board representing Northland Securities, Inc. Eilertson reported that he received final information regarding the bond rating of Cottonwood County. Cottonwood County bonds were rated Aa- (very strong) by Standard & Poor's Investor's Service.

Eilertson also presented information regarding the issuance of \$1,090,000 General Obligation Drainage Refunding Bonds, Series 2011B. The Series 2011B Bond issues will be issued for the following purpose: to current refund the \$1,900,000 General Obligation Drainage Crossover Refunding Bonds, Series 2005A. The Series 2011B refunding bonds are issued callable beginning February 1, 2017 and any date thereafter. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous roll call vote to adopt Resolution 11-10-25 (on file in Commissioner's Office) authorizing issuance, awarding sale, prescribing the form and details and providing for the payment of \$1,090,000 General Obligation Drainage Refunding Bonds, Series 2011B.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg asked for any questions from the board in regards to last months Highway Department budget. Commissioner White made a few comments/suggestions and thought it might be helpful to add another column to the report in order to more accurately reflect the total budget spent to date. Chairman Holmen also suggested projecting what kind of further revenue might be coming in over the next few months.

Discussion was held regarding the market value credit that was incorrectly budgeted the last several years.

It was noted that a total of \$330,000 has been transferred to Road & Bridge from the Revenue Fund this year.

Update was given regarding the single stream recycling contract with Waste Management. A letter from Waste Management was also shared with the board. The letter began by stating that "Waste Management looked into the feasibility of county owned containers as requested in the October County Board meeting. Our findings and reviews show this to be an exercise that is not in the best interest of the either of us." A complete copy of the letter is on file in the Commissioners Office. Gregg also commented that he would prefer that the maintenance and purchase of recycling containers stay with the vendor.

Chairman Holmen commented on a bill that he recently signed from Schmidt Construction for approximately \$20,000 for overage to the original contract for the partial closure of Cell 4 & 5 at the Cottonwood County Landfill.

Gregg reported that the county is currently in a holding pattern with MPCA at this time. It was noted that a well contractor would be coming to flush out lines at the landfill the first part of November. When asked about the leachate levels Gregg reported that he doesn't believe the current ratings have changed at all but wasn't sure.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Holmen to sign Addendum No. 10 to the Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects, Inc. Joint Powers Agreement extending the existing agreement to December 31, 2013. State Funding has been appropriated to Area II through June 30, 2013.

Motion by Schmidt, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Commissioner Kuecker to attend SWCD Annual Convention to be held in the metro area on December 4-6 and to pay for registration, meals, mileage and motel stay.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the AMC District Meeting that will be held on Thursday of this week in Worthington. Commissioners Oeltjenbruns, Holmen and White are planning to attend at this time.

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Discussion was held regarding the telephone issues that Community Health Services is continuing to have in the Windom office. It was reported that Greg Walsh as well as the telephone company have looked into the situation and nothing has yet been resolved. Pat Stewart, CHS Administrator, will be contacted to see what the problem seems to be.

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Chairman Holmen reported that the LELS unions are tentatively planning to meet to discuss union negotiations the last week in November. The AFSCME unions will be meeting this week with their union representative and then dates and times can be scheduled to begin negotiations with those unions as well.

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Brief discussion was held regarding a possible loan to Southwestern Mental Health. The State Auditors will be contacted for their thoughts and further information will be shared at a future meeting.

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The board was reminded about the 4-H Recognition Banquet which will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> at the American Lutheran Church.

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Update was given in regards to the decoration of the spruce trees on the west side of the courthouse.

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Overtime reports were handed out for the board's review.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:24 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant