

June 26, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 26, 2007 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, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Randy Markl, Rob Baden, Aaron Backman, Jim Weidemann, Duane Bendixon, Bill Modestad, Brandon Junker, Rod Junker, Richard Green, Andy Olson, Mark Marcy, Sarah Anderson, Marie Nagorske, Ron Gregg, Jason Purrington, Angie Blanshan, Jenny Fritz, Kathy Kretsch, Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith, Karen Boysen and Vicky Wagner. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2007 regular meeting. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 12, 2007 Board of Equalization meeting with correction of name.

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Randy Markl, DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor, met with the board to seek approval for the Department of Natural Resources to purchase approximately 80 acres from Farm Associates (Dick and Mike Wiens), described as S ½ SE ¼ in Section 9, Dale Township. This property will become a State Wildlife Management Area and be open to public hunting. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous roll call vote to approve purchase of property by DNR for conservation purposes.

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Chairman Holmen gave a brief update in regards to RCRCA and handed out some information he recently received.

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Commissioner Sorenson gave an update in regards to a road retention project with Area II in Germantown Township.

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Commissioner White mentioned that he has recently been approached about the cleaning of the courthouse since the remodeling project in the Commissioner's Room is now complete. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson will do some checking on this to see what needs to be done.

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An invoice from I & S Engineers & Architects was received but because everything is not yet finalized, this will be discussed further at the next board meeting.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve payment to Dave Borsgard in the amount of \$400 for work done in Recorder's Office to refinish table.

A thank you that was received from Plum Creek Library System was read to the board. As a result of the Regional Library Basic System Support increase passed this year, PCLS will receive an increase of approximately \$26,000 in FY 2008 and \$170,000 in FY 2009.

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Discussion was held in regards to tuck pointing for the courthouse. Because only 1 quote has been received at this point, it was suggested that the county budget this item for 2008 and try to get further quotes at that time.

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Discussion was held in regards to the current salary of Kathy Kretsch, County Recorder. After listening to comments that were obtained by the commissioners from different individuals that work with the Recorder's Office, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to adjust Kathy Kretsch's annual salary to \$45,000 beginning July 1, 2007. Her beginning salary for 2007 was \$42,630.

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Windom EDA Executive Director Aaron Backman met with the board to introduce himself and to give an update on a recent sale of EDA property at the corner of 6th Street & 2nd Avenue and some other potential projects that he is currently working on.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority to hold a public hearing for JD #32. After presentation was given by the three viewers (Jim Weidemann, Duane Bendixon and Bill Modestad) on the process used for the redetermination of benefits, there was a motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept viewers report for 2007 redetermination of benefits for JD #32. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and to reconvene as the County Board.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss several items. Marcy presented an agreement from Lt. Colonel Dave Grossman for a proposed presentation for approximately 350 people on April 23, 2008. Motion by White, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Holmen and Marcy to sign agreement.

Discussion was held in regards to the selling of an old FEMA trailer. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to sell old FEMA trailer in legally acceptable manner for a minimum of \$500.

Marcy reported on the cost of the repair (\$1285) of the present gas detector and because it would be quite costly, he presented two quotes for a new gas detector as follows: Lab Safety - \$601 and Elvin Safety - \$595. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to purchase M40 monitor for \$595 from Elvin Safety.

Discussion was held in regards to a bill for donuts/rolls that was recently denied for reimbursement. Because Cottonwood County has no written policy, Marcy contacted the State Auditors for clarification and they stated that there is

currently no statute that prohibits or authorizes the purchase of donuts/rolls. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns to pay bill to Gordy's in the amount of \$7.68 for purchase of donuts/rolls for Emergency Management training in light of the fact that the training serves the public interest. Voting as follows: aye – Sorenson, Oeltjenbruns, White and Holmen; nay – Kuecker. Motion carried.

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Sarah Anderson, Assistant Director of Lutheran Social Services – Senior Nutrition Program, met with the board to give an update in regards to the Senior Nutrition Program and to present background information and statistics.

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Marie Nagorske met with the board to present a petition of approximately 55 signatures for a proposed walking trail in the Bingham Lake area possibly along CSAH 2 or around the lake. County Engineer Ron Gregg was also present at the meeting to explain that the next step might be to apply for federal enhancement dollars through the Area Transportation Partnership in District 7. He stated that 80% of the funding for the project would be federal dollars and 20% of the funding would be local dollars. He also mentioned that the county would need to be the sponsoring agent for the City of Bingham Lake.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few different items. He reported that Windom would be holding a National Night Out on August 7th from 5-8pm and he would like permission to use the courthouse lawn on that evening. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to allow the use of the south lawn of the Courthouse and the parking lot area for the National Night Out event.

Purrington presented some information in regards to defibrillators and squad car cameras that he might have an opportunity to purchase through a grant program. The defibrillator grant would not require any matching dollars but the grant for the squad car cameras would require matching funds of 25%. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow the Sheriff's Department to apply for grants for defibrillators and squad car cameras.

Purrington reported on some issues and concerns he has with the current paging system for the Storden/Jeffers Fire/Ambulance as it is currently housed in the County Highway building. Because the Windom Fire Department recently received grant money to add a repeater system to upgrade their current system, Alpha Wireless is able to purchase another receiver at 27% below state bid pricing to upgrade the Storden/Jeffers paging system if the county is interested. Since it makes sense to purchase a new receiver so that it can be installed and housed at the LEC instead of the highway department, Purrington presented a quote in the amount of \$2,332.35 from Alpha Wireless. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to accept quote from Alpha Wireless for an amount not to exceed \$2,332.35.

Purrington presented maintenance renewal agreement between Cottonwood County and Geo Comm for dispatch mapping support services that expired the end of April but because of an oversight on Geo Comm's part was

not sent out on time. This contract is at a rate of \$3,296.18/year and shall be in effect from May 1, 2007 to April 30, 2008. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Chairman Holmen to sign the maintenance contract.

Purrington reported that he recently received notification that the Sheriff's Department will be receiving \$5,430 through a DNR grant for the purchase of equipment for the boat that is used for water safety.

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County Recorder Kathy Kretsch met with the board to discuss some equipment/computer problems she is having in the Recorder's Office. Kretsch and Commissioner Sorenson will plan to go to Jackson County sometime in the near future to look at their current system setup.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. The first item of discussion was the Planning Commission's recent recommendation for changes to the language in Ordinance No. 28, Section 22. After much discussion as to the wording of the document, there was a motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to move adoption of the Ordinance as revised. Agreed upon changes will be made to Subdivision 2 specifically #3 and #4.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow one individual from the Environmental Office to attend County Ag Course, which will be held July 23-25 in Alexandria.

Brief update was given in response to questions about the TMDL Project at the last board meeting.

Update was given by Commissioners Holmen and Sorenson in regards to some of the different ISTS sites that were recently reviewed by a number of individuals including Heidi Lindgren (MPCA), Dan Wheeler (soil scientist from the University of Minnesota) and Terry Heiderscheidt (Designer I from Sleepy Eye) as a follow-up to the findings of the Miller Report. Chairman Holmen mentioned that he received an e-mail from Bill Dunn, MPCA, but has not yet responded on behalf of the board.

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Chairman Holmen reported that he recently received some information from Montana-Dakota in regards to the Heron Lake Bio-Energy project.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant