

February 13, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 13, 2007 at 9:00 a.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; Bonnie Frederickson, Cathy Peterson, Mike Hanson and Ron Gregg. 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 February 6, 2007 meeting.

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Bonne Frederickson and Cathy Peterson met with the board representing the Smoke Free Coalition. They presented information in regards to secondhand smoke and asked that the board consider adopting a resolution in support of the 2007 Freedom to Breathe Act. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 07-02-13
Cottonwood County Resolution in Support of
the 2007 Freedom to Breathe Act**

WHEREAS, the body of scientific evidence establishing secondhand smoke exposure as a serious health threat continues to grow;

WHEREAS, exposure to secondhand smoke contributes to the death of 46,000 nonsmokers in the United States from heart disease each year and 3,000 nonsmokers in the United States from lung cancer each year;

WHEREAS, while 40 percent of Minnesotans live in communities with smoke-free ordinances, 60 percent do not have this public health protection;

WHEREAS, the release of the Surgeon General's report last year concluded that the debate on the dangers of secondhand smoke is over;

WHEREAS, the Surgeon General also concluded that the only way to truly protect nonsmokers from the risk is through smoke-free buildings and public places;

WHEREAS, smoke-free policies are overwhelmingly supported in Minnesota communities and are popular with voters;

WHEREAS, the legislature failing to adopt a strong smoke-free workplaces law this year will continue to leave many workers at risk;

Therefore, **BE IT RESOLVED** that Cottonwood County supports:

- The passage of the Freedom to Breathe Act during the 2007 legislative session, putting in place a strong smoke-free workplaces law with no loopholes that would protect everybody's right to breathe clean air.
- The right of local governments to strengthen local laws to further protect workers from secondhand smoke exposure.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

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Commissioner Sorenson gave an update in regards to the Southwestern Mental Health Center building in Worthington. Sorenson reported that there was a vote to allow for signature of the purchase agreement pending approval of the council. Figures have not yet been presented of what it might cost for the new building.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. He presented quotes for a new floating swim raft for Talcot Park as follows: Shetek Marine - \$761.48; Boat House - \$1,554.90; Boat Lift Warehouse - \$1,383.44; Little Crow - \$1,198.13. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$761.48 from Shetek Marine in Slayton.

Hanson presented a recommendation of the Planning Commission for approval of the expansion of an existing feedlot and the construction of a monoslope barn on property located within the shore land area of Dry Creek in Germantown Township. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit granted to Mark Pankonin based on conditions mentioned and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to hire Jeb Rhubee on a temporary part-time basis until he assumes his full-time duties on March 12th.

Gregg reported that he has begun the interview process for the position of Solid Waste worker and he was hoping to be able to offer the position to an individual before the next board meeting. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to offer the position to the candidate he feels would be the best fit for the job before the next board meeting. This individual will begin on Start of the pay scale.

Gregg handed out the Road & Bridge cash flow chart for the month of January for the board's review.

Brief discussion was held in regards to the current cell phone plan at the Highway Department and the recent change to begin reimbursing employees for use of their own cell phones. Because there was still much discussion in regards to this matter, Commissioner Kuecker was asked to put together a recommendation to present at a future meeting.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to accept the Sheriff/Emergency Management Administrative Assistant job description as presented and to send to Springsted, Inc. for possible re-pointing of the position.

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Motion by White, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow for purchase of PA system and microphones for the Commissioner's Room from the Musicians Friend website as this was the low quote. (Quotes are on file in the Commissioner's Room)

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve February warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$129,329.35
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 5,552.42
County Building Fund	\$ 5,424.47
Ditch Fund	\$ 3,444.11
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 58,505.27
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 5,870.91
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 7,625.33</u>
TOTAL	\$215,751.86

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County Attorney Doug Storey updated the board in regards to a recent conversation he had as to what the county's responsibility might be for costs incurred since the plea agreement of Doug Saunders. Storey will have to do some further research, as there are still some unanswered questions remaining.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson presented two quotes for telephone service renewal as follows: TDS Metrocom - \$29.50/month + \$.035/minute for long distance; City of Windom - \$29.06/month + \$.10/minute for long distance. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to renew telephone service agreement with TDS Metrocom for a 24-month period with rates as presented and to authorize Johnson to sign contract.

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Chairman Holmen reported that a tentative agreement was reached last Thursday, February 8th with the four AFSCME unions. Ken Leas, AFSCME staff representative, will be meeting with the respective unions for consideration of the agreement.

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Commissioner Sorenson updated the board in regards to the Family Service Agency Labor Management Committee meeting he attended last week and some of the concerns of the group.

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

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to set the interest rate at 7% and the annual installments at 5 for the JD #5 improvement project and to authorize Chairman to sign the resolution.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the Ditch Authority adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant