

April 3, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 3, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Law Enforcement Center 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; Dan Olsen, Dennis Hoehne, Ken Platz, Mike Hanson and Elmer Wieneke. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 27, 2007 meeting as amended.

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Dan Olsen and Dennis Hoehne met with the board representing the Windom Lion's Club. They presented information in regards to the needed update of the Courthouse chimes. They reported that the update would allow the chimes to be set by computer. The cost of the update would be approximately \$3,000, which would be no cost to the county as the current reserve fund through the Lion's Club has the necessary funding for the update.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to the possibility of getting hands-free cell phones for transit buses. This will be discussed further with the transit drivers.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority to discuss a concern of Ken Platz regarding his assessments on JD #7.

After much discussion, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to appoint Commissioners Holmen and Oeltjenbruns to JD #7 Joint Ditch Authority. They will look into the matter further. No action was taken at this time.

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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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to present a quote that he received for electrical upgrades at Talcot Park. Hanson sent out three requests for quotes (Holt Electric, Adrian's Plumbing-Heating-Cooling & Electrical and Ron's Electric) but only received one quote as follows: Ron's Electric - \$6,184.05. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to accept quote from Ron's Electric and to make sure installation of meters is included in the quote.

Hanson also presented a letter that was recently sent to PJ's II in Bingham Lake in regards to violations regarding their buffet operation.

Brief discussion was held in regards to a door for the closet in the Commissioner's Room. It seems that this door needs to be fire rated. Commissioner Kuecker will inform I & S Engineers & Architects of the change.

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Much discussion was held in regards to the City of Mt. Lake's recent request for tax abatement. The commissioners have been talking to their constituents in regards to this request but do not feel that they are all ready to take action at this point. The board agreed that they would like to invite the County Attorney, County Assessor and the Auditor/Treasurer to the next board meeting to get their input before taking any action.

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Commissioner Sorenson gave a brief update in regards to some information he found relating to the Merit System.

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Chairman Holmen will contact Ken Leas regarding union contracts and when the unions will be available to get in and get them signed.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson presented a fire alarm agreement through Ban-Koe Companies for \$595.00. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept 1-year agreement for annual inspection of entire fire alarm system for \$595.00.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve down payment of 60% (\$3,159) to Custom Wood Designs for the construction of the Commissioner's table and presenter's table with balance due on delivery.

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Commissioner Kuecker updated the board about a phone conversation he recently had with Bill Dunn from MPCA in regards to the septic systems that were installed as part of the ISTS grant program.

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Chairman Holmen reported that the Sheriff's Department was recently awarded \$200 to purchase two flotation vests and two res-q-discs through Federated Rural Electric and were successful in their application to the Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP).

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker to purchase chairs (8 executive chairs, 2 presenter chairs, and 20 guest chairs) from Corporate Express (Quotes on file in the Commissioner's Room). Voting as follows: Aye – Sorenson, Kuecker, Oeltjenbruns, Holmen. Nay – White. Motion approved.

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There being no further business, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting at 12:10pm.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant