

November 14, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 14, 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; Jason Purrington, Ron Gregg, Mary Ann Anderson and Tom White. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2006 minutes as amended.

* * * *

Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to ask permission to begin the hiring process for additional deputies within the Sheriff's Department. Purrington informed the board that he would be appointing someone from within as the Chief Deputy Sheriff and then would like to hire two additional deputies before the first of the year. Motion by Severson, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Purrington to begin the hiring process for two full-time deputies by posting internally and advertising if needed.

He stated that because of the additional hires, he would need to come up with one more vehicle for the Chief Deputy. The board instructed Purrington to seek quotes for a new squad car.

* * * *

Question came up in regards to county vehicle usage. Commissioner Sorenson and Kelly Thongvivong will work together to develop a policy to present at a future meeting so that it can be added to the personnel policy after the board adopts it.

* * * *

Update was given in regards to the general election and the use of the voter machines. It seems that there were some problems throughout the county but most of the problems were resolved as the day went on.

* * * *

Chairman Kuecker presented some information in regards to the budget that he wanted to make the board aware of and to be thinking about.

* * * *

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. He asked that the board consider adopting a resolution of support for the application of a grant through Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for the burn barrel reduction education campaign. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson to adopt resolution of support and implementation for burn barrel reduction campaign grant and to proceed with application through the Southwest Solid Waste Commission. Voting as follows: Aye: Oeltjenbruns, Severson and Sorenson. Nay: Holmen and Kuecker. Motion carried.

Gregg presented information regarding Highway Department monthly budgets. The board asked that he continue to provide monthly or at least quarterly updates.

Gregg asked that the board withdraw his previous request to purchase a UTV (Utility Terrain Vehicle) at this time. He still feels that the purchase is a worthy investment and intends to bring it up again at a future time.

There was much discussion regarding employment issue at the Highway Department. The County Attorney was instructed to draft letter to County Engineer in regards to this issue.

Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to post internally for the position of Heavy Equipment Operator and to advertise if needed.

* * * *

County Recorder Mary Ann Anderson met with the board to ask permission to advertise for position within the Recorder's Office. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to allow Anderson to post internally for the position of Deputy County Recorder and to advertise.

* * * *

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve November warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$175,647.42
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 5,333.52
County Building Fund	\$ 1,348.75
Ditch Sinking 3 (JD 2)	\$ 215.63
Taxes & Penalties Fund	\$ -171.00
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 52,539.39
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 3,434.72
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 10,839.77</u>
TOTAL	\$249,188.20

* * * *

Brief discussion was held regarding e-mail that was recently received from Judy Johnson at Family Service Agency regarding December meetings. The board agreed to hold their December meeting at Family Services on Tuesday, December 19th at 9am instead of December 26th at 9am. The regularly scheduled board meeting at the Courthouse on December 26th will remain the same. The board was also reminded that Truth in Taxation would be held on December 7th at 5:00pm.

* * * *

Chairman Kuecker reported that he was unsuccessful in scheduling a time for a conference call with Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust (MCIT) to discuss the issue of using the Windom water tower for rappelling training. He did state that he was referred to Karen Ebert, attorney with MCIT, and she was faxed a copy of the HEAT agreement and waiver with the City and is currently in the process of reviewing the forms.

Commissioner Holmen gave an update in regards to Extension. He mentioned that Cindy Garcia and Karlain Erickson's terms as representatives of the Extension Committee will be expiring at the end of the year and will need to be re-appointed if desired. Holmen also informed the board that a candidate for the 4-H Coordinator position has been offered the job but the name cannot be released until the proper forms are signed.

* * * *

Thank you notes for the county's support of the Ecology Bus were received from the Mt. Lake School District and were passed around for the board members to see.

* * * *

Brief discussion was held regarding a new federal law that allows for an amendment to the Flexible Spending Account Plan, which allows employers to extend the grace period for the submission of eligible claims incurred during the plan year. This will be discussed again at a future meeting for possible amendment of current plan.

* * * *

Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update in regards to a Water Plan meeting that he recently attended. It was reported that Cottonwood County's Water Plan should be completed the early part of 2007.

* * * *

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant