

June 14, 2005
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 14, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Chuck Severson, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Mike Hanson, Ron Gregg, Stephanie Court, and Paul Vershure. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2005 meeting.

* * * *

Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to update them on several different items. Hanson gave an update on the ISTS grant program. He reported that as of early June 2005 there were 81 sites signed up on the Septic Upgrade list to qualify for the grant. 11 of these systems were installed in 2004, and 2 systems have been installed so far in 2005. Approximately 23 of the 68 remaining sites have been evaluated and have been determined to be imminent public health threats. Hanson stated that Cottonwood County should be receiving another \$60,000 in 2006 and 2007 under the grant program.

A meeting will be scheduled sometime late summer or early fall in regards to a new mining ordinance. Gravel suppliers, Minnesota Department of Public Health, as well as interested parties will be invited to attend this meeting.

Hanson reported that the County Comprehensive Plan should be ready in draft form by the end of July.

It was noted that the Des Moines River Watershed Coordinator position for the continuation of the TMDL grant has been advertised again and the application deadline is June 17th. Hanson is hoping to have someone in this position approximately July 1st.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow one individual from the Environmental Office to attend the County Ag Inspector Conference on July 18-20.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to pay 2005 dues to the Greater Blue Earth River Alliance in the amount of \$2,000. This amount will come out of the Water Planning budget.

* * * *

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg reported that 3 bids were received for the bridge replacement project on CSAH 10 as follows: Mathiowetz Construction - \$69,847; R & G Construction - \$67,582; Midwest Contracting - \$80,680. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to award low bid in the amount of \$67,582 to R & G Construction.

Gregg asked for input from the board on the closure of the landfill over the 4th of July weekend. The board decided to leave it up to the discretion of Gregg as to whether or not the landfill should remain open on Saturday, July 2nd.

Another matter was mentioned in regards to a request that he had received for time off without pay. The board said that this matter would have to be at the discretion of the Department Head as well.

Gregg reported that Country Pride is in the process of building a new recycling shed for the Mt. Lake area.

* * * *

Stephanie Court & Paul Vershure met with the board representing Northern PCS Services. They stated that they are anticipating building a 180-foot self support tower capable of holding the County's existing equipment as well as 4 – 5 other tenants. This would give the County the ability to lease the space to other carriers or Internet companies needing service in the Windom area. Northern PCS Services is proposing a 10-year land lease. After 10 years and 6 months, the payments would begin reverting back to the county. It was also mentioned that if Northern PCS Services decides to build a tower taller than 180 feet that it would be at their own expense.

* * * *

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

County Revenue Fund	\$ 67,535.65
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 2,232.26
County Building	\$ 4,827.74
Ditch Fund	\$ 3,519.61
Road & Bridge	\$ 43,699.30
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 4,127.29
Landfill	<u>\$ 7,232.87</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$133,174.72</u>

* * * *

Commissioner Kuecker reported on a concern that was mentioned at the last Labor-Management Committee meeting in regards to some possible air quality issues at the Law Enforcement Center. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to instruct Kuecker to meet with Jim Vellema in regards to air quality concerns that were reported at the last LMC meeting.

Kuecker presented some information to the board in regards to blogging (a website created by an individual who uses it as a diary or journal, revealing all types of information about his or her personal or professional life, opinions, news and links) and what our county should know. The board may want to incorporate this information into the personnel policy at some point.

Kuecker gave an update in regards to the Southwestern Mental Health Center Board. He stated that progress has been made in regards to equalizing the per capita basis appropriation amongst the counties, which will ultimately

help Cottonwood County because we have been paying more than some counties for quite a few years. He also updated the board on Jackson County's intent to once again become a member of the organization since they withdrew from the board in 1982. Kuecker mentioned some concerns in regards to letting Jackson County back into the organization after all this time.

* * * *

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 05-06-14
Tax-Forfeited Land Classification
Notice of Public Sale of Tax-Forfeited Lands**

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Cottonwood, State of Minnesota, desires to offer for sale certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes, and

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the parcels of land described in List of Tax-Forfeited Land #6 that is contained herein shall be sold to the highest bidder at public sale. The sale will be governed by the provisions of M.S. 282.01 and by the resolution of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners authorizing such sale. The resolution reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby request approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the sale of said lands.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all parcels of the tax-forfeited land listed on list of Tax-Forfeited Land #6 be classified as non-conservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #6, that is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of the land be granted, pursuant to M.S. 282.01; that the sale will be held at 10:00 A.M. on Thursday, August 18th, 2005 by the Cottonwood County Auditor at the County Courthouse for not less than the basic sale price; and that all sales shall be full payment or on the terms set forth on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #6.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conditions and terms of the public sale shall be described in the list contained herein and approved by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners.

Information about the sale of tax-forfeited land in Cottonwood County can be obtained at the office of the Cottonwood County Auditor/Treasurer, Cottonwood County Courthouse, 900 3rd Avenue, Windom, MN 56101. Telephone (507) 831-1905.

Given under my hand and official seal at Windom, MN this 14th day of June 2005.

S/Jan Johnson

It was also noted that a statement would be made at the sale stating that the assessed value of the property will not change after the sale.

* * * *

Two quotes were presented for a new air conditioner unit at the Highway Shop in Jeffers and were as follows: Adrian's - \$2,697 and Schwalbach's -

\$4,100. Since it was not known whether these units also included a heat exchange, no action was taken at this time.

* * * *

Chairman Severson gave an update in regards to the appointment that needs to be made by July 13th to the Southwest Minnesota Emergency Medical Service Corporation. He stated that he talked to Jim Skarphol about this matter but that no decisions had been made at this time. Severson will keep in contact with Skarphol to find out his intentions.

Severson reported that he had received the reviews from the Schoper-Bush Reservoir Annual Dam Inspection. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to instruct Chairman Severson to sign and mail back signed copies to Area II.

Severson informed the board that he had recently received a call in regards to a stray dog on a farm place in Great Bend Township. Since the county does not have an ordinance against stray animals and does not choose to adopt an ordinance, no action was taken.

* * * *

Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to give authorization to Kelly Thongvivong to get quotes on laptop and wireless router.

* * * *

Since there was no further business, Chairman Severson adjourned as the County Board.

* * * *

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to convene as the Ditch Authority. Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported that a preliminary engineer's report had recently been completed for the improvement of JD #15. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution and order as follows:

**Resolution 05-06-14A
Resolution Setting Preliminary Hearing
For An Improvement on Judicial Ditch Number 15**

WHEREAS, a petition for the improvement of judicial ditch number 15 has been filed with the drainage authority in the office of the Cottonwood County Auditor/Treasurer; and,

WHEREAS, the drainage authority has determined that the petition is facially adequate; and,

WHEREAS, the drainage authority has appointed a project engineer and such engineer has filed the preliminary survey report required by law; and,

WHEREAS, a copy of said preliminary survey report has been mailed by the County Auditor/Treasurer to the director, Division of Waters, Department of Natural Resources,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that a hearing shall be held upon the aforementioned petition on the 28th day of June, 2005 at 2:00 p.m., at the Commissioner's room in the Cottonwood County Courthouse for the purpose of considering the adequacy of the

petition, examining the engineer's preliminary survey report, and hearing the advisory report of the Commissioner of Natural Resources.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Auditor/Treasurer shall mail notice to the petitioners and to the owners of all property within the watershed likely to be assessed and to all political subdivisions likely to be affected.

RESOLVED FURTHER, that a copy of the notice of hearing shall be mailed by the Auditor/Treasurer to the director, Division of Waters, Department of Natural Resources.

Adopted this 14th day of June 2005

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant