

March 7, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 7, 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, Gary Sorenson, Chuck Severson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Jason Purrington, Mike Hanson, Ron Gregg, Bruce Nagorske and Carl Nehlsen. Commissioner Oeltjenbruns was absent. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2006 meeting.

* * * *

Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few items. He reported that he recently received a report from the Department of Corrections in regards to a jail inspection that was held on January 20th. There were two minor items identified (annual health care policy review and availability of exercise equipment) that need to be dealt with but overall the jail continues to operate at a very high level of compliance.

Two quotes were presented for 8 Line Caller ID Concentrator and Caller ID Watch Software and were as follows: Lucan Community TV, Inc. - \$885.05 and M & H Communications - \$1,083.95. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$885.05 from Lucan Community TV, Inc. and to allow Purrington to purchase 15" LCD monitor.

* * * *

It was reported that eight employees have not yet signed Conflict of Interest forms for 2006. The commissioners were asked to visit with their respective departments, if needed, to be sure that these forms get handed in.

* * * *

Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Hanson requested that the board consider adopting a resolution for the implementation agreement amendment #1 of the Redwood Cottonwood River Restoration CWP. By doing so, it increases the amount of low interest septic loan money available in the Cottonwood River Watershed by \$121,000 and also extends the implementation period by one year. This will enable Cottonwood County to use both low interest septic loan funds and the three-county pilot program funds to bring more septic systems into compliance in this watershed. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous roll call vote (Commissioner Oeltjenbruns absent) to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 06-03-07
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT
AMENDMENT # 1 OF THE
REDWOOD COTTONWOOD RIVER RESTORATION CWP

BE IT RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that, as Loan Sponsor, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners enter into the Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement Amendment #1 along with Redwood Cottonwood Rivers Control Area, as Project Sponsor, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to conduct the implementation of the Cottonwood River Restoration Continuation Clean Water Partnership Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that the Chairman of the Board, Ron Kuecker be authorized to execute the Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement Amendment #1 for the above referenced Project on behalf of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissions as Loan Sponsor.

WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at a regular meeting, this 7th day of March 2006.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Hanson requested that the board reserve \$85,000 of interest money generated by the low-interest loan funds that have been loaned out for septic system upgrades in the county. These funds would then be used to create and fund Cottonwood County's own local low-interest loan septic upgrade revolving fund. Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to transfer \$85,000 from revenue to low-interest loan fund, which is to be used to create and fund Cottonwood County's own local low-interest loan septic upgrade revolving fund. The criteria for usage will be developed and approved at a later time.

* * * *

Chairman Kuecker gave an update to the board in regards to the position of a temporary summer program assistance/clerical employee at the Extension Office. He reported that all applications are to be received by March 23rd and that he plans to be a part of the interview committee.

Kuecker also reported that he recently did some checking with Midwest Wireless in regards to their current plans and what options might be available to the Environmental Office, as their present plan will soon be expiring.

* * * *

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg asked that the board review and approve the township letter he will be sending out regarding intersection signage that he would like the townships to address at their annual township meetings.

Gregg reported that Cottonwood County received a 2005 refund from Tri-County Recycling in Murray County in the amount of \$5,188.63.

Brief discussion was held regarding Gregg's intent to purchase a used tanker that can be converted into a water tanker. The water tanker will then be

used in regraveling and shoulder operations. Gregg will come back with this item at a future meeting because not all quotes were yet received.

* * * *

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

Bruce Nagorske and Carl Nehlsen met with the board as they had recently filed a petition for improvement on JD #5. Since all rules and regulations for the improvement petition were met, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve petition pending receipt of bond.

Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to appoint Gerald Engstrom as the engineer of this project.

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

* * * *

Motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to approve Cottonwood County Clean-up/Demolition Assistance Grant Program Application from the City of Mt. Lake for up to 50% up to \$1250 of the tipping fee for the demolition of a building in Mt. Lake.

* * * *

It was reported that the Correction's Administrative Assistant job description had recently been sent in to Springsted, Incorporated to see if the points have changed since the last time the position was pointed per request of the Probation Officer. Springsted, Incorporated recommended that the points increase from 208 to 220. Motion by Kuecker, second by Severson to increase Step 5 of the current 2006 pay scale for this position from \$11.72/hour to \$12.39/hour. Voting as follows: Aye: Kuecker and Severson. Nay: Sorenson and Holmen. Commissioner Oeltjenbruns was absent. Motion failed.

After further discussion in regards to keeping the pay scale of this position (220 points) more in line with other positions (238 points), there was a motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to increase Step 5 of the current 2006 pay scale for this position from \$11.72/hour to \$12.15/hour. The new matrix for the Correction's Administrative Assistant position (220 points) will be developed by using the wage of \$12.15/hour for Step 5. The raise for this re-pointed position will be effective March 16th.

* * * *

Commissioner Severson updated the board on a few different items pertaining to Southwestern Mental Health Center. Severson reported that he recently asked Brenda Norby if she would be interested in serving on the Board of Directors as Marlowe Nelsen's term expired on December 31, 2005. Since Commissioner Sorenson had not had a chance to talk with Marlowe Nelsen to see what his intentions were, the board decided to wait to make a decision at the next board meeting.

Discussion was held in regards to the current lease at Southwestern Mental Health Center; as it is soon due to expire. Since the square footage of

the building needs to be clarified; no action was taken at this time. It will be discussed again at a future meeting.

Severson reported that there has been some interest in building a new Southwestern Mental Health Center in Worthington. Because it was not known how much a new building might cost, the commissioners stated that they would feel more comfortable seeing some of the figures before expressing Cottonwood County's support of a new building in Worthington. It was also noted that this is a deviation of past policy for the SWMHC, which currently rents facilities in five counties rather than owning them.

* * * *

Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported that four companies inspected the courthouse for the update of the Fire Alarm System and is hoping to submit quotes for the project. The quotes will be presented at the next board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

* * * *

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant