

October 4, 2011  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 4, 2011 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, Jim Schmidt, Tom White; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Kay Clark, Ron Gregg, Rahn Larson, Jason Purrington and Brian Cooley.

Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the September 27, 2011 meeting as amended.

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Kay Clark, SWCD District Administrator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Clark presented an overview of the plan amendment process for the Cottonwood County Comprehensive Water Management Plan and asked that the board adopt a resolution allowing for the update of the plan. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**RESOLUTION 11-10-04**

**Resolution to Update the Cottonwood County  
Comprehensive Water Management Plan**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B.301, Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, authorizes Minnesota Counties to develop and implement a local water management plan, and

**WHEREAS**, the Act requires that a county update and revise their local water management plan on a periodic basis, and

**WHEREAS**, the Act encourages that a county coordinate its planning with contiguous counties, and solicit input from local governmental units and state review agencies, and

**WHEREAS**, the Act requires that plans and official controls of other local governmental units be consistent with the local water management plan, and

**WHEREAS**, Cottonwood County has determined that the revision and continued implementation of a local water management plan will help promote the health and welfare of the citizens of Cottonwood County, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners resolve to revise and update its current local water management plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Cottonwood County will coordinate its efforts in the revision and update of its plan with all local units of government within the county, and the state review

agencies; and will incorporate, where appropriate, any existing plans and rules which have been developed and adopted by watershed districts having jurisdiction wholly or partly within Cottonwood County into its local water management plan.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners authorizes the establishment of a Water Management Taskforce with the responsibility of revising and updating the plan and who shall report to the County Board on a periodic basis.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners delegates the Cottonwood Soil and Water Conservation District the responsibility of coordinating, assembling, writing and implementing the revised local water management plan pursuant to M.S. 103B.301.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Clark reported that she would like to make a change to the county well sealing program effective January 1, 2012. At this time the county currently reimburses landowners 75% or an amount not to exceed \$1,500 for each well sealing. Clark handed out information in regards to what some of the area counties are currently reimbursing for well sealing. Clark suggested that setting a flat rate might be easier and less cumbersome for all involved. After further discussion, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns to set a flat fee not to exceed \$525 for county reimbursement for well sealing beginning January 1, 2012. Voting as follows: Aye – Holmen, Oeltjenbruns, Schmidt and White. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried.

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It was reported that the end of Andy Geiger's 6-month probationary period is October 7<sup>th</sup>. The board members stated that they have heard many positive comments about Geiger and they feel that he is doing a very good job. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to grant Andy Geiger permanent full-time status effective October 16<sup>th</sup> and to grant him a 1-step increase.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Kuecker to sign agreement with SW/WC Service Coop for the county's Cafeteria (125) Plan.

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Brief discussion was held regarding consideration of the appointment of two board members to serve on a non-union and Department Head salary review committee. Chairman Kuecker appointed Commissioners Jim Schmidt and Tom White to serve on this committee.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg and Maintenance Shop Supervisor Brian Cooley met with the board to discuss a few items. Gregg asked for approval of the purchase or lease of equipment for the Highway Department using the wind tax revenue. The equipment requested is a dozer, two motor graders and four snowplowing attachments. State bid pricing (on file in Commissioner's Office) was presented as follows: 1 CASE 1150K WT Dozer at a 5-year lease to

purchase plan with an annual payment (6 payments) of \$26,349.41; 2 new 2011 John Deere 772G motor graders with a 7-year lease to purchase plan with an annual payment (7 payments) of \$60,741.66. This includes the trade-in of two CAT motor graders (units 72 & 75) with a trade-in value of \$170,000; 4 Truck Falls snow plow attachments for a one-time payment of \$27,924.30. The total package price for all equipment the 1<sup>st</sup> year is \$115,015.37, which includes the warranty plans. After much discussion and several questions being asked by the board, there was a motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to accept the proposal for equipment as presented by Gregg.

Discussion was held regarding a request by the Highway Department to apply a surcharge of \$.05/gallon to the gas obtained by the Sheriff's Department and the Transit System from the Highway Department to cover administrative costs. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow for a surcharge of \$.05/gallon for gas obtained at the Highway Department.

Commissioner Holmen asked Gregg a question in regards to the recycling bids that were opened at the last board meeting.

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Chairman Kuecker offered a suggestion in regards to Christmas decorations for the Courthouse this year. Because Christmas lights were not strung on the outside of the Courthouse last year due to liability issues, Kuecker suggested decorating the two big spruce trees on the west side of the Courthouse instead. Kuecker will do some further checking in regards to the possibility of lighting the trees.

Brief discussion was held regarding the monthly overtime reports that are provided to the board for their review. Chairman Kuecker suggested that each commissioner liaison meet to review and discuss overtime hours with their respective Department Heads as necessary and to give an overview to the board of the discussions held within the next 30 days.

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The board agreed to change the December 13, 2011 regular meeting to an afternoon meeting instead of a morning meeting as was originally scheduled. The 2012 final tax levy certification will be set at 6:01 p.m.

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Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve final payment in the amount of \$788 to Matthew Buckentin Construction for completion of the shingling project at the N. 71 County Office Building.

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Commissioner Schmidt asked that he be allowed to make a comment in regards to a motion he made last week to accept Waste Management's bid for single stream recycling. Schmidt stated that when he decided to run for county commissioner one of his goals was to help small businesses in the county and city and he regrets making the motion last week. He doesn't believe it was the right thing to do for the community of Cottonwood County and he is disappointed with what he did.

Commissioner Holmen also asked to make a comment regarding single stream recycling specifically the purchase of containers by the county. He suggested that the board may want to revisit the issue of purchasing our own recycling containers and to use SCORE funds to do so and then the county would have ownership of the containers which could be a cost-savings of approximately \$20,000 to \$30,000/year to the county. Holmen suggested that the recycling contract be re-bid and the motion made on September 27<sup>th</sup> to accept Waste Management's bid for single-stream recycling be rescinded.

Chairman Kuecker called for a short recess to allow time for County Attorney Nick Anderson to contact MCIT for their opinion on what the ramifications might be if the board was to rescind the motion made last week to accept the bid from Waste Management for single stream recycling.

Commissioner White recused himself from the meeting at this time. County Attorney Nick Anderson reported that he did talk to an individual at MCIT and they would prefer that the board wait a week before doing anything so that they have a little more time to do some further research on the matter.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the outside lighting on the south side of the N. 71 County Office Building. The board agreed that the first consideration should be employee safety. Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson will work with Jim Vellema and Ree Tschetter to take care of the matter.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to include information in the upcoming Truth in Taxation mailing that will be going out in the near future about changes to the Homestead Market Value Credit (HMVC) which is being eliminated for taxes payable in 2012.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant