

May 10, 2011  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, May 10, 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; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Kim Hall, John Shepard, Jason Purrington, Gale Bondhus, Ron Gregg, Dave Bucklin, Brad Odegard, Rachel Yoder, Wendy Meyer, Mary Ellen Suhrhoff, Jenny Quade, Brett Serreyn and Laura Sandmeyer. Absent was Commissioner Tom White.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, 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 May 3, 2011 meeting as amended.

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Emergency Management Director Kim Hall and SRDC Development Planner John Shepard met with the board to discuss the draft copy of Cottonwood County's Hazard Mitigation Plan that was previously handed out for the board's review. Shepard reported that FEMA requires an update of the Hazard Mitigation Plan every 5 years or as needed after a disaster. Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to recommend submission of draft copy of Cottonwood County Hazard Mitigation Plan to Homeland Security Emergency Management (HSEM) as well as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for their review.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss a few different items. Purrington asked the board to accept the proposal from Independent Emergency Services (IES) and Cassidian Communications that was submitted as part of their presentation to the board on April 26<sup>th</sup>. The total cost is \$193,770.13 (base price + additional 4-year maintenance fee). The contract will list an effective start date of October 1, 2011. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to accept quote in the amount of \$193,770.13 from Independent Emergency Services (IES) and Cassidian Communications for enhancement/upgrade of existing 911 system. The funds for this purchase will be taken from 911 funds of the county.

Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to sign Proclamation for Peace Officer Memorial Day which will be on May 15, 2011.

Purrington reported that he does not yet have the information regarding the Joint Powers Agreement with the State Patrol.

Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman and Sheriff to sign May Mobilization Grant in the amount of \$2,500 to

help defray costs associated with overtime for the Safe & Sober campaign. The May Mobilization is May 23 – June 5, 2011.

Purrington gave a brief update regarding the roof as well as the air conditioning units at the Law Enforcement Center. He reported that the work has not yet been completed at this time.

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County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to set a date for the Public Hearing for True County Assessing. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to set the Public Hearing for True County Assessing for June 14<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. Bondhus will notify all county districts about the public hearing.

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Commissioner Schmidt gave a brief update in regards to the camper located at Talcot Park that was previously used by the Parks Department. Schmidt contacted the Deputy Registrar and it seems that the county cannot register the camper without a certificate of origin. Schmidt will continue to research this matter.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve 2011 appropriation request in the amount of \$2,868 from the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve 2011 appropriation request in the amount of \$3,853.53 from Area II.

Motion by Schmidt, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Commissioner Holmen to sign 1-year extension of Joint Powers Agreement as a representative of Area II.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg gave an update from the Civil Rights Department on the Federal Project SP 17-090-001 the Mt. Lake Trail Project. The Civil Rights Department has cleared this project for final award so Gregg is recommending the award of Project SP 17-090-001 to M & R Paving & Excavating Inc. in the amount of \$456,665.04. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to award the contract in the amount of \$456,665.04 to M & R Paving & Excavating.

Gregg reported that Kevin Donahue has requested the use of his vacation, military leave, personal leave and sick leave during his deployment to Kuwait. Donahue also asked if staying on the county's health insurance is an option. Donahue is allowed to use leave as county policy allows. The COBRA elective option of health insurance is available to Donahue if he so chooses.

Gregg reported that the Highway Department received notice from the FFC that the narrow-banding mandate will be in effect on January 1, 2013.

Gregg presented three quotes for the purchase of a utility trailer to be used to haul the Polaris Ranger for survey and inspection of construction projects. Quotes were as follows: GDF - \$2,650 w/out tax, Matheson - \$2,681.80

w/tax, Alum-Line - \$3,100 w/tax. Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to accept the quote in the amount of \$2,650 w/out tax from GDF in light of transportation costs that would be involved with accepting the low quote.

Gregg presented bid results for the Amboy Township bridge replacement project SAP 17-599-93 as follows: Mathiowetz Construction Co. - \$90,104.00, Central Specialties Inc. - \$100,856.20, R & G Construction - \$96,875.00, Veenstra & Son, LLC - \$76,873.80. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept the low bid in the amount of \$76,873.80 from Veenstra & Son, LLC.

Motion by Schmidt, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote (Commissioner White was absent) to adopt resolution as follows:

Cottonwood County Board Of Commissioners  
**Resolution No: 11-05-10**  
To Use Alternative Method to Disseminate Bids and Requests

**WHEREAS**, Minn. Statute § 311A.03 Subd. 3(b), allows a county to use its web-site or recognized industry trade journals as an alternative to disseminate solicitations of bids, requests for information and requests for proposals;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby resolves:

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that from this day forward, the County of Cottonwood may use the Cottonwood County website, [www.co.cottonwood.mn.us](http://www.co.cottonwood.mn.us), as an alternative means to disseminate solicitations of bids, requests for information, and requests for proposals for transportation related construction and maintenance projects.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that for the first six (6) months after this designation of an alternative means of dissemination, the county shall continue to publish solicitations of bids, requests for information and request for proposals, in the same official newspaper of the county in addition to the alternative method and that the publication in the official newspaper must indicate where to find the designated alternative method.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that any dissemination by alternative means must be in substantially the same format and for the same period of time as a publication would otherwise be required under Minn. Statute § 331A.03 Subd. 3.

Passed and Adopted by the Board on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of May 2011.

S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gregg presented the April 2011 budget report, which will be reviewed by the board and any questions/comments will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Chairman Kuecker was authorized to sign the Knife River Contract for work on Project SP 17-613-38 that was approved at a prior meeting.

Gregg reminded the board about the Highway Road Tour on May 17<sup>th</sup> from approximately 8:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to begin developing a request for proposal to go to single stream recycling in Cottonwood County.

Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to use the county credit card to enroll Donna Stresemann in the Landfill Operator Certification class.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve request for Kyle Pillatzki to be reimbursed a cell phone allowance each month for use of his personal cell phone in exchange for using a county cell phone. A copy of an active cell phone plan bill needs to be provided annually for reimbursement.

Gregg gave his thoughts to the board regarding the county landfill. After meeting with Wenck Engineers, Gregg recommended that the county forego Cell 7 construction until next year and to perform partial closure of Cells 5 and 6 only.

Chairman Kuecker asked a few questions of Gregg regarding bills that were recently approved.

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Dave Bucklin, SWCD, met with the board regarding the Minnesota Wetlands Conservation Act (WCA) that was administered through the Environmental Office in the past. He reported that SWCD is taking more of an active role in administering this program until Andy Geiger gets more comfortable with his new position. Bucklin gave an update regarding three projects (Walinga, Fast and Valleau Trust) that were submitted for approval. Motion by Schmidt, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve Notice of Decision for three WCA projects and authorize Chairman Kuecker to sign.

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Brad Odegard, Jenny Quade, Brett Serreyn and Laura Sandmeyer from the Department of Corrections met with the board to give an update regarding probation services and the Sentence to Serve (STS) Program. The board reminded Odegard that due to the funding that the county contributes to the STS Program each year that the county be given higher priority when working on projects. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve 2-year contract for STS services, which will be effective July 1, 2011 to June 30, 2013.

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Chairman Kuecker gave an update regarding the roof at the N. 71 County Office Building. Kuecker reported that the condition of the south and west sides of the shingled roof are in need of repair/replacement and the condition of the north and east sides of the shingled roof are not as bad. Kuecker will work with Jim Vellema to pursue bids/quotes on material and labor for the roof.

Kuecker gave a brief update regarding a Heron Lake Watershed District meeting that he recently attended. It seems that the HLWD is hoping to generate up to an additional \$200,000 per year as part of their 10-year plan.

Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson reported that the Big Bend Snowriders Club has requested that an updated resolution be approved on their behalf. This will be considered at the next board meeting.

A monthly trial balance was handed out for the board's review.

Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous roll call vote (Commissioner White was absent) to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 11-05-10A  
Minnesota Accountable Government, Innovation  
and Collaboration (MAGIC) Act**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota is consistently placed at or near the bottom of national measures that assess the capacity for local government innovation in all 50 states,

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota and its counties face significant demographic trends that will require innovative approaches to program delivery in order to adequately meet the growing and changing needs of citizens;

**WHEREAS**, counties with innovative ideas should be provided the requisite opportunity and flexibility to successfully implement those ideas so as to best serve their communities,

**WHEREAS**, counties across Minnesota boast significant geographic, demographic and economic diversity that thus requires maximum flexibility in programmatic implementation,

**WHEREAS**, counties are willing and able to identify, implement and methodically verify increased programmatic efficiencies through a process that will cultivate and sustain a strong and trusting state-local partnership, and

**WHEREAS**, transitioning to an outcomes-based system of program evaluation is in the best interest of every Minnesota citizen and government that desires to maximize public resources and enhance the quality of life in their community to the fullest extent possible,

**BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED**, that Cottonwood County recommends that the Legislature and governor work cooperatively with all 87 counties to swiftly pass the MAGIC Act into law during the 2011 legislative session, thus implementing a system that will enhance and incent local government efficiency and innovation throughout Minnesota by:

1. Allowing counties to take any action not prohibited by state law to provide for the health, safety and general welfare of the public; and
2. Creating a measured, outcomes-based waiver process whereby counties, in partnership with the legislative and executive branch of state government, can implement efficiency-based,

time-limited pilot programs that are subject to final review by the Legislature and governor and will create a repository of best practices so as to improve long-term policy decisions across the state.

S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns discussed a concern with the board regarding a possible violation of the county's nuisance ordinance. This matter will be discussed with Andy Geiger for possible follow-up.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve May warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 59,816.71
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 11,781.70
County Building Fund	\$ 16.05
Ditch Fund	\$ 321.67
Road & Bridge	\$ 60,857.32
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 13,188.77
Landfill Enterprise	\$ <u>9,045.36</u>
	\$155,027.58

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.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