

April 6, 2010
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 6, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Tom White. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Jason Purrington, Kim Hall, Ron Gregg, Mike Hanson, Craig Myers, Jeff Dahna, Bob Pankratz, Cheryl Knudson, Jerry Harbst, Damon Rycliff, Marlene Smith, Becky Wiens, Gale Bondhus and Kathy Kretsch.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 23, 2010 meeting as amended.

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Jerry Harbst and Damon Rycliff met with the board representing Converged Technologies to present information regarding a possible update to the current county phone system.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to discuss several different items. Purrington presented the annual maintenance contract from Geo Comm in the amount of \$3,896.00 for 911 mapping. Last years contract was in the amount of \$3,716.00. The cost of the maintenance agreement is paid for through the "911" fund. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Sheriff Purrington to sign the annual agreement.

Purrington asked that Paul Johnson be allowed to transfer from a part-time jailer/dispatcher position to the full-time jailer/dispatcher position that is currently open as he is the only person that expressed interest in the position to Purrington. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Paul Johnson to transfer from part-time jailer/dispatcher to full-time jailer/dispatcher effective April 6, 2010.

Purrington reported that the Sheriff's Department has been allocated \$1,356.00 for boat and water safety. The grant period is January 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011. Purrington would like to purchase equipment for water recovery and cold water rescue. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Chairman White and Sheriff Purrington to sign for acceptance of this grant.

Brief discussion was held regarding the proposed Region 8 dispatch consolidation. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to oppose joining the group for the proposed Region 8 dispatch consolidation and to allow Sheriff Purrington to draft letter to be sent to Rock County letting them know of Cottonwood County's intent.

Brief update was given regarding Regional Radio Board meeting that Sheriff Purrington and Commissioner Holmen recently attended. There was discussion at the meeting whether grant money that becomes available should be competitive grants or divided equally amongst the counties involved.

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Emergency Management Director Kim Hall met with the board requesting that they adopt a resolution requesting a presidential declaration of a major disaster. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson to adopt resolution as listed with roll call vote as follows: Aye – Holmen, Sorenson, Oeltjenbruns, White. Nay – Kuecker. Motion carried.

**Resolution 10-04-06B
Requesting a Presidential Declaration of a Major Disaster**

WHEREAS the County of Cottonwood has sustained severe losses of major proportion, caused by Flooding on the date(s) of March 11, 2010 – March 31, 2010; and

WHEREAS Cottonwood County is a public entity within the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS substantial damage has been sustained to public property, as outlined in the attached damage assessment forms; and

WHEREAS the cost of recovery from this disaster is beyond the resources available within the county and state and federal resources are necessary;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of County Commissioners, for and on behalf of the citizens of Cottonwood County, request the Governor of the State of Minnesota to petition the President of the United States to declare the County of Cottonwood, Minnesota, to be a major disaster area, through appropriate channels.

Be it further resolved that this request is for:

- 1. The Public Assistance (Infrastructure Support) Program only, as offered through P.L. 93-288 and 106.390.
- 2. The Hazard Mitigation Program, as offered through P.L. 93-288 and 106.390.

Be it further resolved that the County Emergency Management Director is authorized to coordinate the damage survey teams with local government, and assist in the administration of the disaster recovery process, as needed.

Adopted this 6th day of April 2010.

S/Tom White, Board Chairman

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S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg presented resolution which allows the Highway Department to apply for easement to cross state land. This resolution is needed for the CSAH 13 reconstruction project. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 10-04-06

WHEREAS, Cottonwood County, Minnesota proposes to reconstruct County State Aid Highway No. 13 from the Windom east city limits, east to County State Aid Highway No. 1, and,

WHEREAS, Cottonwood County needs temporary easement to reconstruct the roadway to meet safety concerns, state aid requirements and eliminate snow drifting problems, and,

WHEREAS, Cottonwood County needs to cross State Land to construct the necessary improvements,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners to apply for easement across state land.

Dated: April 6, 2010

S/Tom White, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gregg reported that the County Highway Department Road Tour has been scheduled for May 18th. More information will be presented at a later time.

Gregg presented a list of all the equipment owned by the Highway Department with a current condition rating on each piece of equipment. Also attached was a 2009 equipment activity report for their review.

The 2009 Highway Department Annual Report was reviewed and time was allowed for questions and answers.

Gregg reported that there is going to be a Tri-County Recycling meeting on April 23rd at 9:00am at the Slayton Government Building. Because there were some conflicts, Gregg will contact Murray County to see if an alternate date is available.

Update was given regarding two grievances that were filed by the AFSCME union representing the Highway Department that were recently denied.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Hanson presented the Natural Resources Block Grant Agreement for the SSTS (Subsurface Septic Treatment Systems) FY 2010 funding in the amount of \$9,931.00. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Chairman White to sign the agreement.

Hanson presented a resolution and loan agreement for the low-interest loan money for the Greater Blue Earth and Des Moines River Watershed. Cottonwood County will have access to \$300,000 to begin with. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

Greater Blue Earth and Des Moines
SSTS CWP Loans Project
Resolution 10-04-06A

BE IT RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners, that it hereby designates the Environmental Administrator, C. Michael Hanson as Project Representative for the implementation of the Greater Blue Earth and Des Moines River SSTS Loans Clean Water Partnership Project for Cottonwood County.

The Project Representative shall have the authority to represent the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners in all Project matters that do not specifically require action by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that, as Loan Sponsor, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners enters into the attached Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement along with Watonwan County, as Project Sponsor, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to conduct the implementation of the Greater Blue Earth and Des Moines River SSTS Loans Clean Water Partnership Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that the Environmental Administrator, C. Michael Hanson be authorized to execute the attached Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement for the above referenced Project on behalf of the Board as Loan Sponsor.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that the Environmental Administrator, C. Michael Hanson be authorized to execute loan disbursement requests for the above referenced project to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on behalf of the Board.

WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at a regular meeting of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners on April 6, 2010.

S/Jan Johnson, Cottonwood County Auditor/Treasurer

Hanson clarified the amount of firewood that will be sold at Talcot Park for the upcoming camping season at a rate of \$3.00.

Hanson gave an update regarding several ordinances that are currently being reviewed for possible updates. A couple of public hearings will be held sometime in the next few months.

Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Marlene Smith to attend Advanced Arc View Training at Minnesota State University in Mankato on May 12-14. The cost of the training will be reimbursed by the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) as they have funding available for this purpose.

Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Mike Hanson and Greg Johnson to attend Soils Continuing Education Training in Willmar on June 24th. The cost of this training is \$200/person.

Information regarding OSHA Logging Operations that was sent by Bruce Casey (MCIT Loss Control Consultant) per request of the Environmental Office will be forwarded to Kim Hall for her records as she is the Safety Officer for the County.

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Family Service Agency Director Craig Myers met with the board to discuss a few items. Myers gave an update regarding a legislative proposal in which costs related to the Minnesota Sex Offender Program may shift to the counties. If this happens, it would have a significant impact on the cost that counties would be responsible for paying for future offenders.

Myers reported that one of the Social Service Supervisors will be retiring at the end of May so he asked that he be granted permission to post and advertise for this position. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Myers to post internally and advertise simultaneously for the Social Service Supervisor position that will be vacant the end of May.

Myers reported that interviews for the vacant Social Worker position would be held within the upcoming weeks.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson to obtain quotes for AS400 upgrade that is compatible with the new program.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Johnson to obtain quotes for one new PC, which will be the system console for the AS400.

A monthly trial balance was handed out to the board for their review.

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The board spent much time discussing the information handed out by Wayne Brede on March 2nd for consideration of changes as recommended by the Department Heads. The board discussed each request and voiced their opinions as to why each request should or should not be granted. The outcome of the decisions made by the board will be forwarded to Wayne Brede so that he can work to develop the final report to be presented at next week's board meeting.

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Commissioner Kuecker gave a brief update regarding the Heron Lake Watershed District's recent election of officers as well as some of the programs they are currently working on.

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Discussion was held regarding enforcement letters that will be sent out to those landowners that have not yet submitted a written plan regarding how they plan to comply with the rules regarding buffer strips. A letter will be sent out to the landowners affected and they will have a deadline of having their written plan submitted to the county before the close of business on May 14, 2010.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave a brief update regarding RC & D and stated that he had a copy of all the projects that have been completed since the beginning of the group.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Tom White, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant