

March 20, 2018  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom Appel, Donna Gravley, Kevin Stevens, Norm Holmen, Jim Schmidt; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, County Attorney Nick Anderson, Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson, Kathy Marsh, Nick Klisch, Jed Rhubee, Gale Bondhus, Drew Hage, Geoff Johnson, Alex Schultz, Zach Walton, Greg Huiras, Steve Nasby, Dominic Jones, Kimberly Dickey, John Hoek, Mike Wenande, and Rahn Larson.

Chairman Gravley called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Schmidt, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Stevens, second by Appel, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2018 meeting.

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Alex Schultz, Planning and Zoning Technician, met with the board to discuss a few items. Schultz presented a Conditional Use Permit request from Helen Linder Trust for mining, extraction and excavation of gravel and sand in Great Bend Township, Section 8. Motion by Schmidt, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the Conditional Use Permit request from Helen Linder Trust for mining, extraction and excavation of gravel and sand in Great Bend Township, Section 8, with the following conditions: (1) During construction have a dumpster onsite; (2) Maintain erosion controls during operation; (3) acquire any State/Federal permits needed; and (4) Comply with Cottonwood County Ordinances #28 and #36.

Schultz presented a Conditional Use Permit request from Helen Linder Trust for mining, extraction and excavation of gravel and sand in Dale Township, Section 5. Motion by Stevens, second by Appel, unanimous vote to approve the Conditional Use Permit request from Helen Linder Trust for mining, extraction and excavation of gravel and sand in Dale Township, Section 5, with the following conditions: (1) During construction have a dumpster onsite; (2) Maintain erosion controls during operation; (3) acquire any State/Federal permits needed; and (4) Comply with Cottonwood County Ordinances #28 and #36.

Schultz presented a Conditional Use Permit request from David Englin for a livestock feedlot expansion in Selma Township, Section 14. Motion by Appel, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the Conditional Use Permit request from David Englin for a livestock feedlot expansion in Selma Township, Section 14, with the following conditions: (1) To be compliant with Cottonwood County Zoning Ordinance #28; (2) Erosion control measures shall be in place during construction; (3) Dumpster or refuse container shall be onsite during construction; and (4) Secure all necessary Federal/State/County permits and fees.

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Nick Klisch, County Engineer/Public Works Director, met with the board to discuss a few items. Klisch led discussion regarding the proposed Corridors of Commerce Project, a four lane bypass of Windom for TH60. After much discussion, motion by Holmen to support the proposed four lane bypass of Windom for TH60.

Motion failed due to a lack of a second.

Klisch asked the board for approval to advertise for bids for a fuel contract. Klisch informed the board that MPCA tank monitoring requirements are increasing and we currently do not have staff certified to monitor the tanks. Klisch also stated that we ask for fuel quotes multiple times per year and having a long term contract would allow for better pricing and the fuel supply company would monitor the tanks. Motion by Schmidt, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to allow the County Engineer to advertise for bids on a fuel contract for supplying gasoline/diesel fuel and UST monitoring/reporting. Klisch stated the contract would be effective for 2018 and 2019.

Klisch asked for approval to attend the 2018 Washington, DC Fly-In on May 22-24, 2018. Klisch stated that this would be an opportunity to meet with colleagues from Minnesota and Wisconsin and meet with Legislators on transportation funding. Motion by Schmidt, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to allow the County Engineer to attend the 2018 Washington, DC Fly-In on May 22-24, 2018, and pay registration, lodging, and transportation expenses.

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A public hearing was held in regard to the residential property tax abatement applied for by David and Jody Derickson for the construction of a new home on parcel number 25-232-0100. No opposition to the abatement was heard prior to or at the hearing. Motion by Stevens, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve the David and Jody Derickson Home Initiative application and resolution 18-03-20A as follows:

**Resolution 18-03-20A**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING TAX ABATEMENT FOR CERTAIN PROPERTY PURSUANT TO MINN. STAT. §469.1813**

**WHEREAS**, Minnesota Statutes §469.1813 gives authority to the County of Cottonwood to grant an abatement of property taxes imposed by the County if certain criteria are met; and

**WHEREAS**, in addition to the statutory requirements, on December 13, 2016, the Cottonwood County Commissioners adopted the Cottonwood County Home Initiative Guidelines (the "Guidelines") which must be met before an abatement of taxes will be granted for residential development; and

**WHEREAS**, David S. Derickson and Jody M. Derickson, husband and wife, (the "Dericksons") are the owners of the following described real estate within Cottonwood County, Minnesota:

Parcel #: 25-232-0100  
Address of Property: 1261 River Road, Windom, MN 56101  
Legal Description of Property: The Northwest 130 Feet of the Southeast 192 Feet of Lot G of Drake's Subdivision in the City of Windom, Cottonwood County, Minnesota, (abbreviated description); and

**WHEREAS**, the Dericksons propose to a construct a new home on this property; and

**WHEREAS**, Dericksons have made application to Cottonwood County (the "County") for the abatement of taxes as to the above-described parcel; and

**WHEREAS**, Dericksons have met the statutory requirements outlined under Minnesota Statutes §469.1813 Subdivision 1(1) and Subdivision 1(2)(i) as well as the County's Home Initiative guidelines for tax abatement; and

**WHEREAS**, the County expects the benefits to the County of the proposed abatement agreement to at least equal the costs to the County of the proposed agreement and finds that the proposed abatement is in the public interest because it will increase or preserve the tax base.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COTTONWOOD COUNTY, MINNESOTA, AS FOLLOWS:**

1. Cottonwood County does hereby grant an abatement to DAVID S. DERICKSON and JODY M. DERICKSON, husband and wife, of the County's share of real estate taxes upon the above-described parcel based on the proposed construction of a new single-family home on said parcel.
2. The tax abatement will be for no more than five (5) years commencing on the first year of taxes payable for the assessed value related to the capital improvement (new home) outlined above.
3. The County shall provide the awarded abatement payment following payment by the property owners of the real estate taxes due annually. One single payment of the County's share of the abatement shall be made to the property owners of record by December 30th of that calendar year.
4. The tax abatement shall be for the residential capital improvements only. Land values and the current base value are not eligible and will not be abated.
5. The abatement shall be null and void if construction of the new home is not commenced within six (6) months of the approval of this resolution or if real estate taxes are not paid on or before the respective annual payment deadlines.

Adopted this 20th day of March, 2018.

S/Donna L. Gravley, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Gale Bondhus, County Assessor, met with the board to get approval to purchase a used vehicle for the Assessor's office. Motion by Stevens, second by Appel, unanimous vote (Commissioner Schmidt abstained) to accept the quote from Higley Ford for a 2014 Ford Escape in the amount of \$18,798.50 for the Assessor's office. (Quotes are on file in the County Coordinator's office.)

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Commissioner Gravley presented the County Day Proclamation for Cottonwood County for approval. Motion by Holmen, second by Appel, unanimous roll call vote to adopt Resolution 18-03-20 proclaiming April 3, 2018 as National Service Recognition Day and approving an ad on KDOM and in the *Citizen* recognizing volunteers.

**County Day Proclamation for Cottonwood County**

**Resolution 18-03-20**

**WHEREAS**, service to others is a hallmark of the American character, and central to how we meet our challenges; and

**WHEREAS**, the nation's Counties are increasingly turning to national service and volunteerism as a cost-effective strategy to meet their needs; and

**WHEREAS**, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants address the most pressing challenges facing our communities, from educating students for the jobs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, to fighting the opioid epidemic, to responding to natural disasters, to supporting veterans and military families; and

**WHEREAS**, AmeriCorps and Senior Corps participants serve in more than 50,000 locations across the country, bolstering the civic, neighborhood, and faith-based organizations that are so vital to our economic and social well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, more than 14,400 Minnesota Senior Corps Volunteers provided more than 1.7 million hours of service in 2017. Cottonwood County was served by 195 Senior Corps RSVP volunteers in 2017. The Senior Corps RSVP volunteers perform their volunteer service work under the guidance of A.C.E. of SW Minnesota – Cottonwood County office. These volunteers provide vital support to county residents and improve the quality of life in Cottonwood County, and

**WHEREAS**, as a County Commission, we work hard every day to make life better for our constituents, and strengthening the spirit and commitment of the volunteers who serve our county is just one of our many goals. We are grateful for the dedication and sacrifice of these citizens who are helping make our great county stronger, safer, and healthier, and

**WHEREAS**, national service represents a unique public-private partnership that invests in community solutions and leverages non-federal resources to strengthen community impact and increase the return on taxpayer dollars; and

**WHEREAS**, the Corporation for National and Community Service shares a priority with local leaders nationwide to engage citizens, improve lives, and strengthen communities; and is joining with the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, Cities of Service, and local leaders across the country for National Service Recognition Day on April 3, 2018.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners, do hereby proclaim April 3, 2018, as National Service Recognition Day, and encourage residents to recognize the positive impact of national service in our community, to thank those who serve; and to find ways to give back to their communities.

Dated March 20, 2018

S/Donna L. Gravley, Board Chairman

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Mike Wenande and John Hoek, Anderson Representatives, gave a presentation on the replacement of windows in the courthouse.

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Jason Harris and Kimberly Dickey, Nextera Energy Representatives, met with the board to provide information on the proposed 80 turbine, 200 megawatt North Fork Wind Farm. Harris estimated the timeline to be: complete land acquisition – 2018; complete all permitting – 2019; complete construction – 2020; and operational – end of 2020.

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Motion by Schmidt, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to allow Austin Crowell to be promoted to the mechanic position at the rate of \$19.72/hour, which is Range 12, Step A, effective March 21, 2018. Crowell will serve a 3-month probationary period.

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Motion by Schmidt, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve March warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 50,063.38
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 132.60

County Building Fund	\$ 51,764.43
Agency Fund	\$ 14,200.00
Taxes and Penalties Fund	\$ 1,250.00
County Revenue Fund	\$ 960.94
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 32,278.25
Waste Abatement/Score Fund	\$ 58.50
Landfill Enterprise	\$ 41,696.54
	<u>\$ 192,404.64</u>

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Chairman Gravley set a work session for April 17th after the regular county board meeting. Item of discussion will be re-organization of Public Works.

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County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong stated that she would like direction in regards to maintenance issues at DVHHS. Thongvivong stated that she and Kevin Paulsen, Building & Grounds Worker, get a number of requests from DVHHS. Consensus of the board is that we will take care of maintenance issues involving structural, electrical and plumbing; if the issue is custodial, DVHHS should take care of it themselves.

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Commissioner Appel updated the board on a Private Industry Council meeting he attended on March 19 and stated that we could be looking at a \$200 increase next year. Appel also stated that he has a District 8 Land Use meeting on April 4<sup>th</sup> and that Tru-Shrimp will be giving a presentation.

Commissioner Gravley confirmed with the Auditor/Treasurer that his office has received all the vehicle titles for county-owned property. Gravley confirmed that Commissioner Stevens will be attending the March 26 Watershed Leadership Meeting. Gravley confirmed that Commissioner Appel will be attending the March 22 Big Bend Wind Tower meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Donna L. Gravley, Board Chair

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator