

November 27, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 27, 2007 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Norm Holmen. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Jason Purrington, Kristi Sell, Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith and Ron Gregg. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2007 meeting.

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Sheriff Jason Purrington and Jail Administrator Kristi Sell met with the board to present the findings of the annual jail inspection. Sell reported that most of the items have already been addressed but they have until December 31st to respond to the corrective actions.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board regarding the county feedlot program review that was conducted on August 24, 2007. The review was composed of two parts. The first part of the review focused on county performance in the FY2007 and the second part of the review was an assessment and approval of the FY2008 Delegation Agreement and Work Plan. Cottonwood County's 2008 County Feedlot Program Delegation Agreement and Work Plan satisfactorily address the Minimum Program Requirements (MPR). There were some areas of the program that need improvement and those items were discussed with the board. Hanson will do some further checking on some of these items to see if they are the county's responsibility.

Hanson also shared a letter with the board that he received last week in regards to MPCA's proposal to withhold the incentive portion of Cottonwood County's 2008 Feedlot Grant Award. MPCA is proposing to withhold \$2,438. This does not affect Cottonwood County's 2008 Base Grant Award in the amount of \$31,000.

Hanson reported that Marlene Smith has been working on permits for 5 meteorological towers to be located in Cottonwood County in the following townships: Carson, Amboy, Storden and Amo.

Brief discussion was held regarding the septic system at the new county building that was recently purchased. Hanson would like a copy of the design system when one is obtained.

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County Attorney Doug Storey met with the board to discuss the need for developing a Dangerous Dog Ordinance. Storey and Sheriff Purrington will work to develop a few different suggestions for the board to review at a later date.

County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several different items. He reviewed the warranty information on the new Motor Grader purchased and determined that an extended warranty for full machine coverage was not worth the investment. Therefore, the purchase price plus tax was \$149,587.77.

Gregg informed the board that the Cottonwood County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility at the Landfill is temporarily closed. MPCA performed an inspection of the facility last week and has temporarily suspended the license for the HHW facility.

Gregg reported that the Tri-County Recycling Contract expires this year. He recommended that Cottonwood County enter into a contract for a 2-year term instead of a 5-year term. After much discussion, the board agreed that Gregg and Commissioner Kuecker should meet with Murray County regarding the recycling agreement. Kuecker also agreed to contact Waste Management to see what other options might be available for the county in regards to the recycling program.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign contract for the Mt. Lake Township Bridge Replacement project (L6509).

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve and sign snow removal contracts with Westbrook and Jeffers for the 2007-2008 snow removal season. The cost is \$1,000/mile.

Gregg requested board approval to postpone the CSAH 13 Federal Aid Project from 2008 to 2010. This is \$1,000,000 of Federal Aid money. After discussing the situation, the board agreed to postpone the project because MnDOT requested to use this roadway for a detour when performing repairs on TH 60 between Butterfield and Windom.

Update was given on two bridge projects and it was reported that the Mt. Lake Township bridge project should be done this week.

Brief discussion was held regarding concerns on County Road 21. Gregg will do some checking on this matter.

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It was reported that the MCIT dividend for 2007 was in the amount of \$84,278, which was an increase from last year.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept draft contract for proposal for the SRDC to provide services for the Cottonwood County Seed Capital Fund. Commissioner Sorenson will check with Nan Larson to find out what amount SRDC thinks should be budgeted for 2008 so the budget can be amended to reflect the change.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Todd Dibble to attend Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs Training December 3 – 5 in the Cities and to pay for all eligible expenses.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns updated the board on a recent CERTS committee meeting that he attended and reported on the three applications that were recently approved for a \$5,000 grant.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 07-11-27

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners hereby agrees to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with Southwest West Central Service Cooperative effective January 1, 2008.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Discussion was held regarding some of the questions/concerns that came up during the three insurance meetings that were held. No action was taken to change anything that had already been decided. Blue Cross Blue Shield will be contacted regarding whether or not the county can contribute to SWCD VEBA plans.

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Commissioner Kuecker gave an update in regards to the Cottonwood County Historical Society. He reported that they are currently applying for grants, which have to do with the Minnesota Sesquicentennial Celebration. Kuecker reported that an exhibit from the 1967 fire would be on display at the Historical Society from December 2nd – December 22nd. He also reported that the old Mt. Lake hospital records are in the process of being indexed.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant