

March 6, 2012  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 6, 2012 at 9:00 a.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, Jim Schmidt, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Wendy Krueger, Judy Markl, Ron Gregg, Andy Geiger, Rob Anderson, Lauren Mifek, Brian Cooley and Gale Bondhus.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 28, 2012 meeting.

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Wendy Krueger and Judy Markl, DNR Wildlife, met with the board to inform the board about a land acquisition proposal for Talcot Lake. The Nancy Luchtenberg heirs contacted the DNR in 2009 and expressed interest in selling their remaining 115 acre property to DNR Wildlife to become part of the Talcot Life Wildlife Management Area (WMA). Luchtenberg's had previously sold 45.5 acres to the DNR in 1996. This tract is located between the existing Talcot Lake WMA and Highway 62 and is within the existing waterfowl refuge.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns briefly discussed the Great River Energy Tour that will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:00pm and 2:00pm if anyone is interested in attending.

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Chairman Holmen mentioned that he has heard some discussion amongst a few of the counties recently in regards to an appointed Auditor/Treasurer position as opposed to an elected Auditor/Treasurer position.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Brief discussion was held regarding spring road restrictions that went into effect at midnight on Monday. Gregg handed out a map of the weight restrictions to the county board which can be found on the county website as well.

Gregg reported that Cherie Winters has successfully completed her 6-month probationary period as a Clerk Typist and he would like to recommend moving her to a regular part-time employee. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to move Cherie Winters to a regular part-time employee effective March 6, 2012. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Cherie Winters a 1-step increase effective March 6, 2012 due to successful completion of the required probationary period.

Brian Cooley, Maintenance Shop Supervisor, met with the board to present the results of the surplus equipment sale that was recently held on Gov Deals online auction service. Cooley reported that 11 items were sold and the Highway Department received \$24,599.85 for the sale of these items.

Gregg along with Planning & Zoning Administrator/Parks Director Andy Geiger met with the board to further discuss the possibility of combining the Solid Waste Department with the Environmental Department. Gregg feels that a movement in this direction would alleviate time spent with landfill issues and allow him more time to focus on the Highway Department. Geiger feels that he could transition into this role with his present job duties. The board seemed to agree that a mentor/mentee relationship over the next several months would be beneficial. A proposed time table for the transition of the Solid Waste Department to the Environmental Department was presented by Gregg and Geiger. The time table outlines a plan to have the Solid Waste Department merged with the Environmental Department by January 1, 2013.

Motion by Schmidt, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Geiger to attend Landfill Operator Certification Class on May 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.

Gregg reported that request for proposals were sent out for the Engineering Design and Construction Engineering Services for the Safe Route to School Project. After reviewing the proposals from Stonebrook Engineering, Bolton & Menk Inc. and Wenck Associates, Inc. the selection committee chose Wenck Associates, Inc. as the best suited for the project. Motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to appoint Wenck Associates, Inc. to do design and construction engineering services as recommended by Gregg for the Safe Route to School Project.

Gregg presented a state quote in the amount of \$73,432.55 from Alpha Wireless to purchase Motorola radios using government pricing. Gregg reported that if Cottonwood County would agree to go with this proposal the county would be added to a much larger order and the potential savings could be as high as \$10,000. Discussion was held regarding the seven 800 MHz Remote Mount Mobile Units that were included in the quote and whether the purchase of seven units was necessary. Motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt to accept the quote as presented with the exception of the seven 800 MHz Remote Mount Mobile Units that can be ordered at a later time if necessary. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns to amend the first motion to accept the quote as presented but to allow for the purchase of three 800 MHz Remote Mount Mobile Units instead of seven. Voting on the amended motion was as follows: Aye – White, Oeltjenbruns and Holmen. Nay – Kuecker and Schmidt. A unanimous vote was then cast on the amended original motion.

Gregg reported that three quotes were received for the purchase of an overhead door and materials for the landfill scale building that was authorized at the last board meeting as follows: Country Pride Coop True Value Building Center - \$2,547.00, Westbrook Home Center - \$2,775.35 and Lamperts - \$3,095.65. Gregg reported that the low quote in the amount of \$2,547.00 was awarded to Country Pride Coop True Value Building Center of Mt. Lake.

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Rob Anderson, Mt. Lake Community Development Director, and Lauren Mifek, Mountain Power Hydraulics, met with the board to make a request to transfer the tax abatement that was approved on February 1, 2011 by the county board to the new owner (Lauren Mifek) of Mountain Power Hydraulics. Because the tax abatement is transferable to another buyer if the buyer retains the jobs within Cottonwood County, no further action was needed. Mifek agreed to abide by the terms of the abatement that were established as part of Resolution 11-02-01.

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

**Resolution 12-03-06**

**RESOLUTION OF THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
OF COTTONWOOD COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Cottonwood County previously resolved, along with twelve other Counties in Southwestern Minnesota, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to form the Southern Prairie Health Purchasing Alliance ("SPHPA"); and

**WHEREAS**, the purpose of the SPHPA was to provide a vehicle for the Counties to collectively explore creating a county-based purchasing organization as an alternative to contracting with private, non-profit health plans in order to provide cost-effective, high-quality, health care services to county residents enrolled in various Minnesota health care programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Cottonwood County previously committed initial funding of \$5,000 to support the formation of the SPHPA; and

**WHEREAS**, during the past four years the Counties, through the SPHPA, have worked cooperatively and dedicated significant resources exploring the potential structure, governance, and operation of a rural community care system to serve county residents including, but not limited to, a county-based purchasing health plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the Counties have determined that creation of a rural community care system can potentially provide a viable alternative to contracting with private, non-profit health plans in order to provide cost-effective, high-quality health care services to county residents enrolled in various Minnesota health care programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Human Services ("DHS") has indicated that it will issue a request for proposal ("RFP") in 2012 to solicit proposals for participating in a demonstration project to create, implement, and operate an accountable care organization in rural areas to finance and provide services to participants of Minnesota health care programs; and

**WHEREAS**, participation in the DHS demonstration project could be beneficial to the Counties, including Cottonwood County, for reasons including, but not limited to, retention of a portion of any shared savings realized from services provided by the delivery system; and

**WHEREAS**, it may be necessary for the Counties to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement in order to submit a response to the DHS RFP; and

**WHEREAS**, it appears necessary and desirable for the Counties, through the SPHPA, to review, analyze, and respond to the DHS RFP if possible; and

**WHEREAS**, it appears necessary and desirable for Cottonwood County, to enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with the other Counties if required to submit a response to the DHS RFP.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that Cottonwood County agrees to participate as a member of the SPHPA in reviewing and analyzing the Minnesota DHS RFP for a demonstration project for a rural health delivery system and further participate as a member of the SPHPA in responding to the RFP.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Cottonwood County agrees to review and, if appropriate, enter into a Joint Powers Agreement with the other members of the SPHPA as may be necessary to respond to the Minnesota DHS RFP.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that Cottonwood County agrees to commit \$5,000 to SPHPA at the time this Resolution is adopted and an additional \$5,000 at the time the County executes (if approved) a Joint Powers Agreement to continue to support the activities of SPHPA. These funds will be remitted from the Family Service Agency Reserve Account.

This Resolution is adopted by action of the Board of Commissioners of Cottonwood County at a meeting duly called on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2012.

S/Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve part-time Parks Worker job description as presented.

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The board reviewed two proposals that were received for work to be done to update the county's existing website. The two proposals were as follows: The Untamed Mouse, LLC - \$3,200 and iCitizen - \$2,800. Chairman Holmen shared with the board further information that he was asked to clarify after discussion at the last board meeting. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to accept proposal of website project quote from The Untamed Mouse, LLC in the amount of \$3,200.

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Discussion was held regarding ditch inspections and how the county intends to proceed with inspections for 2012. Commissioner Kuecker agreed to contact SWCD to see if they would be interested in providing a quote for these services.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson permission to solicit quotes for a new air conditioning system for the Courthouse.

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A monthly trial balance was handed out for the board's review. It was reported that Road & Bridge currently has a loan of \$600,000.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman Holmen to sign parking plan for CSAH 17/6<sup>th</sup> Street project that needs to be adopted by both the City of Windom and Cottonwood County.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant