

April 8, 2008  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 8, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman John Oeltjenbruns. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey, Rob Anderson, Jan Voit, Don Reffer, Cheryl Peters, Mike Hanson, Ron Gregg, Gale Bondhus, Marlene Smith and Rory Lindvall. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 1, 2008 meeting as amended.

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Rob Anderson, Mt. Lake Economic Development Director, met with the board to inform them that a company by the name of Milk Specialties Company (MSC) is interested in buying the Protient plant in Mt. Lake. This company is interested in utilizing the Mn Job Opportunity Building Zone (JOBZ) Program. Because Protient was not included in the original acreage designated for Mt. Lake a job zone modification needs to be approved by all three local taxing jurisdictions including the city, county and school district. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 08-04-08**  
Cottonwood County, Minnesota

WHEREAS, the Job Opportunity Building Zone (JOBZ) Program created in Minnesota Session Laws 2003, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Chapter 21, Article 1 allows for the formation of tax free zones; and such zones were designated in Mt. Lake and across Minnesota beginning on January 1, 2004; and

WHEREAS, Parcel No. 22.033.0100 in the NW Quarter of Section 33, Midway Township; now annexed into the City of Mountain Lake consisting of approximately 44 acres is designated as Mountain Lake JOBZ Sub-Zone 'J' (Friesen Property); and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development allows JOBZ boundary modifications to promote expansion and relocation of industries within JOBZ communities; and

WHEREAS, a business is currently interested in locating to Mountain Lake acquiring the existing Protient manufacturing facility and have expressed interest in utilizing the JOBZ program. The location of the Protient manufacturing facility is within the City Limits of Mountain Lake, Parcel No. 613.0120 consisting of 8.54 acres; and

WHEREAS, the property where the new business is seeking to locate (Protient property) is currently located outside of the designated JOBZ sub-zone boundary; and

WHEREAS, the JOBZ program is necessary to quickly bring a new business to the City of Mountain Lake and to create additional employment of local residents; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Commission at its meeting held the 8<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2008 request and supports the boundary modification of Mountain Lake JOBZ Sub-Zone 'J' by transferring 8.54 acres from the Southwest corner of Parcel No. 22.033.0100 to Parcel No. 613.0120 (Protient property), Lot 7 of the Cornelius Penner Subd., 50' x 300' RR R/W S of Lots 5 & 6; Lot 5 Ex 1.5 AC NW CNR; Lot 6 Ex E63' N329.77'; Lot 7 Ex N329.77 containing 8.54 acres; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Cottonwood County Commission approves the use of tax exemptions and tax credits within the designated zone, with the exception of property taxes as authorized in MS 272.02 Subd. 56 Paragraph D, Clause 1 (subject to proper review and approval by the other appropriate taxing authorities within the zones), and encourages the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development to approve this request.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer \* \* S/John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman \* \*

Jan Voit, Heron Lake Watershed District Administrator, met with the board to present the annual Clean Water Partnership update. \* \* \*

Don Reffer, Brush & Weed Control Specialists, met with the board to give an update regarding the 3-year maintenance rotation with the ditch spraying program and to present the 2008 quote for tree and brush control in the open drainage ditches in Cottonwood County.

Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to accept quote from B & W Control Specialists in the amount of \$43,000 for spraying of trees and brush in county ditches.

Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and to reconvene as the County Board.

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept quote from B & W Control Specialists in the amount of \$2,000 for tree and brush control on the slopes of the dam at the Schoper Bush Reservoir in Cottonwood County. \* \* \*

Commissioner Sorenson gave an update regarding the Southwestern Mental Health Building Finance Task Force meeting he recently attended. He reported that Southwestern Mental Health is currently in the process of conducting a feasibility study for a potential fundraiser, which they are hoping to raise \$500,000 to \$700,000 locally.

Sorenson reported that the Annual Meeting for Southwestern Mental Health has been scheduled for May 14<sup>th</sup> at the Dayton House in Worthington. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to give approval for all Commissioners to attend the annual meeting on May 14<sup>th</sup> and to submit a per diem. \* \* \*

Discussion was held regarding North 71 County Office Building. It was reported that Southwestern Mental Health has agreed to proceed with their portion of the plans. More discussion will be held at the next board meeting in regards to some of the other issues that still need to be addressed.

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Court Administrator Cheryl Peters met with the board to ask for permission to install two ceiling fans in the Court Administration area of the courthouse. Two quotes were presented as follows: Ron's Electric - \$1,224 and Franzen Electrical Service - \$1,500. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$1,224 from Ron's Electric.

Peters also asked for consideration of the county paying mileage for the presenter from the metro area that will be speaking at the Naturalization Ceremony on Friday, April 11<sup>th</sup> at the BARC building. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow for reimbursement of mileage for this individual from the metro area if he agrees.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss several items. Hanson gave his recommendation for the hiring of three seasonal workers for the Parks Department. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to hire Alex Skarset (3<sup>rd</sup> year), Ashley Anderson (3<sup>rd</sup> year) and Margo Wright (1<sup>st</sup> year) as seasonal workers for 2008 with a starting date of April 28<sup>th</sup>. Hanson was strongly encouraged to advertise this position in the future.

Hanson informed the board that he is trying to get a second quote for playground equipment and will present the quotes at a future meeting. It was suggested that Hanson get quotes for new picnic tables at Red Rock Falls Park as well.

Brief discussion was held regarding some of the county parks and some concerns with ADA requirements at Red Rock Falls Park and snowmobiling at Mountain Park in Mt. Lake. Hanson informed the board that he is working on these items. Hanson also reported that he is working on getting the gates reset at Mountain Park and has contacted an individual from Mt. Lake who has agreed to open and close the gates each day. Hanson will take a look at the current policy for the county parks to see if it may need to be updated in the near future.

Hanson presented three quotes for the purchase of a new pickup for the Environmental Office. After further discussion, the board agreed to have Hanson obtain new quotes for a ½ ton pickup instead of a ¾ ton pickup and to get state quotes for a Chevy and a Dodge pickup as well.

Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow one individual from the Environmental Office to attend Minnesota Environmental Health Association Conference in Brainerd April 30<sup>th</sup> through May 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Hanson updated the board on the low interest loan septic money. He reported that there are 33 applicants on the 3-County Pilot Program list that are eligible to receive a grant of \$500 to upgrade their septic system.

Hanson reported that the Planning Commission has finalized any changes and updates to Zoning Ordinance No. 28 Section 25 Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS). Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to set the public hearing date for April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 1:10 p.m. at the regular county board meeting.

Hanson reminded the board that two public meetings would be held on April 14<sup>th</sup> presenting the information on the Des Moines River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study.

A proposed floor plan of the North Highway 71 County Office Building was presented to the board for their review.

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Bids for mowing of the North 71 County Office Building property were opened as follows: Greg Johnson - \$150/mowing; Allen Rahn - \$1400/year; Wally Minion - \$149/mowing; Evonne Janssen - \$2,850/year; Bob Ysker - \$30/hour; Gloyd Wellman - \$840/year; Kathleen Brandt - \$105/mowing. Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$840/year from Gloyd Wellman for mowing of property at North 71 County Office Building for 2008 mowing season.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several different items. He requested approval of obtaining a credit card for the purchase of gasoline for out-of-town trips for the Highway Department employees. After discussing the needs of the department, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow the Highway Department to get 2 gas cards to be assigned to 2 different vehicles.

Gregg reported that he has not yet received state pricing for a tandem axle truck so he has no recommendation at this time.

Much discussion was held regarding private tile concerns by a landowner. Since the County Attorney has not yet been made aware of this situation, Gregg will discuss the matter with him before making any further recommendations to the board.

Gregg informed the board of his intent to remodel the cold storage area at the landfill for the processing of Household Hazardous Waste. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to instruct Gregg to get quotes for concrete work pending approval from MPCA on the plan design.

It was reported that the county would need to construct another cell (cell 7) in 2009. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to put out an RFP for the construction of a new cell.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the recent IT recommendation by Greg Walsh from Watonwan County. The board agreed that the county should take advantage of his services and talent. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to ask that Greg Walsh put together a short-range (less

than 2 yrs.) plan as well as a long-range (2-5 yr.) plan so the board can get a better understanding of some of the costs involved.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to approve April warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 60,971.69
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 16,192.33
County Building Fund	\$ 6,854.14
Ditch Fund	\$ 392.50
Road & Bridge	\$ 84,880.55
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 3,775.42
Landfill Enterprise	<u>\$ 10,500.54</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$183,567.17</u>

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant