

February 14, 2006
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 14, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Ron Kuecker. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson, Chuck Severson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Kristie Blankenship, Kristi Sell, Jason Purrington, Dianne Beens, Elaine Lolkus, Jane Hennagir and Mike Hanson. Motion by Severson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 7, 2006 meeting as amended.

* * * *

Kristie Blankenship met with the board representing the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership to give a brief update about the program and to ask for support of the county's participation in the HOME Rental Rehabilitation Program. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution to Participate in the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency
HOME Rental Rehabilitation Program
06-02-14**

Whereas, the County of Cottonwood desires to participate in the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, HOME Rental Rehabilitation Program, and administer it in accordance with all applicable State and Federal regulations; and

Whereas, in order to participate in the program it is necessary for the County of Cottonwood to file an application signed by the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, Executive Director with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency; and

Whereas, the need for Cottonwood County Board approval concerning the submission of Application for Administrative Authority; and

Now therefore be it resolved, by the Board of Commissioners of Cottonwood County, that the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership, Executive Director is authorized to:

1. File an Application for Administrative Authority with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for participation in the HOME Rental Rehabilitation Program; and
2. Administer through the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership program funds awarded by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for the rehabilitation of rental property in the County of Cottonwood.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Chairman Kuecker gave a brief update in regards to the insurance discussion that was held last week at the Labor-Management Committee meeting with Andy Roos, Blue Cross Blue Shield representative.

* * * *

Kristi Sell, Jail Administrator, and Jason Purrington, Sheriff, met with the board to discuss the Pay-to-Stay Law for inmates. Minnesota Statute states that the county is allowed to collect room and board, medical, dental, and miscellaneous correctional expenses from any inmate housed in the Cottonwood County Jail. Since medical expenses within the jail population seem to be on the rise, there was a motion by Sorenson, second by Severson, unanimous vote to set the pay-to-stay rate at \$20.00/day.

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to enter into agreement with Financial Consultants Company for the billing and collection of fees for the Pay-to-Stay Program.

Quotes were presented to the board for the purchase of a new desktop computer for the Emergency Management Director. Quotes were as follows: New Star - \$1,483.54 and Davis Typewriter - \$1,592.18. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Severson, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$1,483.54 from New Star. This will be taken out of the Emergency Management Long Term Capital Outlay Fund.

* * * *

Dianne Beens, Advertising Consultant from the Citizen, met with the board to ask whether or not the county would again be interested in placing a 1/2 page ad in the Cottonwood County Visitors Guide that is published yearly. This will be billed at a rate of \$75/month from April through September for a total cost of \$450. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the ad in the Visitors Guide in the amount of \$450.

* * * *

Brief discussion was held in regards to fire alarm system in the Courthouse. Gopher Alarm recently toured the courthouse to give an estimate of the cost of a new system but no figures have been received yet at this time.

* * * *

Update was given in regards to the 4-H Program Coordinator position that is currently vacant. It was reported that 5 individuals were recently interviewed for the position and Cottonwood County has given their hiring recommendation to the University of Minnesota for their consideration.

* * * *

Probation Officer Elaine Lolkus met with the board in regards to consideration of a salary request for Lisa Zuehlke, Corrections Administrative Assistant, who has had an increase of job duties since the position was first sent in to be pointed. Motion by Holmen, second by Severson, unanimous vote to give authorization for the Corrections Administrative Assistant position to be sent in for re-pointing as soon as the current job description is updated.

Jane Hennagir, MCIT Account Executive, met with the board to present the 2006 Member Report for Cottonwood County.

* * * *

Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss several different items. Hanson gave an update on the Water Plan and presented a proposal from SRDC to assist in completing Cottonwood County's Water Plan revision, which needs to be completed by the end of 2006. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize Hanson to contact SRDC to write up contract for the management of the Water Plan revision. This contract will then be presented to the board for their final approval.

Hanson gave the board a draft copy of the Mining, Extraction, and Excavation Ordinance that has been completed to date. He stated that the goal is to have the Ordinance finished in time to have the public hearing on March 28, 2006.

Hanson reported that he would like to get rid of the 1985 S-10 Chevy pickup as it is not currently being used and there is not much use for it. The board suggested that he obtain a couple of quotes from some local car dealers and ask if they would be willing to sell the vehicle for a commission.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to authorize Hanson to get quotes for two new docks for Talcot Lake Park.

Discussion was held in regards to ISTS low-interest loan funds. Hanson outlined the various sources and the amounts spent as low interest loans for septic system upgrades. Because most of the funds have been depleted, alternative sources of funds are being looked for.

Update was given on Delft Sanitary Sewer Project. Hanson reported that the final signatures, certifications, and inspection reports are being secured to finalize this project and submit to MPCA to obtain the last 10% of the ISTS Grant.

* * * *

Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve February warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 68,619.07
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 5,803.20
County Building Fund	\$ 4,616.30
Ditch Fund	\$ 3,004.95
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 52,886.35
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 5,774.48
Landfill Enterprise Fund	\$ 8,284.83
TOTAL	\$148,989.18

* * * *

There being no further business, there was a motion by Severson, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to adjourn the meeting.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant