

November 22, 2005
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 22, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Chuck Severson, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Gary Sorenson; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Karen Swenson, Jason Purrington, Mike Hanson, Holli Arp, Katie Clarke and Ron Gregg. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the November 8, 2005 meeting.

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Karen Swenson met with the board representing Brown-Nicollet Community Health to discuss the 2006 Food, Beverage & Lodging Contract. Swenson reported that because the fees have not been raised lately, there was a slight increase in the rates from last year. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the 2006 Food, Beverage & Lodging Contract.

Swenson reported that the hospitality fee recently passed the state legislature, which means that every licensed establishment, including licensed events, in the state will now be billed an extra \$35. Swenson is not sure who will be enforcing this at the state level.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to amend the 2006 county budget for Brown-Nicollet CHS services to reflect an increase of \$1,500 from \$7,925 in 2005 to \$9,425 in 2006.

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Chief Deputy Sheriff Jason Purrington met with the board to present two quotes for the purchase of a used squad car. The two quotes were as follows: Travel Management (state contract) - \$5,244.50 and Higley Ford - \$3,700. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize the purchase of used squad car from state contract for 2003 Ford Crown Victoria as it was newer and had fewer miles.

Purrington updated the board on the recent shower problems at the LEC and stated that he would continue to pursue this further and check into some different options.

After a brief discussion, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to release Jason Purrington as Chief Deputy Sheriff for 1-day on December 30, 2005 and to return him to regular deputy status until he takes over as Interim Sheriff on January 1, 2006.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to recent revocation of some of the county calling cards. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote

to reinstate phone card for Probation Officer as soon as possible.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss several items. Hanson reported that the final cost of the county comp plan was \$914.06 over and above the original contract. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to authorize final payment in the amount of \$914.06.

Hanson gave an update in regards to low-interest dollars for the ISTS loan program for septic systems. It was reported that 53 septic systems have been done so far this year. There is approximately \$43,313.57 left from the 2005 grant and \$60,254.11 has been used so far. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 05-11-22
FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION AGREEMENT
AMENDMENT # 1 OF THE
WATONWAN RIVER WATERSHED CWP

BE IT RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that, as Loan Sponsor, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners enter into the Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement Amendment #1 along with the Project Sponsor of Watonwan County, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to conduct the implementation of the Watonwan Watershed Clean Water Partnership Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners that the Chairman of the Board, Charles Severson be authorized to execute the Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement Amendment #1 for the above referenced Project on behalf of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissions as Loan Sponsor.

WHEREUPON the above resolution was adopted at a regular meeting, this 22nd day of November, 2005.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Update was given in regards to a nuisance complaint in Amo Township that has been brought to the attention of the Environmental Office. A letter was sent to the owner of the property on November 10th.

Commissioner Sorenson informed Hanson that he had recently received a call in regards to another nuisance complaint in the area of Double Lake. Hanson will attempt to contact the owner of the property to see if they can't get it cleaned up.

Hanson reported on the water test results that were taken from the well at Talcot Lake. Because some of the results were fairly elevated, Hanson discussed the possibility of signing up for Red Rock Rural Water. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to sign up with Red Rock Rural Water for Talcot Park. It was recommended that the county pay the \$9300 total amount as a lump sum instead of making monthly payments. This will be paid for out of the county park budget within the Environmental Office.

Hanson reported that Larry Stevens recently resigned from the Board of Adjustment and a new appointment to this board would need to be made as soon as possible.

Brief discussion was held in regards to mining ordinance. Hanson stated that he hoped to get some kind of meeting put together by the first part of March.

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Holli Arp and Katie Clarke met with the board representing the University of Minnesota Extension. They presented a memorandum of intent for the Nutrition Education Program. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to sign memorandum of intent for Nutrition Education Program.

Discussion was held in regards to the 4-H Program Coordinator position that is still not filled. It was reported that 16 applications were received and of the applicants that were interviewed, the Extension Committee did not feel that any of the applicants would be a good fit for Cottonwood County. Arp and Clarke asked that the board consider contributing \$300 in order to re-advertise for this position, as the University is willing to allocate \$300 towards new strategies for advertising. After much discussion, the board declined to contribute any funds for the re-advertising of this position.

Arp and Clarke asked that the board allow them to temporarily fill the 4-H Program Coordinator position until the full-time position can be filled. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to authorize Arp and Clarke to back-fill position with temporary hire until full-time position can be filled.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board in regards to new fee schedule for the landfill, which includes minimum fees for demo, brush and compost. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to adopt proposed fee schedule effective January 1, 2006.

Gregg requested that the board approve final payment on the 2005 overlay projects. The final payment is \$183,849.98. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the final payment on the 2005 overlay projects.

Gregg reported that after further discussion and research, it is his recommendation to leave the contract language as is and to allow for hire of a full-time solid waste/landfill position. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to post internally and to advertise for the position of full-time solid waste/landfill worker.

Gregg informed the board that he would be attending the Waste to Energy meeting that will be taking place in Redwood Falls.

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After final review of Application for Employment form, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to adopt Cottonwood County Application for Employment form. This will be sent out to all Department Heads so that the updated form can now be used.

Commissioner Kuecker reported on some of the issues and concerns he has in regards to some items that were recently discussed at the last Labor-Management Committee meeting. Kuecker reported that there was a question asked in regards to whether or not the employees currently getting single coverage on their insurance coverage should have to contribute towards the insurance premium as well. After checking into the figures of single versus family coverage, it was reported that this would not have a significant impact. There are not very many employees who are only receiving single coverage. A comment was made that some employees feel that the single employees are already not getting as much of a benefit as those employees who have family coverage. Another factor to consider is the \$720 cap that the county will pay towards health insurance coverage for each employee.

Brief discussion was held in regards to the recent review of the Personnel Policy at the LMC meetings. When the committee first began discussing the personnel policy, the original intent was to reorganize the existing policies so that it would be easier to find information when necessary. Commissioner Kuecker reported that over the past several months, the committee has gone far beyond the original intent and has been spending a great deal of time comparing our county policy with that of another county and he thinks that it may be best to get back to the original intent before it goes any further.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update in regards to the Minnesota River Basin. He reported that a survey was recently completed in regards to the water and that 23% of the water is polluted with E coli bacteria.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson gave an update in regards to the current property tax system that the county has through MCCC. He reported that there has recently been a split in the MCCC group as some of the counties are not happy with the current vendor. Johnson reported that the County Assessor and himself were not in favor of going to a new platform.

Discussion was held in regards to the current snow blower for the Courthouse. It seems that it is in need of some repairs and it may be time to start looking at purchasing a new one. The board suggested that the current snow blower be used for the time being but to begin exploring different options.

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It was reported that the board meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 27th would begin at 9:00 a.m. instead of 1:00 p.m.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Family Service Agency to obtain 1 credit card for their use. This card will be issued to Craig Myers, as he will be the one appointed to be in charge of its use.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant