

April 12, 2005  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 12, 2005 at 9:00 a.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; Nancy Sather, Mark Marcy, Bob Haken, Ron Gregg and Nan Larson. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 5, 2005 meeting as amended.

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Nancy Sather, Botanist with the Minnesota County Biological Survey, met with the board to give an update in regards to the survey and what her plans are for the upcoming months as she will be working in both Cottonwood and Jackson counties.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to seek approval for the Chairman to sign Joint Powers Agreement with the HEAT Team. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Chairman to sign Southwest Minnesota/Northwest Iowa Emergency Response Unit Joint Powers Agreement.

Marcy invited the Commissioners to a hazardous materials drill that will be held on June 22<sup>nd</sup> in Bingham Lake at 6:00 p.m. The HEAT Team will be in attendance and will be involved with a large portion of this drill.

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Sheriff Bob Haken met with the board to discuss a few items. Haken presented two quotes for seven new digital cameras for the Sheriff's Department. Quotes were as follows: CM Photos - \$2190.93 and Best Buy - \$2,147.44. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept quote from CM Photos in the amount of \$2,190.93 as the quote from Best Buy did not include shipping and handling and since CM Photos is a local business, there will be no shipping and handling costs.

Haken presented the board with his official letter of retirement. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept Haken's letter of retirement resignation effective December 31, 2005.

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

County Revenue Fund	\$ 87,930.21
County Building	\$ 2,110.30

Ditch Fund	\$ 5,284.84
Taxes and Penalties Fund	\$ 4,366.80
Road & Bridge	\$ 77,429.95
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 2,965.23
Landfill	<u>\$ 6,273.90</u>
TOTAL	\$186,361.23

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow the City of Windom to advertise the CSAH 13 portion of the 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue reconstruction project.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve resolution to enter into agreement with Union Pacific Railroad for the installation and maintenance of an at Grade Crossing on CSAH 2 in the City of Bingham Lake. The total cost of this project will be \$50,728 and will be paid for with county state aid construction funds.

Gregg presented a brief history of the CSAH 29 drainage issue that would be discussed later on in the meeting and offered a few different options for some possible solutions.

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Nan Larson, Deputy Director of the Southwest Regional Development Commission, met with the board to give a brief update and to answer a few questions the board had concerning a resolution that was presented at last week's meeting. After all questions were answered, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 05-04-12**

**WHEREAS**, Cottonwood County has demonstrated by its actions that it is committed to improving the economic conditions and quality of life of its people, and

**WHEREAS**, recent years have brought instability to agriculture, scarce capital for investment and shrinking markets have seriously aggravated the already critical economic problems, and

**WHEREAS**, the current serious economic distress requires immediate and direct attention and action to assist area residents in their pursuit of economic independence and to assist area business persons towards successful competition in the business climate of today; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southwest Regional Development Commission has been instrumental in the creation of employment opportunities, the retention of existing opportunities, and the dissemination of information that provides assistance to industry and business in the achievement of these objectives; and

**WHEREAS**, the continued designation of the Southwest Regional Development Commission as an Economic Development District will expand and enhance the Regions' opportunities to diversify and strengthen our economy;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Cottonwood County supports the efforts of the Southwest Regional Development Commission and wishes to continue to actively participate in the activities of the Economic Development District; to contribute towards the Goals and Policies as described in the Overall Economic Development Program for the region; and to promote the redevelopment implementation strategy for the nine counties comprising the Southwest Regional Development Commission.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

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

**Resolution 05-04-12A**

**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/Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

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Chairman Severson appointed Ron Kuecker as the Commissioner liaison to the Red Rock Rural Water System and Norm Holmen as an alternate.

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Commissioner Kuecker reported on the FSA Director position. After reviewing all of the applications, the board decided to interview 5 of the 25 applicants at this time. Interviews will be scheduled for Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> throughout the day.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to finding out more information in regards to a possible county website. Trevor Slette from the *Citizen* will be contacted to set up a time for him to attend a future board meeting to present further information.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson gave a brief update in regards to the county transit garage. Since it is in good shape structurally and basically only needs a new roof and some minor repairs, Johnson will pursue finding out more on costs for a new roof for the facility. Commissioner Kuecker will do some more checking as to whether or not there is still a problem with termites in this building.

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Chairman Severson reported on a few informational items. He also stated that his term with Western Community Action was about to expire and he was unsure of whether or not he would seek another term.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to send out memo to all Department Heads reminding them to make sure that all employees are keeping personal phone calls on cell phones and land lines to a minimum and if any personal calls are made that the employees are reimbursing the county accordingly. It is the responsibility of the Department Head to review all phone bills before signing off on them.

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The board recessed at 12:00 p.m. for lunch and to view the Red Rock Falls County Park and proposed quarry site.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to reconvene as the county board and to view a ditch in Section 5 & 6 of Selma Township on County Road 29 with the following individuals present: 5 Commissioners, Doug Storey, Ron Gregg, Kyle Pillatzki, Richard Thom, Rick Thom, Melvin Simon, Ken Simon, Les Kirkman, Raymond Evers, Norbert Evers, Matthew Simon and Richard Oeltjenbruns.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

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Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Chuck Severson, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant