

October 2, 2012  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, October 2, 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 Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Gale Bondhus, Andy Geiger and Alan Coners.

Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Schmidt, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the September 25, 2012 meeting as amended.

\* \* \* \*

County Assessor Gale Bondhus met with the board to discuss a few items. Bondhus shared with the board the costs involved (approximately \$12,200) with educating an employee in the Assessor's Office to be able to complete the assessing requirements of the state. Bondhus also presented a few different options for the board to consider regarding the filling of the vacant position within the Assessor's Office. Further discussion was held regarding the salaries of Cottonwood County compared to the salaries of other counties. It was suggested that Bondhus obtain peer county information regarding salaries for like positions for presentation at a future board meeting.

\* \* \* \*

Planning & Zoning Administrator Andy Geiger met with the board to ask approval of two conditional use permits. The first permit was for Jordan Simon to operate an automobile, truck and trailer sales dealership in Selma Township. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the conditional use permit granted to Jordan Simon with two conditions as mentioned and as a recommendation of the Planning Commission. The second permit was for Ron Jorgenson for excavation of sediment to deepen the basin and restore some of the historical hydrology of the area (Harder Lake) in Dale Township. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the conditional use permit granted to Ron Jorgenson with three conditions as mentioned and as a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

It was brought to the attention of the board that Donna Stresemann (temporary part-time Solid Waste Worker) only has 61 hours remaining of the total 1,044 hours that she is allowed to work in a 12-month period as a temporary part-time employee. After further consideration, there was a motion by Kuecker, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to promote Donna Stresemann through an Intra-departmental promotion to the position of regular part-time Solid Waste Worker effective October 1, 2012 based on a recommendation of Geiger.

Much discussion was held regarding the possibility of giving consideration to hiring a Public Works Director for Cottonwood County. The focus of this position would be more financial and administrative duties of the Highway Department, Landfill and Environmental Office. A sample flow chart was shared with the board. The board seemed to agree that this is a unique opportunity to really look at all the options before making a decision on how to move forward with the replacement of two key Department Heads. Further research regarding this matter will be done and a draft job description will be put together for future consideration.

\* \* \* \*

Brief discussion was held regarding surplus equipment that the county currently has. A question was asked as to whether these items should be set out for Fall clean-up days or if they should be kept for a future public auction. Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson agreed to contact the local auctioneers to see what they would charge to auction off these items.

\* \* \* \*

Commissioner White gave an update regarding a recent Exit Interview that he participated in.

\* \* \* \*

Discussion was held regarding the budget and the preliminary levy that was set. After further discussion regarding overtime, Chairman Holmen appointed Commissioners Kuecker and White along with Auditor/Treasurer Johnson to meet to discuss how to reduce the overall budget for 2013.

\* \* \* \*

Discussion was held regarding the proposed merger of Cottonwood-Jackson Community Health Services and Cottonwood-Jackson Family/Human Services. This will be discussed in greater length at the next board meeting.

A conference call has been scheduled for October 11<sup>th</sup> in Jackson with Ann Goering (Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney, P.A.) to discuss options that Cottonwood-Jackson Health & Human Services can look at to begin some areas of business that will have to take place for the newly formed department in the best position possible to begin operation on January 1, 2014 should the merger take place.

\* \* \* \*

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

\_\_\_\_\_  
Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant