

June 24, 2008
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 24, 2008 at 1:00 p.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; Mark Marcy, Kendall Piotter, Ron Gregg, Judge Bruce Gross, Cheryl Peters, Mike Hanson, Marlene Smith and Phil Johnson. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 10, 2008 meeting. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 17, 2008 Board of Equalization meeting.

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Chairman Oeltjenbruns reported that a letter had been received from the Windom Riverfest Committee in regards to the Sentence to Service Program and their hope that the county continues to support the STS program in Cottonwood County.

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Three quotes for carpeting of the North 71 County Office Building were opened as follows: Barga Incorporated- \$20,823.00; Hammers Furniture - \$22,852.09; Windom Floor & Sleep - \$20,356.47. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$20,356.47 from Windom Floor & Sleep.

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Chairman Oeltjenbruns reported that he received a letter from Ken Leas, AFSCME union representative, of the desire of the four AFSCME unions to begin negotiations.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board in regards to several items. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Emergency Management and Sheriff's Department to apply for Commercial Equipment Direct Assistance Program (CEDAP) grant for 2008.

Marcy asked that the board consider allowing him to apply for an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) Grant, which could be used for the renovation of the current EOC at the Law Enforcement Center. The board asked that Marcy get further clarification on whether or not the grant could be used for equipment.

Marcy informed the board of an upcoming Emergency Management meeting that will be held Wednesday evening at 7pm at Poet Refining and invited any of them to attend.

Marcy informed the board that a Cottonwood County Emergency Services Association was recently formed in Cottonwood County. Positions are as follows: Curtis Madson – President; Mark Stevens – Vice-President; Mark Marcy – Secretary.

Marcy presented a draft copy of a Cottonwood County Emergency Services Mutual Aid Agreement that he is hoping to have approved within the near future.

Marcy updated the board in regards to a training that was offered in April, which was presented by Colonel Grossman.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to continue to subscribe to Sprint for services of wireless Internet card.

Motion by White, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Sheriff's Department to keep two pagers that they have been trying out for the past several months. No contract is required for these pagers.

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

Kendall Piotter met with the board to discuss a problem with JD #11 in Dale Township. After much discussion, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow the Ditch Authority, on behalf of JD #11, to be responsible for up to \$1,300 in expenses for the relocation of outlet pipe north of County Highway 51 and widening of waterway to relieve surface water pressure.

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

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss a few different items. Gregg asked that the board allow the Highway Department to be able to access the county website to perform updates as the Highway Department is currently posting plan holders lists on the website as well as maps. The *Citizen* will be contacted to see if it is possible to set up different passwords for each department.

Gregg asked that the board also consider using the county website as the official publication for advertising all county highway construction projects. More research will need to be done regarding this matter.

Gregg gave an update in regards to the 911 residence signage. It was reported that signs in all three upper tier townships should be completed by the end of the week.

Update was given regarding the leachate pump at the landfill as well as results from a June 10th inspection at the landfill, which showed full compliance.

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Judge Bruce Gross and Court Administrator Cheryl Peters met with the board to report that due to a \$3.8 million dollar deficit for fiscal year 2009, the

Board of Public Defense has decided that effective July 8, 2008 public defenders will no longer accept appointments to represent parents in new child protection matters (CHIPS and TPR). In pending child protection matters, public defenders will withdraw from representing parents as soon as a disposition hearing has been held. As required by statute, public defenders will continue accepting appointments and will continue representing children age 10 and older involved in child protection matters. Due to this unfunded mandate, the county could be held responsible for the remainder of the costs incurred for court-appointed counsel for parents, which could result in potential costs to the county of \$10,000 for 2008 and \$20,000 for 2009. No action was taken at this time.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to present a conditional use permit to operate a hot-mix plant in the Rock Quarry located in the northeast quarter of section 12 of Amboy Township. The hot-mix will be used on Highway 60 from Butterfield to St. James this summer and the permit is for the period of July 15 to November 15, 2008. Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the conditional use permit granted to Ardeen Clark Family LLP and Knife River Corporation based on conditions mentioned and on a recommendation of the Planning Commission.

Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow either Mike Hanson or Greg Johnson to attend County Ag Inspector Short Course on July 28-30.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve Computer Professional Unlimited, Inc. (CPUI) Service Agreement.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow for payment to Kathy Kretsch in the amount of \$479.47 for lodging and meals while at recent Recorder's Conference.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow for final payment in the amount of \$49,057 to Erickson Construction for tuck pointing of the Courthouse. \$2,157 of this amount was an additional charge for bonding insurance.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the Veterans Office leased vehicle. Commissioner Sorenson will talk to Todd Dibble about this and he will be asked to attend the July 1st meeting.

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Phil Johnson met with the board to discuss a few concerns he still has with the assessment of properties within Cottonwood County.

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Commissioner Sorenson gave a brief update in regards to a conference call he had regarding Community Health at the state level. He reported that more of the costs are being shifted from the State to the counties.

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Chairman Oeltjenbruns reported that the Southwest Crisis Center is requesting an appropriation of \$5,000 for 2009. This will be discussed further when budgets are completed.

Public Hearing notice was received from SRDC regarding their proposed budget for the upcoming year.

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Contact will be made with LELS union representative to inform him of AFSCME's intent to begin negotiations and to see if he is interested in beginning as well.

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Discussion was held regarding North 71 County Office Building. The board decided to hold off on getting bids for the painting portion of the project for now until further work on the building is done. Commissioner White will try to get some cost estimates/quotes for both the heating & cooling system as well as some new doors.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to adopt revised changes to Policies 003, 175 and 321 as the 30-day posting period has expired and no comments were received.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to repost Policy 120 as some changes were suggested based on comments received during the 30-day posting period.

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Brief discussion was held regarding the current state bid process. The board suggested that some of the local businesses still be given the opportunity to bid on some of the computer equipment, etc.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Holmen to approve Amendment and Reinstatement of Articles of Incorporation for Southwestern Mental Health Center, Inc. Voting as follows: Aye: Sorenson, Holmen, White. Nay: Kuecker. Motion carried.

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Brief discussion was held regarding county credit card usage. The board agreed that it would be acceptable for the Board Chairman to make some decisions regarding authorized usage of the card by other departments.

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It was noted that the federal mileage rate has increased to \$.585/mile effective July 1st.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:05 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

John Oeltjenbruns, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Bd. Adm. Assistant