

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

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 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; Elaine Lolkus, Jane Hennagir, Bob Haken, Mark Marcy, Chuck Wolff, Mike Hanson and Ron Gregg. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the additions of the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2005 meeting.

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Corrections Agent Elaine Lolkus met with the board to discuss Anger Management training for adults. Lolkus presented a proposal she received from Karrie Riley Myers for facilitating Anger Management Classes in Cottonwood County. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve proposal as presented and to have County Attorney draw up contract with Karrie Riley Myers for a 1-year period.

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MCIT Account Executive Jane Hennagir met with the board to present the 2005 Member Report for Cottonwood County.

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Sheriff Bob Haken met with the board to discuss a few items. Haken presented two quotes for a defibrillator and were as follows: Zoll - \$1,562.50 and Philips HeartStart - \$1,495.00. Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept the higher quote as it is the preferred brand as the employees at the Sheriff's Department have already been trained on the Zoll AED.

Quotes for new computers were presented and were as follows: New Star Sales & Service - \$1,634.77 and DELL - \$1,467.92. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept high quote from New Star Sales & Service for the purchase of two computers as they can provide local service and the response time may be faster.

Haken mentioned that he would like to revise civil fees for Cottonwood County, as they have not increased for a few years. He will put together a proposed fee schedule to present at a future meeting.

Brief discussion was held regarding upgrade to the current radio console at the Sheriff's Department. Haken had obtained a quote from Alpha Wireless some time back and he will contact them to see if their original quote has changed. He will also obtain a second quote and present this at a future meeting.

An update was given in regards to a recent training session that was held in Jackson County last week by the HEAT Entry Team. Haken and some of the deputies attended the session as well as Commissioner Sorenson. It was noted that the response time for this particular team is approximately 1-½ hours. Mark Marcy will try to get a report from this entry team in regards to incidents that have taken place in the last couple of years.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy discussed a few items in regards to Emergency Management. Marcy will obtain quotes for some equipment to be used in the FEMA trailer to be presented at a future meeting.

Marcy updated the board on an e-mail that he recently received regarding new requirements for the National Incident Management System. He will try to find out more information, as a resolution will need to be adopted in regards to this sometime before November.

Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to authorize approval for Marcy to attend Homeland Security Conference March 8-10.

Marcy informed the board that he will be holding an Emergency Management Meeting on February 28th at the Eagle’s Club at 6:00pm and he said that all of the Commissioners were welcome to attend.

Marcy had some concerns with the way that he is being compensated for his work as Emergency Management Director. Marcy will work together with the County Attorney, Auditor/Treasurer, and Commissioner Kuecker to see if there are any alternatives to this situation.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Hanson presented a recommendation for the salary for the Des Moines River Watershed Coordinator position. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to post internally for the position of Des Moines River Watershed Coordinator and to advertise simultaneously. This position will be contingent on the continuation of the TMDL grant.

Hanson reported that the Planning Commission recessed their hearing for the conditional use permit of the quarry until February 28th at 1:30pm in order to do some further research.

Hanson reported that the proposed dairy hearing would be held Wednesday, February 23rd at 9:30am on site and then would be continued at the Westbrook Community Center.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to update them on several miscellaneous items. Gregg presented the board members a map of 2005 construction projects, route revisions and the 2005 spring road restriction map.

Gregg reported that the previously approved sign order was reduced from approximately \$23,500 to \$14,927 to accommodate additional sign equipment.

Brief discussion was held regarding direct deposit option for the Highway Department employees. The board mentioned that if the employees opt to have

direct deposit of their paycheck they need to be aware of the 2-day delay with the paychecks being deposited into their bank account.

Gregg reported that five applications were received for the position of Clerk Typist II. He hopes to set up interviews yet this week.

Gregg mentioned that Doug Haeder and Jim Swanson would like to meet with the County Board and discuss upcoming changes at the Windom MN/DOT Office. A time will be scheduled at a future meeting for them to meet with the board.

Gregg reported that he was planning to attend the Mt. Lake City Council meeting this evening to discuss the upcoming project in Mt. Lake.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve transit ads in the Citizen, Shopper, Observer/Advocate and Westbrook Sentinel for the promotion of the Cottonwood County Transit System.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to post updated Safety Manual and to make available to anyone that would like to receive a copy.

Safety Committee suggestion was discussed with the board regarding the possibility of combining the Safety Committee with the Labor-Management Committee. The board was in favor of the suggestion and it will be discussed at the next Labor-Management Committee to see if they approve of the idea as well.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to send letter of support to the Department of Natural Resources for the expansion of the Mt. Lake trail system.

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Discussion was held regarding Animal Control Ordinance samples that were obtained from three other counties. It was also reported that Murray County strongly suggests that Cottonwood County not get involved with being responsible for paying the fees related to the boarding and euthanasia of animals as this fee is becoming quite large in Murray County. Commissioner Kuecker will meet with individuals from the Veterinary Clinic to let them know of the intentions of the board with not wanting to develop an ordinance at this time.

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Commissioner Holmen updated the board on a recent problem at the Bingham Lake Dam. It seems that the flow control problem has been temporarily sealed and the County Engineer is working to put together a proposal for a possible solution.

Commissioner Sorenson gave a brief update regarding the Assessor Office Manager position. It was reported that the applicant who was offered the position recently turned it down. Gale Bondhus will be contacting another applicant to offer them the position today after work.

Brief update was given regarding DAC proposal. They are still interested in trying to purchase our transit building. This will be discussed further at the March 22nd board meeting.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to authorize Chairman to sign 2005 Waste Hauler licenses as they come in.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to cancel Extension Office \$50 change fund, as it is no longer needed.

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Chairman Severson reported on a few upcoming meetings and asked if the board was interested in appropriating \$200 for Highway 60 group, which is used for committee expenses. No action was taken.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson reported that he recently refunded the Westbrook Healthcare Center \$6,301.01 for 2003 and 2004 tax abatement.

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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