

July 24, 2007
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 24, 2007 at 1:00 p.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, Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey; Liz Maiers, Judy Harder, Sherry Pankratz, Gale Bondhus, Kathy Kretsch, Mark Marcy, Ron Gregg, Todd Dibble, Mike Hanson and Anne Foley. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the July 10, 2007 meeting.

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Liz Maiers met with the board representing the Southwest Initiative Foundation to give an update about the program. Maiers also reported on what kind of impact this program has had on Cottonwood County since 1986.

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Sherry Pankratz, Family Services Collaborative Coordinator, met with the board to give an update in regards to some of the current services being offered and to report that the collaborative has continued to lose funding for the past few years. Pankratz wanted the board to be aware of the funding levels as some decisions may need to be made in the future in regards to the status of the program.

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Auditor/Treasurer Johnson gave an update in regards to the status of the current property tax system. It was reported that there has been a split among the counties that belong to the Minnesota Counties Computer Cooperative (MCCC) as to which company (ACS or Midstate) they choose to get their property tax system program needs/support from. Cottonwood County currently is with the ACS Company but is concerned about the future of the company and support for the system seems to be lacking. After doing much research on both companies, Johnson as well as County Assessor Gale Bondus is recommending that the county switch to Midstate. Motion by Sorenson, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to switch property tax system from ACS Company to Midstate.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve payment of all remaining appropriations for 2007 as follows: Ag Society - \$18,000; Westbrook Heritage House - \$500; Mt. Lake Heritage House - \$500; Jeffers Senior Citizen Center - \$2,000; Windom Senior Citizen Center - \$2,000; Mt. Lake Senior Citizen Center - \$2,000; Storden Senior Citizen Center - \$2,000; Bingham Lake Senior Citizen Center - \$2,000; Westbrook Senior Citizen Center - \$2,000; Travel Southwest - \$1,000; Southwest Minnesota Arts & Humanities - \$250; Prairie Ecology Bus - \$1,000.

County Recorder Kathy Kretsch met with the board to present quotes for a new copy machine for the Recorder's Office. Quotes were as follows: A & B Business, Inc. - \$1,617.00; New Star - \$1,586.00; Davis - \$1,900. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$1,586.00 from New Star for the purchase of a new copy machine.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to open sealed bids for the used FEMA trailer. Bids were as follows: Tim Duffy - \$700; Barry Marcy - \$529.90; Dan Minion - \$100; Brandon Carter - \$750; Chris Berger - \$551; Robert Varilek - \$1,313. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to accept high bid in the amount of \$1,313 from Robert Varilek for the purchase of the FEMA trailer.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg presented two quotes for the purchase of a computer and dual monitors with card. Quotes were as follows: New Star - \$2,051.38 and Davis Typewriter - \$2,010.85. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to accept quote in the amount of \$2,051.38 from New Star as they are more familiar with the current operations of the Highway Department as they recently installed a new server for the office.

Gregg gave an update in regards to the 2007 construction projects. He reported that the CSAH 2 surfacing project is 100% complete. The Germantown Township Retention Project will not be built to Phase II at this time due to flood easement concerns. The Mt. Lake outlet structure is in the final design stage so Gregg requested that the board allow him to advertise for the project with bid opening on August 27th. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to advertise for the project with bid opening on August 27th.

Gregg presented quotes for the purchase of two new workstations for the Highway Department as follows: Davis Typewriter - \$2,079 and Dan's Office Supply - \$2,056. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$2,056 from Dan's Office Supply for the purchase of two new workstations.

Gregg gave an update in regards to the GIS project. He reported that Cottonwood County has received the imagery from Pictometry and is currently being downloaded in several locations in the county. Once everything is downloaded, training will be provided in order to access the data. Gregg also asked that four individuals be approved to attend a GIS User's Conference put on by Schneider Corporation in Ames, IA in August. Gregg was told to reserve four spots and to present the list of attendees at the next board meeting.

Discussion was held regarding letter that was recently received from MPCA in regards to the landfill. There are three items that were documented by MPCA staff that are alleged to be in violation. Gregg did not feel that it is going to be a problem to get these items addressed within the next 30 days.

Gregg reported that a meeting was held on July 19th with the 911-signage committee and the consensus is to pursue both the intersection signs and the residence signs as the committee feels they are equally important. After discussing this matter further, the board agreed that the priority should be the signage of individual houses. Gregg will put together some more estimates on how many signs will actually be needed before the board decides how they want to proceed.

Brief discussion was held regarding some complaints that Commissioner Sorenson has recently received about dust control. Gregg reported that the issue is currently being addressed.

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Veteran's Service Officer Todd Dibble met with the board to discuss a few things. Dibble reported that he didn't end up attending the July training at Fort McCoy in Wisconsin.

Dibble asked for permission to apply for "Grants to Counties" grant, which is to be used for outreach type programs. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Dibble to apply for this grant.

Dibble presented quotes for two new workstations as follows: Dan's Office Supply - \$2,209 and Davis Typewriter - \$1,998, which includes trade-in of desks. Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$1,998 for the purchase of two workstations for the Veteran's Office. This will be taken out of Long Term Capital Outlay for the Veteran's Office.

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Environmental Officer Mike Hanson met with the board to discuss a few items. Hanson presented a letter from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) informing the county of the approval of the Cottonwood County Local Water Management Plan along with the Findings of Fact and a proposed resolution to adopt and implement the plan. Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

RESOLUTION 07-07-24
To Adopt and Implement the
Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan

WHEREAS, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners has been notified by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources that the Cottonwood County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan has been approved according to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B.301:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Cottonwood County Board Commissioners hereby adopts and will begin implementation of its approved comprehensive water plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after the adoption of the local comprehensive water management plan, the Cottonwood County Board shall amend existing water and related land resources plans and official controls as necessary to conform them to the applicable and approved comprehensive water plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after the adoption of the local comprehensive water management plan, Cottonwood County shall notify local units of government within the County of the adoption of the plan or amendments to the plan. The local units of government are required to submit existing water and related land resources plans and official controls within 90 days to the County Board for review.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Within 180 days, the Cottonwood County Board shall review the submitted plans and official controls and identify any inconsistencies between the local plans and official controls, and local comprehensive water management plan. The Cottonwood County Board shall specify applicable and necessary measures to bring the local plans and official controls into conformance with the local comprehensive water management plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, if a local unit of government disagrees with any changes to its plan, the local unit has 60 days after receiving the county's recommendations to appeal the recommendations to the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, after receiving the recommendations of the Cottonwood County Board, or a resolution of an appeal, a local unit of government has 180 days to initiate revisions to its plan or official controls. The new or revised plans and official controls must be submitted to the Cottonwood County Board for review and recommendations.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

S/Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Hanson reported that a public hearing was held on July 23rd to consider an application by Poet Refining of Bingham Lake for a conditional use permit for the following: add one (1) well to the existing well, construct and operate a water treatment plant to remove iron and manganese, and construct and operate two (2) infiltration ponds for an industrial water supply. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to approve conditional use permit based on a recommendation of the Planning Commission with the recommended conditions mentioned.

Hanson presented two quotes for materials for the repair of shelter house and restroom area at Red Rock Falls Park as follows: Meadowland Lumber - \$1,656.94 and Lamperts - \$1,749.92. Motion by Sorenson, second by White, unanimous vote to accept low quote in the amount of \$1,656.94 from Meadowland Lumber for materials needed for the repair. The labor for this project will be done by the Parks Department as well as Sentence to Serve.

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Chairman Holmen reported on a few miscellaneous items. He reported that he recently received a letter from John Hagen with the Department of Revenue in regards to a matter involving the County Assessor.

A copy of the letter that was sent to MCIT by County Attorney Storey in regards to signage at the Red Rock Dells Park was briefly discussed. Storey reported that he had not yet received a response from MCIT.

Holmen reported that he is expecting to get a written report from Bill Dunn in regards to the ISTS program sometime yet this week.

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Brief discussion was held regarding spraying road ditches and recent legislation that has been passed in regards to ditches. The county may have to think about the enforcement of these ditches at some point.

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It was noted that the proposed 2008 budget for Cottonwood-Jackson Community Health Services has an increase of 3%.

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Brief discussion was held in regards to recent discussions at the countywide Labor-Management Committee about possibly purchasing some defibrillators for some of the county buildings. Because the Safety Budget currently has \$2,000 available, it was suggested that it might be a good idea to purchase one for the Courthouse at this time. It was noted that the Sheriff is also checking into some grants in hopes that he can eventually get a defibrillator for every squad car. No action was taken at this time for the purchase of a defibrillator.

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Chairman Holmen passed out a copy of two letters he recently received on behalf of the New Vision Board of Directors in regards to them exploring the viability of constructing a 50 to 100 million-gallon ethanol plant in eastern Cottonwood or western Watonwan County. Holmen stated that he would invite officials from New Vision to attend an upcoming meeting to explain their proposed plans.

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Motion by Sorenson, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve final payment to Borsgard Construction in the amount of \$2,740 for the Commissioner's Room remodeling project.

Motion by Kuecker, second by Sorenson, unanimous vote to approve final payment to Custom Wood Designs in the amount of \$2,105.74 for the Commissioner and presenter tables.

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Commissioner White informed the board that RSVP is hoping to increase their appropriation request to the county for next year. White will contact RSVP and ask that they present their appropriation request for 2008 at a future board meeting.

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Chairman Holmen informed the board that they were all invited to attend an Open House at Wenck Engineering in Windom on Friday.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Norm Holmen, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant