

August 2, 2011
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Ron Kuecker. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns, Jim Schmidt, Tom White; Executive Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Linda Fransen, Todd Dibble, Holli Arp, Crystal Reith, Kim Hall, Jenny Quade, Ron Gregg, Marilyn Erickson, Tom Wickie, Margaret McDonald, Rahn Larson, Rick Rudd, Jon Diemer, Mike Johnson, Dick White and Paul Copeland.

Motion by White, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the July 26, 2011 meeting.

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Linda Fransen and Margaret McDonald met with the board representing the Cottonwood County Historical Society. They gave an update and reported on the accomplishments and activities of the past year. They also asked that the board consider appropriating \$68,000 to the Historical Society for 2012. No action was taken at this time.

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Veterans Service Officer Todd Dibble met with the board to present the 2012 proposed budget for the Veterans Office.

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Holli Arp, University of Minnesota Extension, met with the board to present the 2012 proposed budget for the Extension Office.

Arp presented two quotes for the purchase of a new PC for the Extension Office. The two quotes were as follows: DELL - \$869.53.00 without tax and New Star Sales - \$975.62 with tax included. Motion by Schmidt, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow for the purchase of a new PC for an amount not to exceed \$1,000 and pending discussion and final determination by Arp and Greg Walsh.

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4-H Program Coordinator Crystal Reith met with the board to give an update regarding recent activities as well as upcoming events of the 4-H Program.

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Transit Director Kelly Thongvivong gave a brief update regarding a district transit meeting she recently attended in regards to potential budget cuts and coordination efforts for 2012.

Chairman Kuecker gave an update regarding a recent meeting he attended and reported that Cottonwood County will be working to put together a new septic ordinance in the near future.

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Brief discussion was held regarding an old business item that has to do with overtime. Chairman Kuecker questioned the board as to what they would like to do with the overtime reports that are handed out monthly.

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Commissioner Holmen reported that there would be a Southwest Prairie Health Purchasing Alliance meeting on August 26th at 9:00 a.m. in Redwood Falls. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve attendance and per diem for any commissioner that wishes to attend the meeting.

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Emergency Management Director Kim Hall met with the board to present the 2012 proposed budget for Safety as well as Emergency Management.

Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to increase the 2012 appropriation from \$200 to \$250 to the fire departments in Cottonwood County to offset weather-watching expenses.

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Probation Officer Jenny Quade met with the board to present the 2012 proposed budget for the Probation Office.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to pay 95% (\$14,972) of contract to Matthew Buckentin Construction for the labor cost of shingling the N. 71 County Office Building.

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It was reported that the 2011 MCIT dividend that Cottonwood County will be receiving sometime in November is \$173,980 and is broken down as follows: Worker's Comp - \$68,221 and Property & Casualty - \$105,759.

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A notice for a desire to negotiate has been received by the two local LELS unions. A response will be sent to the union representative informing him that the letter has been received by the county board.

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Commissioner Schmidt recently had someone ask him who owns the floating dock on Double Lake. Schmidt will do some further research on this matter.

Schmidt mentioned the possibility of the county purchasing a camera that can be used for tile repair needs. Schmidt will explore the costs and ownership of such a purchase.

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Motion by Schmidt, second by White, unanimous vote to recess at 11:42 a.m. with the board to reconvene at approximately 12:10 p.m.

Chairman Kuecker called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m. He reported that two bids for single stream recycling were opened and publicly read at the July 26th regular board meeting. The two bids were as follows: Waste Management - \$205,044/year with a fuel surcharge if fuel prices exceed \$4.00/gallon and Hometown Sanitation - \$209,000/year with no fuel surcharge. The bids were not acted on at that meeting so the board had time to review the bids in greater detail and to have the bids reviewed by legal counsel.

At 12:13 p.m. Commissioner White excused himself for this portion of the meeting.

County Engineer Ron Gregg reported that he found that the two proposals are so different in content that it is very difficult to determine which proposal gives the citizens of Cottonwood County the best value. Therefore, he recommended that the County Board reject all bids and produce another request for proposal with the help of the County Attorney to make the bids more uniform. Gregg felt that both Waste Management and Hometown Sanitation brought up some very good points that should be incorporated in the next bid proposal.

County Attorney Nick Anderson gave his legal advice regarding both bids. Anderson reported that if the board would choose to award the bid for single stream recycling to Hometown Sanitation, state statute dictates that it would have to be done by a unanimous vote due to the conflict of interest that currently exists with Commissioner White being part owner of Hometown Sanitation.

After much discussion and both Waste Management and Hometown Sanitation representatives being given time to speak, there was a motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns to accept the bid in the amount of \$209,000/year for 3 years from Hometown Sanitation even though they are not the lowest bid but in light of the fact that the county does not want to assume the risk of additional costs associated with fuel fluctuations that would incur should fuel prices exceed \$4.00/gallon which would be the case with the Waste Management bid. Roll call vote was as follows: Aye – Holmen, Oeltjenbruns and Schmidt. Nay – Kuecker. Absent was Commissioner White. Motion failed due to the fact that it was not a unanimous roll call vote.

After further discussion, there was a motion by Schmidt, second by Oeltjenbruns to reject all bids for single stream recycling at this time based on the recommendation of the County Engineer. Roll call vote was as follows: Aye – Schmidt, Oeltjenbruns, Holmen and Kuecker. Absent was Commissioner White. Motion carried to reject all bids at this time.

Gregg reported that he did not have any final construction payment requests at this time.

Gregg reported that the Highway Department received 18 applicants for the part-time position as Clerk Typist. Interviews were conducted and the first choice candidate was offered the position but declined the offer. The interview panel plans to interview three more candidates on August 15th.

Gregg requested signatures for the contract from Schmidt Construction for the partial closure of Cell 4 & 5 at the Cottonwood County Landfill.

Gregg presented the Cottonwood County Highway Department budget report for the month of June and told the board members to let him know if they had any questions.

Brief discussion was held regarding issues on CSAH 9.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Executive Assistant