

April 14, 2009
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 14, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Presiding over the meeting was Chairman Gary Sorenson. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Gary Sorenson, Tom White, Ron Kuecker, Norm Holmen, John Oeltjenbruns; Administrative Assistant Kelly Thongvivong; Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson; County Attorney Doug Storey, Andy Olson, Mike Hanson, Mark Marcy, Jason Purrington, Ron Gregg and Craig Myers. Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2009 meeting as amended.

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Andy Olson met with the board to discuss his concerns regarding the West Fork Des Moines TMDL.

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Emergency Management Director Mark Marcy met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 09-04-14

**A RESOLUTION APPROVING PARTICIPATION IN A COUNTYWIDE COMMUNICATION
EQUIPMENT PROJECT AND SUBMISSION OF
"ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTERS" GRANT APPLICATION**

WHEREAS, the Federal Communication Commission has mandated that all public safety agencies that operate radio equipment on frequencies of less than 500 MHz must use radio equipment that is "narrow banded" (i.e., operates in a band width of 12.5 KHz) by January 1, 2013; and

WHEREAS, there is a national Department of Homeland Security initiative underway to develop regional, statewide and interstate communications interoperability to facilitate resource sharing and inter-agency collaboration in response to mass casualty and multi-jurisdictional natural or man-made disasters; and

WHEREAS, grants to obtain communication equipment for a Countywide Communication Equipment Project are available through the "Assistance to Firefighters" Grant Program of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA); and

WHEREAS, it is necessary that one government entity act as the legal sponsor for the grant applications to be submitted to FEMA, and the other participating Cottonwood County Government entities have requested that the City of Windom act in such capacity; and

WHEREAS, the County of Cottonwood understands that there is a five percent (5%) match requirement for grants to fire departments serving areas with a population of 50,000 or less as stated in the Federal Register and sources for these matching funds are available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of Commissioners of Cottonwood County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. The County of Cottonwood agrees to participate in the Countywide Communication Equipment Project.
2. The City of Windom is designated to act as legal sponsor for the application in which Cottonwood County is participating and is authorized to submit a grant application to the FEMA Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program for the Countywide Communication Equipment Project.
3. The City of Windom has legal authority to apply for financial assistance, and the institutional, managerial, and financial capacity to ensure compliance with the grant requirements and completion of the proposed project.
4. The County of Cottonwood has the institutional, managerial, and financial capacity to ensure its compliance with requirements for and completion of its portion of the project.
5. The County of Cottonwood has not violated any Federal, State, or local laws pertaining to fraud, bribery, graft, kickbacks, collusion, conflict of interest or other unlawful or corrupt practice.
6. If the grant application for the Countywide Communication Equipment Project is approved, the five percent (5%) match will be provided by the participating agencies. Each City/County participating in the project will provide matching funds in an amount equivalent to its percentage of benefit from the project.
7. If the grant application is approved, each City/County will be responsible to ensure that its portion of the proposed project is properly constructed or assembled, operated and maintained.
8. Upon approval of its grant application by FEMA, the City of Windom may enter into agreements for the approved project(s). The County of Cottonwood shall enter into any agreements required for its portion of the project. The County of Cottonwood certifies that it will comply with applicable laws and all regulations and requirements as contained in said agreements.
9. The County Board Chairman and the County Auditor/Treasurer are hereby authorized, on behalf of the County of Cottonwood to execute such agreements and contracts as are necessary to implement the project.

S/Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Marcy presented quotes for a LCD video projector as follows: CDW - \$648.99 and BuyDig.com - \$564.79. Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to purchase LCD video projector from BuyDig.com in the amount of \$564.79.

Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to allow Marcy to use county credit card if needed to purchase LCD video projector.

Discussion was held regarding a meeting that will be held on May 4th in Worthington. This meeting has been set up by Nobles County to discuss the possibility of a shared position for Emergency Management.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to discuss several items. Gregg requested that Cottonwood County form a committee to assist in developing and implementing a plan to improve the recycling program. Gregg would like to see 2 commissioners, 1 employee from the Recycling Department as well as himself serve on this committee. Motion by Holmen, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to form a committee to develop a plan to improve the recycling program and to allow the Chairman to appoint 2 commissioners to serve on the committee.

Chairman Sorenson appointed Commissioners White and Kuecker to serve on the 1-year committee to develop a plan to improve the recycling program.

Gregg reported on the results of the free tire collection held on April 4th. There were 61.12 tons of tires collected. The total cost to the county for the collection was \$9,113.45.

Gregg presented the Cottonwood County Highway Department 2008 Annual Report for their review.

Gregg presented bid results for the Windom Bridge Replacement Project SAP 17-597-01 as follows: Hjerpe Contracting, Inc. - \$159,662.00; Sunblad Construction - \$152,332.32; Mathiowetz Construction - \$146,545.00; Ole's Excavating - \$180,046.50; Midwest Contracting - \$161,567.27. Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to award low bid in the amount of \$146,545.00 to Mathiowetz Construction.

Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to allow Gregg to hire four seasonal employees at a rate of \$8.75/hour.

Gregg reported that he has encountered some hurdles on the Mt. Lake Bike Path Project that may delay construction for one more year. The deadline for approval is April 15th.

The board reviewed photos that were submitted to MPCA as part of the Stipulation Agreement.

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Brief discussion was held regarding Pay Study and RFP. The board agreed that an RFP should be drafted and presented at the next board meeting for review.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve April warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 87,833.44
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 7,613.28
County Building Fund	\$ 1,190.62

Ditch Fund	\$ 8,894.89
Agency Fund	\$ 859.46
Taxes & Penalties Fund	\$ 977.30
Road & Bridge	\$ 89,844.02
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 2,541.80
Landfill Enterprise	\$ 7,263.83
	<u>\$207,018.64</u>

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Brief discussion was held regarding final payment in the amount of \$5,579.00 to Windom Floor & Sleep. Commissioners White and Oeltjenbruns will meet with Jim Rosenkranz to get the matter resolved so that final payment can be made.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update regarding the Energy Board. He reported that there has been discussion to invest in two wind towers in Lyon County that would be independent from the current Energy Board. The board agreed that they need additional information and firm numbers before making any decisions.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve draft contract to present to Jackson County for a shared Family Service Agency Director position effective June 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010.

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to allow commissioners to attend meeting on April 15th in Jackson in regards to combining Human Services.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to advertise for mowing of N. 71 County Office building property.

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Motion by Kuecker, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to accept quote in the amount of \$12,366.31 from Ron's Electric to replace fluorescent bulbs and ballasts throughout the entire N. 71 County Office Building based on rebate system from South Central Electric and due to the fact that they have already done all the other electrical work in the building. It was reported that Ron's Electric obtained quotes from three different providers for the bulbs and ballasts to be used in this project. Payback time for the project will be approximately 2.3 years.

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Commissioner Oeltjenbruns gave an update regarding GBERBA. He reported that GBERBA is currently advertising for a single position to run the carbon credits.

Commissioner Kuecker discussed the AMC Update that was received via e-mail on April 8th. Motion by Kuecker, second by White, unanimous vote to send letter of support of AMC's position regarding the Human Services Reorganization to Senator Jim Vickerman and Representative Rod Hamilton.

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Commissioner Holmen gave an update regarding a letter he recently received from Representative Rod Hamilton in response to a letter Hamilton received from Lakeside Township.

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Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to allow for the purchase of two new computers, one 19-inch monitor and two sound bars in the amount of \$1,660.77 off the state bid for the Extension Office.

It was reported that the Farm Family of the Year for 2009 is Kendall & Jana Piotter and Kent & Karlain Erickson have been chosen as alternates.

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Chairman Sorenson gave an update regarding the Mental Health Annual Meeting that was held on April 8th and reported that the Unity House has received a federal appropriation in the amount of \$188,100 that can be used for construction or equipment.

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The Chairman signed a letter of support for the development of high-speed broadband in Southwest Minnesota that was discussed at the last board meeting.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Kuecker, unanimous vote to hire Ashley Wiebe and April Johnson as part-time summer employees for the Extension Office as approved by the Extension Committee. Their starting date will be May 26, 2009.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Gary Sorenson, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, Bd. Adm. Assistant