

July 12, 2011
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, July 12, 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; Pat Stewart, Ron Gregg, George Eilertson, Andy Olson, Rahn Larson and Craig Myers.

Motion by Schmidt, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to approve additions to the agenda. Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the July 5, 2011 meeting as amended.

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Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson informed the board about six parcels of property that will be listed as tax-forfeited lands at a public sale on September 22nd. Motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

Resolution 11-07-12
NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF TAX -FORFEITED LANDS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the parcels of land described in List of Tax-Forfeited Land #12 that is contained herein shall be sold to the highest bidder at public sale. The sale will be governed by the provisions of M.S. 282.01 and by the resolution of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners authorizing such sale. The resolution reads as follows:

BE IT RESOLVED, that all parcels of the tax-forfeited land listed on list of Tax-Forfeited Land #12 be classified as non-conservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #12, that is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of this land be granted, pursuant to M.S.282.01; that the sale will be held at 10:00 A.M., Thursday, September 22, 2011 by the Cottonwood County Auditor at the County Courthouse for not less than the basic sale price; and that all sales shall be full payment or on the terms set forth on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #12

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the conditions and terms of the public sale shall be described in the list contained here-in and approved by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners.

Information about the sale of tax-forfeited land in Cottonwood County can be obtained at the office of the Cottonwood County Auditor/Treasurer Cottonwood County Courthouse 900 3rd Ave, Windom, MN 56101. Telephone (507) 831-1905.

Given under my hand and official seal at Windom, MN., this 12th day of July, 2011.

S/Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Motion by White, second by Oeltjenbruns, unanimous vote to set minimum bid on tax-forfeited parcels for the public sale on September 22nd at \$50.00.

Cottonwood-Jackson Community Health Services Administrator Pat Stewart met with the board to ask for consideration of loaning \$35,000 to Co-Jak CHS for operating funds during the State shutdown with assurance that all funds will be repaid to the county when the State of Minnesota is reopened. After further discussion, there was a motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to grant request by Pat Stewart to loan up to \$35,000 out of the General Fund of Cottonwood County to CHS during the State shutdown with the assurance that all funds will be repaid to the county when the State of Minnesota is reopened.

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County Engineer Ron Gregg met with the board to give an update regarding the following 2011 construction projects: SAP 17-627-02 Mt. Lake mill and overlay is completed; SP 17-613-38 CSAH 13 surfacing project is 98% complete; SAP 17-632-02 Whited Street surfacing project is 0% complete; SP 17-090-001 Mt. Lake bike trail project is currently suspended due to the state shutdown; SAP 17-599-93 Amboy Township bridge project is 50% complete.

Gregg reported that the Highway Department received 18 applicants for the part-time position as clerk typist. They are in the process of evaluating the applications at this time.

Much discussion was held regarding increased funding for the Highway Department. Chairman Kuecker handed out some information in regards to his thoughts for the board's review and would like to offer this as an alternative to bonding. It was suggested that a work session be held at some point with the county board to discuss this further and then at some point in the future a preliminary public hearing could possibly be held.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to allow County Attorney Nick Anderson to use the county credit card to purchase ink cartridges for the County Attorney's office for the remainder of 2011.

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George Eilertson met with the board representing Northland Securities. He presented Resolution 11-07-12A (on file in Commissioner's Office) providing for the issuance, sale and delivery of \$1,450,000 General Obligation Crossover Refunding Bonds, Series 2011A (Red Rock Rural Water System); establishing the terms and conditions therefore; creating a debt service fund therefore; and awarding the sale thereof. Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous roll call vote to adopt Resolution 11-07-12A.

Eilertson gave an overview regarding possible refunding of \$1.9 million General Obligation Drainage Crossover Refunding Bonds, Series 2005A that will have a call back date of February 1, 2012.

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Chairman Kuecker handed out a copy of a monthly report that was recently handed out at an SWCD board meeting in regards to the work that Lloyd Kalfs has been doing.

Discussion was held regarding the possibility of combining Family Services with CHS within the county or with Jackson County as well as any other options the board would like to consider. After much discussion, there was a motion by White, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to move forward with further exploration and study on forming a joint Health and Human Services Agency between the two counties as well as any other combination of options that are presented and to do this over a period of up to three years with the exploration based out of the Cottonwood County Family Service Agency Office.

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

County Revenue Fund	\$ 72,847.75
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 14,561.72
County Building Fund	\$ 10,732.00
Ditch Fund	\$ 1,909.31
Road & Bridge	\$ 89,596.74
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 5,819.90
Landfill Enterprise	\$ 12,249.60
	<u>\$207,717.02</u>

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Motion by Oeltjenbruns, second by White, unanimous vote to approve 2011 appropriation to Minnesota River Board in the amount of \$893.

Motion by Holmen, second by Schmidt, unanimous vote to approve 2011 appropriations as follows: Southwest Minnesota Arts & Humanities Council - \$1,000; Westbrook Senior Citizens Center - \$2,000; Storden Senior Citizens Center - \$2,000; Mt. Lake Senior Citizens Center - \$2,000; Windom Senior Citizens Center - \$2,000; Jeffers Senior Citizens Center - \$2,000; Westbrook Heritage House - \$1,500; Mt. Lake Heritage House - \$1,500; Southern Minnesota Tourism - \$300; RCRCA - \$7,440; Southwest Initiative Foundation - \$3,650.

Representatives from Prairie Ecology Bus and Southwest Crisis Center will be contacted to see if they would like to give a presentation in regards to their particular programs and their specific appropriation request for 2011.

The board would like for the Ag Society to give a presentation and update in regards to how the funds for the building maintenance appropriation are being used as a 2010 report for the Cottonwood County Fair was never given.

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Motion by Holmen, second by White, unanimous vote to approve proposed changes to Policy Number 490 "Travel and Expense Reimbursement" and to post for 30-day comment period.

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Discussion was held in regards to a request by the Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD) to receive a letter of support for the Water Management Plan

from Nobles, Jackson, Murray, and Cottonwood counties. The county board decided not to take action on this request.

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The board reviewed a draft communication that will be sent to all Department Heads in regards to the upcoming budget process. A few changes were suggested by the board. This letter will be sent to all Department Heads before the end of the week.

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Chairman Kuecker took care of a few old business items that have not yet been addressed. The board will review the proposed laptop policy at the next board meeting.

Any updates to the county website should be forwarded to Kelly Thongvong so that she can get the changes made.

Brief discussion was held regarding Waste Management contracts. Auditor/Treasurer Jan Johnson stated that he talked to an individual who works for Waste Management and she said that the county has no current contract with Waste Management at this time. Future contracts for waste disposal will be reviewed at the next board meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Jan Johnson, Auditor/Treasurer

Ron Kuecker, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvong, Executive Assistant