

September 3, 2019  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom Appel, Kevin Stevens, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Leann Johnson, Maria Soleta, Geoff Johnson, Alex Schultz, Nick Klisch, Kyle Pillatzki, and Vicki Beckendorf. Commissioner Gravley was absent.

Chairman Holmen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Stevens, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Anderson, second by Appel, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the August 20, 2019 meeting.

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Nick Klisch, County Engineer/Public Works Director, met with the board to discuss a few items. Klisch thanked and presented Certificates of Appreciation to Leann Johnson and Ashley Soleta for their work on the Pat's Grove project. Maria Soleta accepted on behalf of Ashley who was at school.

Klisch informed the board that fees for seasonal camping spots at Talcot Park have not been updated in a few years. Klisch stated that he would like to increase the seasonal – lakeside fees \$100 and the seasonal-non-lakeside fees \$50. Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to increase the 2020 seasonal camping fees as follows: seasonal – lakeside rates from \$1,200 to \$1,300 and the seasonal-non-lakeside from \$1,100 to \$1,150.

Klisch informed the board that the final project payments for Projects 017-605-026 and 017-610-035 will be brought forward to a future meeting as he is waiting to hear from Duininck Bros., Inc.

Klisch informed the board that our 2003 Rosco Sweeper was involved in an accident and believed to be a total loss. Klisch presented a state bid from Ruffridge-Johnson Equipment Co., Inc. for a 2019 Rosco RB50 Road Sweeper in the amount of \$63,165.00 with prices for different options and delivery. Motion by Stevens, second by Appel, unanimous vote to approve the purchase of the 2019 Rosco RB50 Road Sweeper from Ruffridge-Johnson Equipment Co. Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$70,000 including delivery.

Klisch and Kyle Pillatzki, Solid Waste Administrator, met with the board and presented an Agreement and Scope of Work from Wenck Associates for the updating of three ordinances. After much discussion, no action was taken.

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Alex Schultz, Planning and Zoning Technician, met with the board to get approval for a Conditional Use Permit. Motion by Appel, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to approve the Conditional Use Permit request from Luke Engen for feedlot expansion in Germantown Township, Section 31, with the following conditions: (1) Shall be in compliance with the Cottonwood County Ordinance #28; (2) shall obtain all necessary Local, State, and Federal permits and fees; (3) Minnfarm evaluation prepared by Extended Ag must be followed, and (4) removal

of more than 50 cubic yards of soil to create a berm is acceptable.

Schultz informed the board that a request has been submitted for Aquatic Invasive Species funds in the amount of \$15,000 for the Mountain Lake weed harvester.

Schultz also informed the board that he will be proceeding in getting bids for a new pick-up truck.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Appel, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to adopt the CareerForce Day Proclamation as follows:

**Resolution 19-09-03**

**Whereas**, Career Force is Minnesota’s career development and talent matching resource; and

**Whereas**, Unifying all elements of Minnesota’s workforce system under the Career Force brand will increase efficiency, improve communication and enhance collaboration between CareerForce staff and partners, enhancing customer service and improving outcomes for career seekers, employers, communities and Minnesota; and

**Whereas**, Minnesota is known for its world class workforce; and

**Whereas**, Unprecedented changes in our state demographics between 2015 and 2035, including more than a half million people reaching the age of 65 and a decline in the share of the working age population from 62% to 57%, mean employers and Minnesota’s workforce system must work together to bring all of our population who need sustainable employment into the workforce; and

**Whereas**, By 2035, one in four Minnesotans will be from a community of color or Indigenous population; and

**Whereas**, Bringing all Minnesotans who need sustainable employment into the workforce will help address employment and economic disparities based on race, disability, veteran status or past criminal record; and

**Whereas**, CareerForce, both online and in person, provides tailored resources to help meet the needs of all Minnesota career seekers and employers; and

**Whereas**, CareerForce serves employers by helping them find the right workers from entry level to highly skilled through support for hiring events, workforce strategy development, custom labor market information and analysis and no-fee online job posting; and

**Whereas**, CareerForce serves career seekers no matter where they are in their career from just starting out to mid-level management and beyond through customized career planning, resume revision and interview preparation, plus education and training for eligible career seekers and the ability to search thousands of open positions online; and

**Whereas**, CareerForce is Minnesota’s unified workforce system, helping drive prosperity for all Minnesotans.

**Now, therefore**, I, Norm Holmen, Chair of the Cottonwood County Board on behalf of the Cottonwood County Commissioners, do hereby proclaim that September 19, 2019 shall be observed as: CareerForce Day in Cottonwood County on this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2019.

S/Norm Holmen, Board Chair

Thongvivong presented health insurance renewals for 2020. Thongvivong stated that the current \$3,375 deductible plan has changed to a \$3,500 deductible plan and the \$6,750 deductible plan has changed to a \$6,900 deductible plan. Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to offer the following

plans in 2020 - \$2,250/\$4,500 deductible Classic Rx plan, \$3,500/\$7,000 deductible Classic Rx plan, and the \$6,900/\$13,800 deductible Essential Rx plan.

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Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer, discussed with the board some procedure changes she would like to make in her office. Motion by Stevens, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to approve the changes in procedure for segregation of duties for payroll, accounts payable, and receipting in the Auditor/Treasurer's office.

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Motion by Appel, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve September warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 73,362.88
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 5,114.42
County Building Fund	\$ 71.99
Taxes and Penalties Fund	<u>\$ 5,152.25</u>
	\$ 83,701.54

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Commissioner Appel gave a building update. Appel also informed the board of a Watonwan Watershed One Watershed, One Plan informational meeting in St. James on September 30 that he thought the Commissioners should attend. Motion by Appel, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to pay a per diem to Commissioners that attend the September 30<sup>th</sup> Watonwan Watershed One Watershed, One Plan informational meeting in St. James. Appel also gave an update on CPT (Counties Providing Technology).

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Chairman Holmen led discussion regarding proposed 2020 Department budgets.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:52 p.m.

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Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Norman Holmen, Board Chair

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator