

April 3, 2020
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, April 3, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present in person or via teleconference for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Kevin Stevens, Tom Appel, Donna Gravley, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson; County Attorney Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Mark Schenk, Joel Alvstad, Kelsey Andrews, Paul Johnson, Gale Bondhus, Kathy Kretsch, Nick Klisch, Jason Purrington and Glenn Johnson.

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order. The purpose of this special meeting was to discuss further information that may be available to the board regarding the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Emergency Management Director Paul Johnson gave an update and reported that BARC is helping to coordinate unmet needs for Cottonwood & Jackson Counties. If you are a Cottonwood or Jackson County resident and are interested in volunteering to help the high risk population with things such as picking up groceries, medications, etc. you are encouraged to do so.

There is still a sense of frustration with the shortage of personal protective equipment.

Johnson also gave an update regarding the reimbursement through FEMA for this pandemic. This pandemic will be classified as Category B meaning that reimbursement may be received for emergency protective measures such as cleaning supplies, masks, gowns, etc. Laptops will not qualify for FEMA reimbursement.

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Kelsey Andrews, DVHHS Public Health Director, provided an update on behalf of Cottonwood County. Cottonwood County continues to have five confirmed cases with two of these individuals currently being off of isolation. Of the five positive cases, three were linked to travel and two were linked to a positive spread. No new cases have been reported as of this morning.

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Commissioner Holmen gave an update regarding a conversation that he had with both Senator Bill Weber and Representative Rod Hamilton. The state will be receiving approximately \$1.2 billion from the Federal Government, which will offset what the state is currently set to spend on COVID-19 and maybe leave some surplus. There has been no discussion that County Program Aid will be reduced. Holmen asked about the May 15th property tax date and they said that there has been some talk about changing that but did not think it would change. AMC is currently working on putting something together related to property taxes.

It was reported that Building Restorations would start working on the Courthouse tuckpointing beginning on Monday morning.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 a.m.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Kevin Stevens, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator