

April 10, 2020  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Special Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, April 10, 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, Kathy Marsh, Mark Schenk, Glenn Johnson, Paul Johnson, Gale Bondhus, Kathy Kretsch, Nick Klisch, Jason Purrington, Jed Rhubee, Todd Dibble, and Joel Alvstad.

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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Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to extend the Cottonwood County Office Closure until May 4, 2020. This is a result of the Governor's Stay at Home Directive which was also extended until May 4, 2020.

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Discussion was held regarding county parks. Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote that all Cottonwood County parks will remain closed until May 4, 2020. Commissioner Gravley asked that information regarding the closure be put on the parks website and Facebook to let the public know. Commissioner Anderson stated that we should be watching what other counties are doing with their parks to stay uniform.

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Emergency Management Director Paul Johnson gave an update and reported that Cottonwood County remains at 5 cases as of today. Johnson stated that he received a donation of Tyvek suits, dust masks, face shields, and latex gloves from Milk Specialties in Mountain Lake. Johnson stated that he has also ordered some face shields and isolation gowns and has been getting these items out to the responders. Johnson also stated that he has been working with DVHHS, UCAP, and the State on a plan for housing anyone that is homeless and needs to be quarantined.

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Chairman Stevens reminded the board that Kelsey Andrews, DVHHS, had thought that the peak for Minnesota would be around April 29. Paul Johnson stated that there is another model out there, HIME, that says April 23. Johnson stated that there are different models out there and they are always changing as it is hard to gauge something you have no experience with.

\* \* \* \*

Commissioner Appel led discussion about what will be done with the county equipment that is housed in the Transit garage. Appel stated that once the installation of the larger doors into the garage are done, the garage will hold 5 transit buses and there will be no room for the county equipment that is stored there. Options that were discussed were: renting space and putting up a Pro Shed. Appel stated that the board will need to come up with a solution by mid-May.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to set special meetings for Friday, April 17 at 9:00 a.m., Friday, April 24 at 9:00 a.m., and Friday, May 1 at 9:00 a.m. All of these special meetings will be held to deal with COVID-19 issues only. Special and regular meetings will continue to be held as Webex meetings.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

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Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Kevin Stevens, Board Chair

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator