

April 17, 2020
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, April 17, 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, and Kathy Kretsch.

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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Paul Johnson, Emergency Management Director, presented a resolution extending the State of Emergency due to COVID-19 for another 30 days through May 17th. Motion by Anderson, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 20-04-17 as follows:

RESOLUTION 20-04-17
Extension of State of Emergency Due to COVID-19

WHEREAS, On March 17th, 2020, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners passed resolution 20-03-17A declaring a local State of Emergency in response to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19); and

WHEREAS, the resolution for the local State of Emergency is set to expire after 30 days; and

WHEREAS, on March 13th, 2020 Governor Tim Walz declared a Peacetime State of Emergency to authorize any and all necessary resources to be used in support of the COVID-19 response; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has extended the Peacetime State of Emergency for another 30 days through May 13th; and

WHEREAS, the necessary resources to respond to and recover from this pandemic will exceed those resources available within the county, and additional resources will be needed from state and federal resources;

WHEREAS, the Cottonwood County Department of Emergency Management requests the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners extend the Cottonwood County STATE OF EMERGENCY for the COVID-19 event of 2020;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners extends the Cottonwood County State of Emergency for conditions resulting from the COVID-19 event of 2020. This State of Emergency is extended and will remain in effect for 30 more days, and may be extended again if necessary.

Adopted by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners this 17th day of April 2020.

S/Kevin Stevens, Board Chairman

S/Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Johnson also informed the board that Cottonwood County has had six lab confirmed cases of COVID-19 to date and only one of those is currently an active case.

Johnson stated that supplies are still tight. PPE's are hard to get but he still has some to hand out to first responders when he gets a chance.

Johnson also stated that he has gotten on to Grant's portal for FEMA reimbursements and has filled out a request for public assistance. He has listed himself as primary and Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer, as secondary, so that both can submit invoices. Johnson also indicated that the sneeze guards (see-through barriers) for counters are considered Category B expenses under the Emergency Protection Measures and would be reimbursed by FEMA.

Johnson wanted to thank UCAP and DVHHS for their work in helping to find places for the homeless if they start showing symptoms of COVID-19 and need to quarantine.

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Discussion was held as to what things will look like when we do reopen the county offices. Johnson stated that he would like to see sneeze guards (see-through barriers) for counters in place and possibly start with appointments only. Conversation was had as to what offices would need sneeze guards. Johnson should come up with a list of offices that could possibly use them and get them ordered sooner than later.

Discussion was also held regarding the May and June board meetings, if the county reopens, and possibly relocating the meetings to the Law Enforcement Center where there is more space to be able to keep separation. The County Coordinator should check the LEC meeting room calendar to see if the room is available for those dates.

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Kathy Kretsch, County Recorder, updated the board on new legislation pertaining to her office and COVID-19.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Kevin Stevens, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator