

May 1, 2020  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Special Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, May 1, 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, Jason Purrington, Jed Rhubee, Kyle Pillatzki, Nick Klisch, 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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Paul Johnson, Emergency Management Director, gave an update and reported that Governor Walz has extended the stay-at-home order until May 18 but will slowly start opening. Johnson stated that Cottonwood County has doubled numbers and is at 20 cases. The Hospital is still doing limited curbside testing through the end of next week and then will re-evaluate. Johnson brought along the PPE's (face masks and gloves) that will be distributed to the staff.

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Chairman Stevens led discussion regarding extending the closure of the County offices and a possible soft opening using appointments. After discussion, motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to extend the closure of the County offices until May 18. This is a result of the Governor's Stay at Home Directive which was also extended until May 18, 2020.

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Chairman Stevens led discussion regarding Emergency Management Director Paul Johnson's plan of starting to open the Courthouse by using appointments. Points of concern that were brought up were: the public having to wear masks within the Courthouse, the method of letting the public in the door, and how cleaning would be handled. The Commissioners were in agreement that wearing a face mask would be a requirement for anyone from the public entering the Courthouse. Consensus of the Board is to support the plan presented by the Emergency Management Director. Johnson should review portions of the plan and then bring to the May 8 meeting.

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Motion by Anderson, second by Gravley, unanimous roll call vote to set special meetings for Friday, May 8 at 9:00 a.m. and Friday, May 15 at 9:00 a.m. 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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Chairman Stevens reminded the board that camping is open for seasonal campers but not overnights. Jed Rhubee, Public Works Superintendent, stated that the bathrooms, shelter, laundry, and entry station are closed.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:00 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