

May 8, 2020  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Special Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, May 8, 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, Kay Gross, 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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Paul Johnson, Emergency Management Director, updated the board on COVID related items. Johnson stated that as of May 7 Cottonwood County has had 43 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Minnesota is approaching 100,000 tests given state wide and has approximately 9,300 confirmed cases to date. JBS in Worthington reopened on May 6 but not operating at 100%. There are three compost sites for euthanized hogs, the sites are located in Nobles County, Le Sueur County, and working on one in the Austin area.

Johnson led discussion regarding the Phased Opening Plan that he drafted. There are a few items that need to be revised, but consensus of the board is to follow the proposed Phased Opening Plan. Johnson also stated that he will not be placing an advertisement regarding the opening of the County offices until after Thursday, May 14, to see if the Governor extends the shelter-in-place. A final decision to reopen and follow this plan on May 18<sup>th</sup> will be made at the special meeting on May 15.

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Kathy Kretsch, County Recorder, presented information on NWI, No Wait Inside, an appointment making software. After much discussion, the board asked Kretsch to share the information with other Department Heads and possibly set up a webinar for an explanation of the program. The board also asked Kretsch to do more research on price and contract length. This subject will be discussed again at the May 15 special meeting.

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Paul Johnson, Emergency Management Director, stated he recently received an email from Nick Klisch, Public Works Director, regarding the State of Minnesota and what they are doing for office settings regarding temperature screenings, etc. Johnson said he will review the information and bring back to the May 15 special meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 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