

September 1, 2020  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center in Windom, MN. Present in person or via teleconference for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Kevin Stevens, Tom Appel, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson; County Attorney Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Nick Klisch, Kay Gross, David Bucklin, Alex Schultz, Andy Nickel, Paul Johnson, Stan Klassen, and Joel Alvstad. Commissioner Donna Gravley was absent.

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Holmen, second by Appel, unanimous roll call vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Anderson, second by Appel, unanimous roll call vote to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020 regular meeting and the August 25, 2020 work session.

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Nick Klisch, Public Works Director, met with the board to discuss a few items. A public hearing was held for public comment on the Cottonwood County ADA Transition Plan. No comments were heard prior to or at the meeting. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 20-09-01A as follows:

**Resolution 20-09-01A  
ADA TRANSITION PLAN**

WHEREAS, As required by Title II of ADA, 28 CFR. Part 35 Sec. 35.105 and Sec. 35.150, Cottonwood County has conducted a self-evaluation of its facilities within public rights of way and has developed a Transition Plan detailing how the organization will ensure that all of those facilities are accessible to all individuals; and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing on the ADA Transition Plan was held on September 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, any comments received on the ADA Transition Plan have been added to the plan and included as Appendix K.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners adopts the ADA Transition Plan as presented, to include any comments received, on this 1<sup>st</sup> day of September, 2020.

S/Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Klisch informed the board that the CSAH 7 Design contract has an overrun due to the need to add a right of way sub-consultant to obtain right of way on behalf of the County, the need to hire a geotechnical sub-consultant to take some soil boring near Oaks Lake and also additional work required for wetland permitting. Klisch stated that the additional cost is approximately \$169,640. Motion by Anderson, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to authorize the County Engineer to sign the contract amendment not to exceed \$453,957.98 for Stonebrooke Engineering to perform Engineering Services for the CSAH 7 project.

Motion by Anderson, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve the Minnbid purchase of a 1985 Snogo MP3D blower in the amount of \$11,782.97.

Motion by Appel, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to accept the resignation of Hannah Krenz, Accounting Assistant, effective September 14, 2020, with appropriate payout of benefits.

Motion by Anderson, second by Appel, unanimous roll call vote to post internally and then advertise, if necessary, for a full-time Accounting Assistant.

Motion by Appel, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to accept the resignation of Nathan Kolander, Part-Time Landfill Scale Operator, effective August 31, 2020, with appropriate payout of benefits and to advertise for a part-time Landfill Scale Operator (24 hours per week).

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Kay Gross, SWCD District Administrator, met with the board to discuss setting a public hearing date for public comment on the Watonwan River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan. Motion by Appel, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to set a public hearing date on September 15, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. for the Watonwan River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan.

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Andy Nickel, Nickel Construction, met with the board regarding Ditch #3. Nickel stated that the ground in Great Bend, Section 12, that Ditch #3 runs through, cannot be de-watered. There are records showing that the ditch was fixed in 1994 and has since failed. After much discussion, it was decided that one or more landowners on the Ditch #3 drainage system will need to submit a ditch repair petition to the Auditor/Treasurer to start the process since the expense will probably exceed \$50,000.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Appel, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to move Dan Myers to permanent full-time status as a Deputy Sheriff effective September 2, 2020.

Thongvivong presented a resolution recognizing Cottonwood County's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary due to the fact that any events celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary have been cancelled due to COVID-19. Motion by Anderson, second by Appel, unanimous roll call vote to approve resolution 20-19-01 as follows:

**Resolution 20-09-01  
Cottonwood County Celebrates 150 Years**

**WHEREAS**, Cottonwood County was organized July 29, 1870 and was named for the Cottonwood River, which touches the northeast corner of Germantown Township in Cottonwood County. The river was named for the abundance of cottonwood trees on its banks.

**WHEREAS**, at the time of the organization of Cottonwood County, Minnesota Governor Austin appointed three county commissioners. Their first meeting was held at a private home located about six miles northwest of Windom on the Des Moines River at Big Bend. At this meeting, the commissioner districts were designated. The first general election was held in the fall of 1870.

**WHEREAS**, in 1872, Windom was declared the county seat in the general election and a proclamation was signed by the governor.

**WHEREAS**, Cottonwood County was planning to celebrate 150 years of existence by participating in town celebrations and area parades throughout the summer of 2020 and to hold Open Houses at some of the county buildings. However, because the United States and State of Minnesota were under state and federal emergency declarations due to the COVID-19 pandemic many of these events were forced to cancel.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners would like to recognize Cottonwood County on reaching the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its existence.

Passed and adopted by the Board of Commissioners of the County of Cottonwood, Minnesota this 1st day of September 2020.

S/Kevin Stevens, Board Chairman

The board also requested that an ad be placed in the *Shopper* for recognizing Cottonwood County’s 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

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Chair Stevens asked for updates on COVID-19 and the CARES applications. Paul Johnson, Emergency Management Director, stated that Cottonwood County has had 204 cases, nine of these in the last ten days, with zero deaths.

The board requested an ad be placed in the *Shopper* hoping this will get more CARES applications turned in.

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Motion by Appel, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to approve September warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 25,419.92
County Building Fund	\$ 36,745.41
Taxes and Penalties Fund	\$ 8,748.15
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 99,596.16
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 33,827.54</u>
	\$204,337.18

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Commissioner Appel gave an update on the Rural Minnesota Energy Board and a transmission summit they are organizing for October.

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Chairman Stevens led discussion regarding the proposed 2021 Department budgets.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

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Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Kevin Stevens, Board Chair

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Kelly Thongvong, County Coordinator