

November 17, 2020
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 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, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson, Donna Gravley; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Nick Klisch, Paul Johnson, George Eilertson, Dominic Jones, and Joel Alvstad.

Chairman Stevens called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Appel, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2020 regular meeting.

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Nick Klisch, Public Works Director, met with the board to discuss a few items. Klisch informed the board that the MnDOT District Traffic Engineer has approached him regarding installing LED enhanced stop signs at the intersection of CSAH 5 and TH 62 due to frequency and severity of crashes that are above MnDOT established critical crash rates for both total crashes and fatal/serious injury crashes. Klisch stated the county would be responsible for maintenance of the signs as well as install and maintain stop bars and stop ahead pavement markings. Motion by Anderson, second by Gravley, unanimous roll call vote to approve resolution 20-11-17 as follows:

Resolution 20-11-17

WHEREAS, the intersection of State Trunk Highway (TH) 62 and Cottonwood County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 5 has frequently been the site of crashes where motorists have failed to recognize the presence of the stop condition on CSAH 5;

WHEREAS, Cottonwood County has previously deployed both Stop Ahead warning signs, as well as transverse (in-lane) rumble strips to warn CSAH 5 motorists of the approaching stop condition;

WHEREAS, motorists traveling in both directions of CSAH 5 have not encountered a stop condition for at least five miles prior to the junction with TH 62;

WHEREAS, from 2015 to 2019, the intersection of TH 62 and CSAH 5 has experienced a frequency and severity of crashes that are above the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) established critical crash rates for both Total Crashes as well as Fatal and Serious Injury crashes, indicating that factors unique to the intersection are contributing to the crash history;

WHEREAS, MnDOT agrees to furnish and install a solar-powered, LED-enhanced (flashing) Stop sign on each CSAH 5 approach to the intersection

WHEREAS, Cottonwood County agrees to assume all future maintenance and ownership responsibilities of both solar-powered, LED-enhanced Stop signs and all associated components required for the signs to be operational;

WHEREAS, Cottonwood County agrees to install and maintain, per the requirements of the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, a 24-inch wide stop line on each CSAH 5 approach to the intersection; the installation of which must be completed before May 31, 2021; and

WHEREAS, Cottonwood County agrees to install and maintain, per the requirements of the Minnesota Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, a "STOP AHEAD" pavement message on

each CSAH 5 approach to the intersection; the installation of which must be completed before May 31, 2021; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that Cottonwood County:

1. Agrees to complete and submit a MnDOT Right of Way Permit outlining and agreeing to the above requirements for the installation of solar-powered, LED-enhanced Stop sign on the CSAH 5 approaches to TH 62.
2. Agrees that, should the County fail to adequately maintain the LED-enhanced Stop signs, along with the associated advance warning devices for the stop condition (Stop Ahead pavement messages and warning signs; stop lines; transverse rumble strips) MnDOT may replace the LED-enhanced Stop signs with traditional (non-flashing) Stop signs.

S/Kevin Stevens, Board Chairman

S/Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Klisch informed the board that the ground-in striping project is complete. This project was funded 90% by a federal highway safety improvement grant and the project actually underran the contract amount. Klisch stated that the final payment amount is \$0 as all work was paid on a previous payment. Motion by Appel, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve final payment of \$0.00 to AAA Striping Service, Inc. for Project SP017-070-009.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Appel, unanimous roll call vote to approve November warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 60,554.44
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 1,319.60
County Building Fund	\$ 228.12
Ditch Fund	\$ 12,524.01
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 62,676.27
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 1,020.00
Landfill Enterprise Fund	\$ 52,653.40
	<u>\$190,975.84</u>

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Commissioner Appel gave an update on an AMC Environmental/Natural Resources Policy Committee meeting he attended. Appel also led a short discussion on the county's promotion policy.

Commissioner Gravley stated that Human Resources, the Auditor/Treasurer, the Auditor/Treasurer Liaison, and Commissioner Appel should meet to discuss the open Deputy Auditor/Treasurer position and the internal applicant and bring their recommendation to the November 24th Special meeting. Auditor/Treasurer Torkelson asked that County Attorney Nick Anderson also be involved in the meeting.

Commissioner Gravley also gave an update on the Jeffers commercial tax forfeiture property. Commissioner Anderson was asked to follow up on the contractor's work schedule.

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George Eilertson, Northland Securities, met with the board regarding the Red Rock Rural Water Systems bond sale results. Eilertson reviewed the bond sale summary and answered questions. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson,

unanimous roll call vote to approve resolution 20-11-17A "Resolution Providing for the Issuance, Sale, and Delivery of \$4,740,000 General Obligation Water Revenue Refunding Bonds, Series 2020A." (Resolution is on file in the County Coordinator Office.)

Eilertson presented a review of Cottonwood County's existing debt as it pertains to possible future bonding. Eilertson stated that currently the county's maximum bonding potential would be \$45.8 million to stay under the 3% debt ratio. Eilertson stated that another conversation should be had when, and if, the board has an idea of what would be bonded for, then he could give more specific information.

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Chairman Stevens led discussion regarding Covid-19 and the CARES funds. A short discussion was held regarding the possibility of closing the courthouse due to the rising numbers of Covid cases in the county. Consensus of the board is to leave as a future option and to also discuss at the November 24th Special meeting.

Motion by Anderson, second by Appel, unanimous roll call vote to approve a Covid-19 precautions letter to County employees, as presented, and also send to county newspapers as a Letter to the Editor.

Discussion was held regarding the information needed from the Auditor/Treasurer for the November 24th Special meeting.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Kevin Stevens, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator