

February 23, 2021
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Tuesday, February 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Law Enforcement Center in Windom, MN. Present in person or via teleconference for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom Appel, Kevin Stevens, Donna Gravley, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson; County Attorney Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Gale Bondhus, and Joel Alvstad.

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Nick Anderson, County Attorney, led discussion regarding the DVHHS legal contract and the services provided in that contract. Anderson stated that the Jackson County Attorney is interpreting the contract differently than his predecessors in regards to CHIPS petitions, Child Support matters, and Adult Protection services. Anderson stated that conversations are being had with the Jackson County Attorney, but would like authority to cancel the contract if necessary. Motion by Anderson, second by Gravley, unanimous roll call vote to allow the Cottonwood County Attorney authority to terminate the Legal Services Contract with DVHHS in an emergency situation where timelines come into play.

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Chairman Appel asked if there is any more discussion needed on the Commercial/Industrial Abatement or the Remodeled Housing Initiative Abatement that was approved at the February 16 meeting. After discussion, motion by Anderson, second by Holmen, to amend the February 16th motion regarding the Cottonwood County New Commercial Construction or Remodel Tax Abatement county portion of property taxes as follows: strike Years 1 and 2 – 80% and Years 3 and 4 – 60% and replace with Year 1 – 80%, Year 2 – 60%, Year 3 – 40% and Year 4 – 20%. Voting Aye – Holmen, Anderson, and Appel. Voting Nay – Gravley and Stevens.

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Chairman Appel led discussion regarding tuckpointing of the lower portion of the courthouse. Appel informed the board that he met with a representative of Karr to view the building. After much discussion, motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to approve Work Area #1 - tuckpointing the main structure - \$77,188.00, Work Area #1 - Option #2 caulking around joints between brick masonry and red trim - \$17,472.00, and Work Area #1 - Option #3 for painting steel lintels - \$1,092.00 and to leave up to the discretion of the Building Committee and Building Operations Manager whether to do Work Area #1 - Option #1 caulking around windows, doors, and vents - \$16,853.00.

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Chairman Appel led discussion on the MN CARES Business Relief. Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve the three small business applications that were in question. Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote (Commissioner Appel abstained from voting on #16 of the non-profit listing) to award MN CARES Business Relief grants to 62 small businesses and 34 non-profit businesses totaling \$250,000.

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Chairman Appel reminded the board of the Prime West Zoom meeting on March 4 regarding the joint powers agreement and the Ditch 101 meeting given by Nobles County on March 31.

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There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Thomas D. Appel, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator