

April 6, 2021
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, April 6, 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, Donna Gravley, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson, Kevin Stevens; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Drew Hage, Nick Klisch, Gale Bondhus, Jed Rhubee, Alex Schultz, Jason Purrington, Jason Rupp, Dennis Johnson, Mike Johnson, Dominic Jones, Larry Falk, Matt Ashton, Kenneth Anacker, Willie Friesen, Brian Oeltjenbruns, Brian Hopwood, Steve Kremmin, John Regier, Troy Duerksen, Ramont Schrock, Gordon Harder, and Joel Alvstad.

Chairman Appel called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Stevens, second by Gravley, unanimous roll call vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to approve the minutes of the March 16, 2021, regular meeting and the March 31, 2021, special meeting.

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A public hearing was held in regard to the residential property tax abatement applied for by Lindsey and Jane Cartwright for the construction of a single family home on parcel number 25-838-0020 and 25-685-0080. No opposition to the abatement was heard prior to or at the hearing. Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve the Home Initiative – New Construction application and resolution 21-04-06A. (Resolution is on file in the County Coordinator’s office.)

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Chairman Appel led discussion regarding County Road 8 in Midway and Selma Townships as a number of complaints have been heard. Appel stated that the priority of this discussion is to hear from the landowners and businesses that are effected by the condition of County Road 8. Members of the public attending the meeting had a chance to be heard and the County Engineer and Public Works Superintendent were given a chance to respond. Chairman Appel then called the discussion to an end, for meeting purposes, and thanked everyone for attending.

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Drew Hage, Windom EDA Director, informed the board that three Home Initiative – New Construction applications have been received from Preferred Choice Homes for new, single family homes. Hage stated that all requirements to date have been met so public hearing dates need to be set. Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 21-04-06B “Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Abatement for new Residential Project” (1902 Bud Road - Resolution is on file in the County Coordinator’s office.)

Motion by Stevens, second by Gravley, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 21-04-06C “Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Abatement for new Residential Project” (1904 Bud Road - Resolution is on file in the County Coordinator’s office.)

Motion by Holmen, second by Gravley, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 21-04-06D "Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Abatement for new Residential Project" (1972 Bud Road - Resolution is on file in the County Coordinator's office.)

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Nick Klisch, Public Works Director, met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve final payment of \$84,388.63 to Duinck, Inc. for Project 017-633-001 (CSAH 33).

Klisch presented bids for Project 017-599-105, replacement of bridge number 89563 in Carson Township. Bids are as follows: R & G Construction Company - \$267,889.80, Landwehr Construction, Inc. - \$323,607.50, Midwest Contracting, LLC - \$327,152.00, and Mathiowetz Construction Company - \$343,902.80. Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to accept low bid from R & G Construction Company in the amount of \$267,889.80 for Project 017-599-105.

Klisch presented bids for Project 017-599-107, replacement of bridge L9498 in Westbrook Township. Bids are as follows: Midwest Contracting, LLC - \$144,090.00, R & G Construction Company - \$148,509.34, Landwehr Construction, Inc. - \$148,569.50, and Mathiowetz Construction Company - \$153,782.09. Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to accept low bid from Midwest Contracting, LLC, in the amount of \$144,090.00 for Project 017-599-107.

Klisch informed the board that resolution 21-03-16 "For Agreement to State Transportation Fund Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Terms and Condition, SAP 017-598-005" needs to be amended as the wrong amount was placed in the resolution. Klisch stated that the total project amount of \$304,464.50 was stated in the resolution and should have been the grant amount of \$296,472.50. Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to amend resolution 21-03-16 by striking the amount of \$304,464.50 and inserting the amount of \$296,472.50.

Klisch informed the board that the County's current R8 GPS head unit is in need of replacement and that the current TSC3 controller that goes with the head cannot connect to the county network for updates. Klisch stated that he would like to upgrade the head unit and the controller. A quote was received from Frontier Precision in the amount of \$30,486.45 which includes the trade in of the R8 Rover head unit and the TSC3 controller in the amount of \$1,500. Motion by Gravley, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to approve the purchase of GPS survey equipment w/trade for \$30,486.45 from Frontier Precision.

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Dennis Johnson, Johnson Engineering, met with the board to review the Engineers Report on Judicial Ditch #3.

Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority.

Motion by Gravley, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to set the Judicial Ditch #3 public hearing date for May 3, 2021, at 7:30 p.m. at the Law Enforcement Center.

Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to accept the Engineers Report for JD #3 with amendments to dates and highway number on page 1 of report.

Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and to reconvene as the County Board.

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Jason Rupp, Jail/Dispatch Supervisor, met with the board to get approval of a Proclamation for Telecommunicators Week in recognition of the work that the dispatchers do for the county. Motion by Gravley, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to recognize the Telecommunicators Proclamation and declare the week of April 11-17, 2021 as National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week and to allow Board Chair to sign.

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Alex Schultz, Planning and Zoning Technician, met with the board to get approval for a Conditional Use Permit applied for by Red Rock Rural Water Systems for a Water Treatment Facility in Great Bend Township. Motion by Anderson, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve the Conditional Use Permit from Red Rock Rural Water Systems for a Water Treatment Facility in Great Bend Township, Section 8 with the following conditions: (1) shall be in compliance with the Cottonwood County Zoning Ordinance #28; (2) shall obtain all necessary Federal, State, and Local Permits and Fees; (3) keep a waste receptacle on site, and (4) erosion control measures taken.

Schultz presented a second Conditional Use Permit for approval from Red Rock Quarry for a mining on nonmetallic minerals expansion in Amboy Township. Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve the Conditional Use Permit from Red Rock Quarry for a mining on nonmetallic minerals expansion in Amboy Township, Section 1 with the following conditions: (1) shall be in compliance with the Cottonwood County Zoning Ordinance #28 and Ordinance #36; (2) shall obtain all necessary Federal, State, and Local Permits and Fees; (3) bond issuance of \$1,000 per acre (\$40,000); (4) restrict all traffic to 270th Street West of the quarry entrance to Highway 71; and (5) come to an agreement with local road authority of road maintenance plan.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Thongvivong informed the board that after interviews and further discussion with the County Assessor, the position of part-time Assessor Technician has been put on hold.

Motion by Stevens, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to approve the following seasonal workers pending successful completion of all hiring requirements: Teresa Deutchman – parks (3rd year), Tyler Zieske – parks (2nd year), Nickolas Nolt – parks (2nd year), Robin Crosby – parks (4th year), Trey LaCanne – highway (2nd year), Chance Elness – highway (1st year), Tavion Ryker – highway (1st year), and Dylan Serreyn – engineering/highway (1st year).

Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to accept the resignation from Jett Saewert, part-time Jailer/Dispatcher, effective March 31, 2021 with appropriate payout of benefits.

Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to accept the resignation from Robert Egge, Solid Waste Technician, effective April 9, 2021 with appropriate payout of benefits.

Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to post and advertise for the Solid Waste Technician position.

Motion by Holmen, second by Gravley, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 21-04-06 Recognition Day for National Service Proclamation. (Resolution is on file in the County Coordinator's office.)

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Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer, asked for approval of the Mt. Lake Golf Development Inc. liquor license renewal for 3.2 and malt liquor. Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the Mt. Lake Golf Development Inc. liquor license renewal.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve April warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 86,458.82
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 3,320.50
County Building Fund	\$ 458.94
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 40,822.27
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 3,079.00
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$145,057.34</u>
	\$279,196.87

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Commissioner Holmen and Commissioner Appel commented on the Big Bend Wind Turbine public hearing that was held Thursday evening, April 1.

Commissioner Appel reminded the board of the American Rescue Plan (ARP) webinar on Friday, April 9. Appel also commented on the County Overtime Reports and that more discussion may be held in three months after the next quarter's Overtime Reports are sent out.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Thomas D. Appel, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator