

August 3, 2021
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, August 3, 2021 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 Tom Appel, Donna Gravley, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson, Kevin Stevens; Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Greg Ous, Ronda Allis, Lisa Bigham, Angie Piltaver, Linda Fransen, Margaret McDonald, Wendy Meyer, Shawn Colbert, Nick Klisch, Alex Schultz, Kathy Kretsch, Gale Bondhus, Todd Dibble, Dave Grev, and Joel Alvstad.

Chairman Appel called the meeting to order. Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve the agenda. Motion by Stevens, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2021, regular meeting.

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Ronda Allis, Principal Planner, MnDOT District 7, and Greg Ous, MnDOT District 7 Engineer, presented information on the District 7 10-Year (2021-2030) Capital Highway Investment Plan (CHIP). Ous and Allis summarized Cottonwood County specific plans for the next 10 years.

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Nick Klisch, Public Works Director, met with the board to discuss a few items. Klisch presented a bid for gravel crushing from Sweetman Sand and Gravel in the amount of \$57,375.00. Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to accept the bid from Sweetman Sand and Gravel in the amount of \$57,300 for gravel crushing. Klisch stated that he will contact contractors that specialize in concrete crushing and get quotes.

Klisch informed the board that because the CSAH 7 construction timeline and impact wasn't 100% prior to spring planting, there will be some crop damage payments required. Klisch stated that the ditch authority last set crop damage rates in 2016 at \$700/acre corn and \$400/acre soybeans. After discussion, motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to set the Cottonwood County crop damage rates at \$900/acre for corn and \$600/acre for soybeans for the 2021 growing season.

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Todd Dibble, Veteran Service Officer, met with the board to present a grant for board approval. Motion by Stevens, second by Gravley, unanimous vote to accept the Minnesota Department of Veteran Affairs Grant for \$7,500.

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Linda Fransen, Historical Society Director, and Margaret McDonald, Treasurer, met with the board to give a year-end report for the Cottonwood County Historical Society and presented their budget request for 2022. They are requesting \$76,000 for the 2022 budget.

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Gale Bondhus, County Assessor, met with the board get approval for a Pictometry Flyover in 2022. Bondhus stated that the last flyover was done in 2017 and there have been many changes in the last five years. Bondhus stated that a meeting

was held with the Compliance Fund Committee and Planning and Zoning staff and that there are funds to cover the cost of the flyover.. Motion by Anderson, second by Gravley, unanimous vote to approve the 2022 Pictometry Flyover in the amount of \$90,540 and to pay with funds as follows: Recorder’s Technology Fund - \$10,000, Recorder’s Unallocated Fund - \$40,270, and the Riparian Aid Fund - \$40,270.

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Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer, met with the board to discuss a Joint Powers and Pledge Agreement between Murray County and Cottonwood County specific to Joint Judicial Ditch #3. After much discussion, it was decided to get more information and bring back to the August 17 meeting.

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Chairman Appel appointed Bailey Turner to a 3-year term on the Cottonwood County Extension Committee effective January 1, 2022.

Appel led discussion regarding a Southwest Minnesota Private Industry Council Internship Program and provided information from Martin County’s program. After much discussion, Appel will get more information.

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Motion by Gravley, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to move Meridee Paulson, Deputy Auditor/Treasurer, to permanent full-time status effective August 15, 2021.

Lease agreements with DVHHS and SWCD were discussed and it was decided to bring back to a future meeting.

Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 21-08-03 - Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program. (Resolution is on file in the County Coordinator’s office.)

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Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve August warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 10,644.61
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 1,479.98
County Building Fund	\$ 580.95
Taxes and Penalties Fund	\$ 2,953.57
Road & Bridge Fund	\$184,375.35
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 21,380.80</u>
	\$221,415.26

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Commissioner Appel asked the board who would be attending the Fall Policy Conference. Anderson - yes, Gravley, Stevens, and Holmen – no, and Appel undecided.

Appel asked the board if a budget work session should be set as the preliminary levy will need to be set at the September 21 meeting. Consensus of the board is to set Tuesday, August 31 at 9:00 a.m. for a budget work session.

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Nick Klisch, Public Works Director, met with the board to present a 2022 proposed budget for the Highway Department.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Thomas D. Appel, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator