

August 31, 2021  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Work Session  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Tuesday, August 31, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. at the Law Enforcement Center in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Tom Appel, Donna Gravley, Kevin Stevens, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson; County Attorney Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, and Paul Johnson.

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Paul Johnson, Emergency Management Director, met with the board to present a resolution Declaring a State of Emergency due to strong winds that impacted the area over the weekend. Motion by Anderson, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution as follows:

**Resolution 21-08-31  
Declaring a State of Emergency**

WHEREAS severe thunderstorms impacted Cottonwood County on August 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the storms caused significant wind damage to rural areas and the communities of Jeffers, Storden and Westbrook; and

WHEREAS, the Cottonwood County Department of Emergency Management requests the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners to declare Cottonwood County in a STATE OF EMERGENCY for the severe thunderstorms wind event of 2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners declares Cottonwood County in a State of Emergency for conditions resulting from the severe thunderstorms and wind event of August 2021. The state of emergency will expire 30 days after declaration.

Adopted by the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners this 31<sup>st</sup> day of August 2021.

S/Tom Appel, Board Chair

S/Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

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The remaining proposed 2022 Department budgets were reviewed by the board along with the Long Term Capital Outlay accounts. Discussion was also held regarding whether or not the board should include requested additional pay increases for several employees in the proposed 2022 budgets at this time. The consensus of the board was to budget only COLA and step increases that employees will be entitled to receive at this time and nothing additional.

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A brief discussion was held regarding 2022 health insurance rates and whether the board would like to remain with BCBS coverage and leave the coop or change to Medica coverage and remain with the coop for 2022. Further discussion

will be held at the next board meeting and a decision will be made as to which health insurance coverage to offer for 2022.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:09 a.m.

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Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Thomas D. Appel, Board Chairman

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator