

November 2, 2021  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 2, 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; County Attorney Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Kathy Marsh, Kay Gross, Jacob Gross, Gale Bondhus, Drew Hage, Nick Klisch, Jed Rhubee, Jason Purrington, Jason Rupp, Dan Quade, Rocky Kolar, and Joel Alvstad.

Chairman Appel called the meeting to order. Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2021 regular meeting.

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A public hearing was held in regard to the residential property tax abatement applied for by Borgen, Inc. for the construction of a twin home on parcel number 22-413-0790. No opposition to the abatement was heard prior to or at the hearing. Motion by Stevens, second by Gravley, unanimous roll call vote to approve the Home Initiative – New Construction application submitted by Borgen, Inc. and resolution 21-11-02. (Resolution is on file in the County Coordinator’s office.)

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Kay Gross, SWCD District Administrator, met with the board to get approval for the FY 2022 and 2023 Natural Resource Block Grant. The grant includes Local Water Management (\$14,844), Wetland Conservation Act (\$8,778), Shoreland (\$2,772), and FY22 Septic Treatment Systems (\$18,600). Total for FY2022 \$44,994 and FY2023 \$26,394. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to approve the FY2022 and FY2023 State of Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Natural Resources Block Grant Agreement in the amount of \$71,388.

Gross then introduced Jacob Gross. Jacob started working for SWCD on October 18<sup>th</sup> as a Watershed Technician.

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Commissioner Appel led a short discussion on solar power in the county.

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Nick Klisch, Public Works Director, met with the board to get blanket approval to advertise for bids on 2022 construction projects. Klisch stated that this has been done in the past to help move the process along and also stated that the bids always come to the board for approval. Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to allow the County Engineer to advertise for bids on 2022 construction projects.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, met with board to discuss a few items. Thongvivong stated that interviews were held for the Heavy Equipment Operator position and that all applicants were also asked if they would be interested in the Solid Waste Technician position. A tentative offer was extended to one applicant for the HEO position, the offer was for Range 10, Step I (\$24.13) and to accrue vacation as an 8 year employee. After discussion, motion by Holmen, second by Gravley, to revise the offer to the applicant for the Heavy Equipment Operator position to Range

10, Step I (\$24.13) and accrue vacation as a 4 year employee. Voting Aye – Holmen, Gravley, Stevens, Anderson. Voting Nay – Appel. Motion passed.

Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to offer Kevin Grunewald the Solid Waste Technician position on Range 10, Step A (\$19.05) pending successful completion of all hiring requirements.

Thongvivong informed the board the David Grev, Appraiser, has met the qualifications for his AMA as of October 4, 2021. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to promote David Grev to Deputy Assessor retro to October 25, 2021, and to place him on Range 14D of the 2021 wage matrix.

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Chairman Tom Appel led discussion on possible bonding scenarios if the County was to bond for a highway shop and addition to the Law Enforcement Center.

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Tom Appel, Commissioner, led a short discussion on the N71 Building and what possibilities there are for its use.

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Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve November warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 12,353.44
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 1,713.10
County Building Fund	\$ 368.09
Ditch Fund	\$ 5,022.00
Agency Fund	\$ 7.99
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 20,064.57
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 3,868.97
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 4,546.41</u>
	\$ 47,945.47

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:34 a.m.

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Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

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Thomas D. Appel, Board Chair

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator