

November 16, 2021  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 16, 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, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Jason Purrington, Paul Johnson, Ashley Johnson, Mike Johnson, Kerstin Cooley, Scott Peterson, Greg Scheitel, and Joel Alvstad.

Chairman Appel called the meeting to order. Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2021 regular meeting.

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Ashley Johnson and Mike Johnson met with the board to discuss possible solutions to the reduction of services by Southwest Mental Health. Commissioner Anderson informed the Johnsons that a task force is being formed by Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services and that the task force is being led by Lindsay Chapman. Johnsons stated that they want to make sure that accurate information is collected and that educated and evidence based choices are made for the betterment and safety of the community.

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Jason Purrington, County Sheriff, met with the board to discuss a few items. Purrington asked for permission to apply for a Safe and Secure Courthouse Grant through the State of Minnesota. Purrington stated the grant is a 50% matching funds grant and he would like to apply for \$1,800. Purrington stated that the project the grant and matching funds would be used for is a secure meeting room outside of the Courtroom that would have a total project cost of \$3,600. Motion by Stevens, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to allow the Sheriff to submit an application to the Safe and Secure Courthouse Grant Program on behalf of Cottonwood County.

Purrington informed the board that the Sheriff's office has been a participant in the Law Enforcement Supply Office (LESO). Purrington stated that through LESO agencies are able to obtain different pieces of equipment for reduced costs or free of charge. Purrington stated that due to constant changes in reporting and inventory processes, and not being able to make modifications to equipment, he would like to return the rifles received through this program and purchase rifles. Purrington provided the following bids for 10 rifles and 10 red dot sites: Alex Pro Firearms – 10 rifles at \$650 per rifle (\$6,500) and 10 Vortex Red Dot Sites at \$164.99 per site (\$1,649.90), total cost \$8,149.90; Rock River Arms - 10 rifles at \$905 per rifle (\$9,050) and 10 Vortex Red Dot Sites at \$199.99 per site (\$1,999.90), total cost \$11,049.90. Purrington also stated that the expense would be paid from the Drug Task Force seizure account. Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the purchase of 10 rifles at \$650 per rifle (\$6,500) and 10 Vortex Red Dot Sites at \$164.99 per site (\$1,649.90), total cost \$8,149.90, from Alex Pro Plus.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Holmen, second by Gravley, unanimous vote to move Jason Rupp, Jail Administrator, to permanent full-time status effective November 24, 2021, after successful completion of a 6-month probationary period.

Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous vote (Commissioner Gravley abstained) to move Dan Quade, Jail/Dispatcher Supervisor, to permanent full-time status effective November 24, 2021, after successful completion of a 6-month probationary period.

Thongvivong informed the board that a notice was received from Southwestern Mental Health dated November 4, 2021, stating that they will be vacating the leased office space at the N71 Building effective December 31, 2021. Thongvivong stated that the lease agreement states that a 6-month notice is to be given to terminate the lease and asked if the board wanted to hold to the 6-month notice. After discussion, consensus of the board is to hold to the 6-month notice for termination.

Thongvivong informed the board that she received a statement from Plunkett's for services performed in August 2021 at Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services – Family Services that wasn't paid and now has a \$22.77 finance charge. Thongvivong asked that the bill be approved for payment this week so as not to incur another month's finance charge. Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve immediate payment of a Plunkett's bill in the amount of \$1,410.07 for services obtained in August at Des Moines Valley Health and Human Services – Family Services.

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Chairman Appel reviewed and led discussion on the 2020 State Audit findings.

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

County Revenue Fund	\$ 59,001.01
County Building Fund	\$ 299.91
Ditch Fund	\$ 160.16
Agency Fund	\$ 6.43
Road & Bridge Fund	\$ 47,636.66
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 13,338.16</u>
	\$120,442.33

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Commissioner Appel gave an update on some DVHHS items, current hiring difficulties that are being had, and asked a question regarding the Petition to Repair form for ditch repairs.

Motion by Stevens, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to approve a per diem for Commissioner Gravley for attending the MnDOT Open House in Windom on October 26, 2021.

Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve a per diem for Commissioner Stevens for attending a meeting held with Windom Utilities on November 4, 2021.

Commissioner Anderson led a short discussion on County Ditch #42 and County Road 7.

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Motion by Stevens, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 11:10 a.m. to discuss the development of an offer for parcel number 08.022.0100. Individuals present for the closed session were: Commissioners Tom Appel, Donna Gravley, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson, Kevin Stevens; County Attorney Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, and Kathy Marsh.

Motion by Holmen, second by Gravley, unanimous vote to open the meeting at 11:42 a.m.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:42 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