

November 30, 2021
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Work Session
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners held a work session on Tuesday, November 30, 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, Kevin Stevens, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson, County Attorney Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Nick Klisch, Kyle Pillatzki, Jed Rhubee, Gary Gilbert, George Eilertson, Alex Schultz, Lee Tapper, and Joel Alvstad.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve the agenda as amended.

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Chairman Tom Appel and Nick Klisch, Public Works Director, updated the board on the Cottonwood County Landfill Supplemental Hydrogeologic Investigation that has been ongoing. The Vinyl Chloride Investigation Timeline and the Supplemental Hydrogeologic Investigation Summary were reviewed and Appel and Klisch answered any questions the board had. Appel stated that a meeting was held with POET on November 23rd regarding the landfill and will be meeting on December 9th with Red Rock Rural Water Systems.

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George Eilertson, Northland Securities, presented information regarding bonding and financing scenarios for a new Public Works Building and Law Enforcement Center remodel.

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Chairman Appel led discussion regarding County Ditch #21 and 62 feet of broken tile. Appel stated that the SWCD office could do a study to see if there is a better option than just repairing the tile. After much discussion, consensus of the board is to proceed with the study and then discuss best options.

A short discussion was also held on County Ditch #3. The Auditor/Treasurer was asked to research how neighboring counties handle bonding for ditch repairs/improvements.

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Commissioner Holmen gave a short update on DVHHS and a recent visit to the N71 Building.

Commissioner Gravley gave a short update on the Auditor/Treasurer remodel.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, informed the board that a tentative offer was given to the second candidate for the Heavy Equipment Operator position and has been accepted. Motion by Gravley, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to hire selected applicant for the Heavy Equipment Operator position on Range 10E (\$22.08/hour) of the 2022 wage matrix upon successful completion of all hiring

requirements and approve 160 hours of unpaid leave to be used by December 31, 2022.

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Chairman Appel led discussion regarding Attorney Services for DVHHS. County Attorney, Nick Anderson, informed the board that due to his already increased workload and, if he needs to take on additional work for DVHHS, he will need additional support staff. Consensus of the board is to begin with agreeing to a contract and then additional support staff will be discussed.

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Motion by Anderson, second by Gravley, unanimous vote to approve per diems for Commissioners attending Summit Carbon Solutions meetings.

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Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 12:10 p.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 Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to open the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Thomas D. Appel, Board Chairman

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator