

February 1, 2022
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Larry Anderson, Tom Appel, Donna Gravley, Norm Holmen, County Attorney Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Becky Buchholz, Alex Schultz, Kyle Pillatzki, Gale Bondhus, Dave Grev, and Joel Alvstad. Commissioner Stevens was absent.

Chairman Gravley called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Appel, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the January 18, 2022 regular meeting.

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Becky Buchholz, SWCD Program Technician, met with the board to discuss the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Low Interest Loan that was obtained in 2019. Buchholz explained that the Low Interest Loan is set to expire in May 2022 and she would like to extend it for one year as there are some remaining funds. Buchholz also stated that when she contacted the MPCA about extending the loan, she was offered an additional \$150,000. Motion by Appel, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to approve resolution 22-02-01 approving Amendment Number 1 to the Minnesota Clean Water Partnership Project Implementation Loan Agreement No. SRF0320 that would extend our end date to May 2023 and add an additional \$150,000.

Buchholz informed the board that the septic at the N71 Church Building is not in compliance. Consensus of the board is to discuss at an April Board meeting as to how to proceed.

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Alex Schultz, Planning and Zoning Technician, met with the board to get approval for a Conditional Use Permit applied for by Elmendorf Hutterian Brethren for a Manufacturing Facility in Mountain Lake Township, Section 12. Motion by Appel, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve the Conditional Use Permit from Elmendorf Hutterian Brethren for a Manufacturing Facility in Mountain Lake Township, Section 12 with the following conditions: (1) be compliant with Cottonwood County Zoning Ordinance #28; (2) shall obtain all necessary Federal/State/Local permits and fees; and (3) keep a waste receptacle on site during construction.

Schultz presented a second Conditional Use Permit applied for by Midco to construct a Monopole in Springfield Township, Section 16. Motion by Anderson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the Conditional Use Permit from Midco to construct a Monopole in Springfield Township, Section 16 with the following conditions: (1) be compliant with Cottonwood County Zoning Ordinance #28; (2) shall obtain all necessary Federal/State/Local permits and fees; and (3) keep a waste receptacle on site during construction.

Schultz presented a third Conditional Use Permit applied for by Midco to construct a Monopole in Ann Township, Section 3. Motion by Anderson, second by

Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the Conditional Use Permit from Midco to construct a Monopole in Ann Township, Section 3 with the following conditions: (1) be compliant with Cottonwood County Zoning Ordinance #28; (2) shall obtain all necessary Federal/State/Local permits and fees; and (3) keep a waste receptacle on site during construction.

Schultz presented a Rezoning Application applied for by Andrew Evers to rezone a portion of parcel number 11.260.0020 from agricultural to residential. Motion by Holmen, second by Appel, unanimous vote to rezone a portion of parcel number 11.260.0020 from agricultural to residential due to the following Findings of Fact: (1) hooked up to city sewer; (2) adjacent to city properties; and (3) taxed as residential.

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Kyle Pillatzki, Assistant County Engineer, met with the board to get approval of bridge replacement projects 017-606-027/017-611-017 (Contract 202110) and 017-598-007/017-598-008 (Contract 202109). Bids are as follows for Contract 202110: Midwest Contracting, LLC - \$1,315,078.00, Riley Bros. Construction, Inc. - \$1,326,209.50, Mathiowetz Construction Co. - \$1,424,740.02, R&G Construction Co. - \$1,449,347.02, and US SiteWork, Inc. - \$1,839,001.90. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to approve the low bid from Midwest Contracting, LLC in the amount of \$1,315,078.00 for bridge replacement projects 017-606-027/017-611-017 (Contract 202110).

Bids are as follows for Contract 202109: R&G Construction Co - \$344,916.08, Midwest Contracting, LLC - \$393,935.00, Mathiowetz Construction Co. - \$422,384.97, Riley Bros. Construction, Inc - \$429,815.75, and US SiteWork, Inc. - \$599,933.00. Motion by Anderson, second by Appel, unanimous vote approve the low bid from R&G Construction Co. in the amount of \$344,916.08 for bridge replacement projects 017-598-007/017-598-008 (Contract 202109).

Commissioner Appel led a short discussion regarding the expenses of the vinyl chloride at the landfill. The total expense for this project, to date, is \$832,316. Appel mentioned that ARP funds can be used to help pay a portion of these expenses.

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Gale Bondhus, County Assessor, and David Grev, Deputy Assessor, met with the board replacing the 2004 Buick Rendezvous. Bondhus stated that the vehicle is having battery and electrical issues, transmission issues, and suspension issues. Bondhus said they would like to sell or trade the vehicle for a newer vehicle. Bondhus also indicated that she has \$17,000 in her Long Term account for this purchase. Consensus of the board is to look into different options for a new vehicle, i.e. new, used, lease, etc. and bring options back to the board.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to recess as the County Board and to convene as the Ditch Authority.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer informed the board that the viewers report for the redetermination of benefits for JD#10 has been received and that dates for the landowner meetings and final hearing need to be set. After much discussion, the board decided that more research needs to be done on which landowners this will effect.

Motion by Anderson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to adjourn as the Ditch Authority and to reconvene as the County Board.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Gravley, unanimous vote to pay the appropriation of \$575.85 to Southern Minnesota Tourism Association.

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Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Thongvivong presented a proposed plan for the Wellness monies that were received from BCBS. Thongvivong stated that biometric screening will offered again and employees participating in the biometric screening and two offered wellness events could receive an incentive of a minimum of \$250. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to accept the wellness proposal from the Wellness Committee.

Discussion was held regarding per diems for Commissioner attending solar and wind tower meetings. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to allow per diems for Commissioners attending solar or wind tower meetings that pertain to Cottonwood County and make retroactive to January 1, 2022.

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Commissioner Holmen gave an update on a Prime West Meeting he attended on January 26, 2022.

Commissioner Appel asked that there be a 2021 budget review at a meeting in March. Appel also led a short discussion on remote work.

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Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to approve February warrants, as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 13,647.29
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 1,137.00
County Building Fund	\$ 615.99
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 19,231.73
Waste Abatement/Score Fund	\$ 870.00
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 2,760.70</u>
	\$38,262.71

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Commissioner Gravley informed the board that the Auditor/Treasurer, Commissioner Appel and herself met with CliftonLarsonAllen regarding ARP funds and they have agreed to approve our ARP payments and will review our draft policy.

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Motion by Anderson, second by Appel, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 10:53 a.m. to discuss the offer for parcel number 08.022.0100. Individuals present for the closed session were: Commissioners Tom Appel, Donna Gravley, Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson; County Attorney Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, and Kathy Marsh.

Motion by Anderson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to open the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Donna L. Gravley, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator