

March 15, 2022  
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners  
Regular Meeting  
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 15, 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, Norman Holmen, Donna Gravley, Kevin Stevens, County Attorney Nick Anderson, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Drew Hage, Gale Bondhus, David Grev, Nick Klisch, Alex Schultz, Brad Hutchison, Gary Bennett, Brian Bennett, Nate Bennett, Dominic Jones, David Briese, Jim Hartshorn, Jed Rhubee, and Joel Alvstad.

Present for all or portions of the meeting via MSTeams was Commissioner Tom Appel as he was in Crandall, Texas.

Chairman Gravley called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote to approve the minutes of the March 1, 2022 regular meeting.

\* \* \* \*

Brad Hutchison met with the board to express his views regarding Big Bend Wind Towers/Red Rock Solar and to understand why the County Commissioners had passed resolutions in support of wind and solar projects.

\* \* \* \*

Drew Hage, Windom EDA Director, informed the board that a Home Initiative – New Construction application has been received from Kenneth J. Derickson for the construction of a new home in Windom. Hage stated that all requirements to date have been met so a public hearing date needs to be set. Motion by Stevens, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to call for a public hearing on the proposed tax abatement for a new home built by Kenneth J. Derickson. Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 22-03-15A “Resolution Calling for a Public Hearing on Proposed Tax Abatement for new Residential Project.” (Resolution is on file in the County Coordinator’s office.)

Hage also introduced Jim Hartshorn as his interim replacement.

\* \* \* \*

Alex Schultz, Planning and Zoning Technician, met with the board to get approval for a Conditional Use Permit applied for by Bennett Trucking, Inc. to rebuild a truck shop and office in Lakeside Township, Section 30. Schultz informed the board that there were four conditions: (1) be compliant with Cottonwood County Zoning Ordinance #28; (2) shall obtain all necessary Federal/State/Local permits and fees; (3) erosion control measures taken; and (4) keep a waste receptacle on site during construction. Schultz also stated that no verbal or written comments were heard at the hearing. Dominic Jones, City of Windom Mayor, asked that the County Attorney be directed to research the requirements for which public notices were to be sent and if they were followed. After much discussion, it was decided to table the decision to later in the meeting so that the County Attorney could complete some research.

\* \* \* \*

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Stevens, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve the hire of Michael Watkins as IS Technician on Range 14, Step B (\$25.62/hour) after successful completion of all hiring requirements. Tentative starting date is set for April 18, 2022.

Motion by Anderson, second by Holmen, unanimous roll call vote to approve signing resolution 22-03-15 "Resolution to Support a Cottonwood Watershed One Watershed, One Plan Project." (Resolution is on file in the County Coordinator's office.)

\* \* \* \*

Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve March warrants, as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 14,144.58
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 600.00
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 15,116.55
Waste Abatement/Score Fund	\$ 42.89
Landfill Enterprise Fund	\$ 7,490.79
	<u>\$ 37,394.81</u>

\* \* \* \*

Chairman Gravley resumed the discussion on the Conditional Use Permit for Bennett Trucking, Inc. County Attorney Nick Anderson stated that public notices should be resent with a new public hearing date as notification requirements were not followed. Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to extend the time period by 60 days for a decision on the Conditional Use Permit applied for by Bennett Trucking, Inc.

\* \* \* \*

Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson and Commissioner Appel led discussion regarding redistricting and how it effects Great Bend Township. After much discussion, Chairman Gravley called for a special meeting to be held on Tuesday, March 22 at 10:00 a.m.

\* \* \* \*

Nick Anderson, County Attorney, met with the board to discuss a wage increase for the Assistant County Attorney. Anderson requested the Assistant County Attorney be moved from Range 19, Step D (\$37.24) to Range 19, Step I (\$43.17). Anderson stated that there are presently 16 openings in Minnesota at the present time for an Assistant County Attorney. After discussion, motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to move the Assistant County Attorney from Step D (\$37.24) to Step G (\$40.69) on the 2022 wage matrix effective March 28, 2022. (Commissioner Appel absent for vote.) Chairman Gravley wanted it noted that this will not happen for everybody and that there will be nay's (no) as well as ayes (yes).

\* \* \* \*

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:44 a.m.

---

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

---

Donna L. Gravley, Board Chair

---

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator