

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

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, November 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, Tom Appel, County Coordinator Kelly Thongvong, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Nick Klisch, Alex Schultz, Dan Quade, Jason Purrington, Bruce Gentry, Barb Larson, Carolyn Bondhus, Kathy Smith, Larry Leopold, Lori Mickelson, Jay Mickelson, Rick Sether, Peg Furshong, Jim Polk, Jesse Polk, Terry Quiring, Dale Polzin, Bryan Eigenberg, Kenneth Engen, Ryan Batalden, Wally Hunter, Marion Hunter, Jan Wilson, Daryl Tasler, Louis Remmers, Barry Bondhus, Ryan Gilbertson, and Joel Alvstad.

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

* * * *

Kathy Smith, County Resident, and Peg Furshong, CURE, met with the board to increase awareness of Summit Carbon Solution's proposed carbon pipeline. Furshong reviewed concerns of county residents and others in Minnesota counties that would be affected by the Summit Carbon Solution's pipeline. After discussion, motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, to send a letter to the Public Utilities Commission in support of an Environmental Impact Study (EIS) for the Summit Carbon Solutions pipeline. Voting Aye – Holmen, Anderson, Stevens, Gravley. Voting Nay – Appel. Motion passed.

* * * *

Dan Quade, Jail/Dispatch Supervisor, met with the board to get approval for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Watonwan County for dispatch assistance. Quade stated that Watonwan County is short staffed in their dispatch center and has asked for assistance from Cottonwood County through the end of the year. Motion by Holmen, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to accept the Memorandum of Understanding between the Watonwan County Sheriff's Office and the Cottonwood County Sheriff's Office for dispatch assistance.

* * * *

Nick Klisch, Public Works Director, met with the board to discuss a few items. Klisch presented one bid for the fuel contract with the Public Works Department. Klisch stated that the contract would be for three years (2023-2025) with the option of a fourth year (2026). Motion by Stevens, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to accept the bid from Staples Oil Company, Inc. in the amount of \$540,058.40 for fuel and \$2,400 for monitoring for a total annual amount of \$542,458.40.

Klisch stated that in June the board approved plans to pave CSAH 9 from TH60 to CSAH 44 in 2023. Klisch stated that he was approached by a resident on CSAH 9 to extend the pavement an additional 750 feet further north at the resident's expense. Motion by Holmen, second by Appel, unanimous vote to approve the additional 750 feet of pavement on CSAH 9 to be paid by CSAH 9 local resident.

* * * *

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Anderson, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to amend the October 18th minutes regarding final payment to R&G Construction by striking “and 017-606-027 & 017-611-017 (Contract 202110).”

Motion by Stevens, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to move Tyann Galer, Sheriff’s Administrative Assistant, to permanent full-time status effective November 23, 2022.

Motion by Holmen, second by Appel, unanimous vote to move Carly Pohlman, Appraiser, to permanent full-time status effective November 23, 2022.

Motion by Anderson, second by Appel, unanimous vote to move Brenda Schenk, Accounting Assistant, to permanent full-time status effective December 6, 2022.

Motion by Stevens, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to approve the hire of Julie Oberg Speckmeier for the full-time Legal Secretary position on Range 10, Step H (\$24.13) on the 2022 wage matrix.

Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to hire Dylan Oeltjenbruns for the full-time Ditch Inspector position at \$25.23 per hour.

* * * *

Motion by Appel, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to approve November warrants, as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 81,550.09
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 637.64
Ditch Fund	\$ 60,130.06
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 54,432.97
Waste Abatement/Score Fund	\$ 21,497.27
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 2,675.85</u>
	\$220,923.88

* * * *

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator, led discussion regarding an email that was received from Explore Southwest Minnesota and information that is needed for a website.

* * * *

Commissioner Holmen asked for clarification on overpayments on real estate taxes.

Commissioner Anderson gave an update on MRC interviews that were held on November 14.

Commissioner Appel led a short discussion regarding the DVHHS fund balance and Prime West.

* * * *

Motion by Appel, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 10:52 a.m. to discuss strategy for upcoming labor negotiations. Present for the closed session were: Norm Holmen, Donna Gravley, Kelly Thongvivong, Larry Anderson, Kevin Stevens, and Tom Appel.

Motion by Stevens, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to open the closed session at 12:02 p.m.

* * * *

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Donna L. Gravley, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator