

March 21, 2023
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, March 21, 2023, 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, Norm Holmen, Kevin Stevens, Donna Gravley, County Attorney Nick Anderson, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Kathy Marsh, Jason Purrington, Nick Klisch, Kathy Kretsch, Gale Bondhus, Dave Grev, Cary Bartsch and Joel Alvstad.

Chairman Anderson called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Holmen, second by Appel, unanimous vote to approve the agenda as amended. Motion by Stevens, second by Gravley, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the March 7, 2023, regular meeting.

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Jason Purrington, Sheriff, met with the board to get approval to purchase a new Logger/Recorder for dispatch. Purrington presented two quotes: Alpha Wireless - \$30,880 and Wahltek - \$33,300. Motion by Holmen, second by Appel, unanimous vote to approve the purchase of an Eventide Voice Logging Recorder from Alpha Wireless in the amount of \$30,880.

Commissioner Holmen led discussion regarding the possibility of Carson Township contracting with Cottonwood County Law Enforcement for enforcing an ordinance. After much discussion, the board agreed that law enforcement does not enforce local ordinances, but further research should be done in this instance to see if any state laws have been violated.

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Tom Appel, Commissioner, presented resolution 23-03-21 for the Des Moines River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Motion by Appel, second by Gravley, unanimous roll call vote to adopt and sign Resolution 23-03-21 "Resolution to Adopt and Implement the Des Moines River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan."

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Nick Anderson, County Attorney, asked the board to make a motion to have the Board Chair appoint a committee to implement the recommendations from the Ervin Report. Motion by Holmen, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to have Chairman Anderson appoint a committee to implement the recommendations of the Ervin Report.

Chairman Anderson appointed Vice Chair Holmen and himself to the Ervin Report Implementation committee.

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Kathy Marsh, Human Resources Technician, met with the board to discuss a few items. Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to move Matt Janssen, Heavy Equipment Operator, to permanent full-time status effective March 27, 2023.

Motion by Appel, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to declare that the County offices were officially closed at 1:15 p.m. on Thursday, March 16, 2023 and officially closed until 12:00 p.m. on March 17, 2023, due to the inclement weather

conditions and in accordance with County Policy No. 420.

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Nick Klisch, Public Works Director, gave a short update on road conditions around the county.

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Motion by Stevens, second by Gravley, unanimous vote to close the meeting at 9:33 a.m. pursuant to Minn. Stat. 13D.05 for the Attorney-Client Privilege to discuss the following litigations: The Toro Company vs. Cottonwood County and Fast Ag Solutions, LLC. vs. Cottonwood County. Individuals present for the closed session were: Commissioners Anderson, Appel, Holmen, Stevens, Gravley; County Attorney Nick Anderson; Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Gale Bondhus, Dave Grev, and Kathy Marsh.

Motion by Appel, second by Holmen, unanimous vote to open the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

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Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve March warrants, as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 48,498.24
Long Term Capital Outlay	\$ 7,000.00
Ditch Fund	\$ 8,789.11
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 46,111.54
Waste Abatement/Score Fund	\$ 26,766.93
Landfill Enterprise Fund	\$ 7,378.74
	<u>\$144,544.56</u>

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Commissioner Holmen led a short discussion on appointments at the Recorder's office as he has been contacted with some comments.

Commissioner Gravley gave an update on the trail from Wolf Lake to Windom. Gravley also informed the board that she is going to talk to the librarians in Windom, Mt. Lake and Westbrook regarding their funding.

Commissioner Appel gave an update on the landfill in regards to PFAS testing and MPCA. Appel also stated that he has been getting some questions on the Big Bend project. Appel will do some follow-up on what is happening with Big Bend. Appel also stated that RFP's have gone out for an architect for the Public Works building and are due April 7.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Donna Torkelson, Auditor/Treasurer

Larry Anderson, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator