

February 2, 2024
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Special Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in special session on Friday, February 2, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. at the Cottonwood County Law Enforcement Center in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Larry Anderson, Tom Appel, Norm Holmen, Kevin Stevens; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, County Attorney Nick Anderson, Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson, Dean Nelson, Brian Fredin and Joel Alvstad. Absent was Commissioner Donna Gravley.

Chairman Holmen called the meeting to order. Motion by Anderson, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to approve the agenda as amended.

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Motion by Stevens, second by Appel, unanimous vote to accept the resignation of Auditor/Treasurer Donna Torkelson effective February 16, 2024 with payout of benefits being contingent on clarification and interpretation from legal counsel.

Motion by Appel, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to post internally and advertise simultaneously for the position of Auditor/Treasurer. At this time the County Board is unsure if this position will continue to be elected (meaning the applicant would fulfill the remainder of the elected term, which would end on December 31, 2026) or if it will become an appointed position.

Motion by Stevens, second by Anderson, unanimous roll call vote (Commissioner Gravley was absent) to approve considering the resolution for changing the office of Auditor/Treasurer from elected to appointed and to advertise for the required two-week period in the official publication of the county. Resolution is as follows:

Member _____ introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption:

**COTTONWOOD COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
RESOLUTION 24-02-26
FOR CHANGING THE OFFICE OF
AUDITOR-TREASURER FROM ELECTED TO APPOINTED**

WHEREAS the offices of the Cottonwood County Auditor and Treasurer have been previously consolidated into the office of the Cottonwood County Auditor-Treasurer; and

WHEREAS the office of the Cottonwood County Auditor-Treasurer is currently an elective office; and

WHEREAS the Cottonwood County Auditor-Treasurer resigned effective February 16, 2024; and

WHEREAS the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners wants to ensure that the individual holding this position possesses the skills and/or experience necessary to properly carry out the responsibilities of this position; and

WHEREAS the office of Cottonwood County Auditor-Treasurer may be rendered an appointive office by resolution of the County Board of Commissioners pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375A.1205, subd. 6; and

WHEREAS at the February 20, 2024 meeting of the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners the public was provided an opportunity for public comment on the Board's decision.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 375A.1205, the Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners shall render the office of Cottonwood County auditor-treasurer appointive, effective March 27, 2024.

The motion for the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly seconded by _____ and upon a vote being taken thereon, the follow voted in favor of the motion:

and the following voted against the motion:

Where upon said resolution was declared duly passed and adopted.

Motion by Appel, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to authorize Carolyn Rempel as Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer to sign all signature cards for the county finances and other financial documents that need to be taken care of on behalf of the Auditor/Treasurer’s Office in the interim time before the Auditor/Treasurer position is filled.

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Brief update was given regarding the Des Moines Valley Health & Human Services reorganization proposal as there is an upcoming meeting on Monday.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Carolyn Rempel
Chief Deputy Auditor/Treasurer

Norman Holmen, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator