

June 18, 2024
Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Minutes

The Cottonwood County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at 4:45 p.m. at the Cottonwood County Courthouse in Windom, MN. Present for all or portions of the meeting were: Commissioners Norm Holmen, Larry Anderson, Tom Appel, Kevin Stevens, Donna Gravley; County Coordinator Kelly Thongvivong, Auditor/Treasurer Carolyn Rempel, Kathy Marsh, Michelle Baumhoefner, Nick Klisch, Becky Buchholz, Kay Gross, Tom Kresko, Maggie Gross, Dave Grev, and Joel Alvstad.

Chairman Holmen called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Motion by Stevens, second by Appel, unanimous vote to approve the agenda. Motion by Anderson, second by Appel, unanimous vote to approve the minutes of the June 4, 2024, regular meeting.

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Michelle Baumhoefner, A.C.E. Executive Director, met with the board to give an update on the A.C.E. program and the 2023 Annual Report. Baumhoefner informed the board that Rock County has joined the A.C.E. program which now makes 8 counties in the program in Southwest Minnesota. Baumhoefner also informed the board that the Cottonwood County A.C.E. Program Manager has resigned and that the hiring process has begun.

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Nick Klisch, Public Works Director, met with the board to discuss a few items. Klisch brought back Project 017-598-010 that was initially rejected due to a clerical error. Bids for the project were as follows: Prahm Construction Inc. - \$1,766,413.00; Graves Construction Co., Inc. - \$ \$2,015,243.00; ICON Constructors, LLC - \$2,025,302.00; and Robert R. Schroeder Construction, Inc. - \$2,307,171.00. Motion by Gravley, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to accept the low bid from Prahm Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$1,766,413.00 for Project 017-598-010.

Motion by Appel, second by Stevens, unanimous roll call vote to adopt resolution 24-06-18 Agreement to State Transportation Fund Local Bridge Replacement Program Grant Terms and Conditions. (Resolution is on file in the County Coordinator's office.)

Klisch then led discussion regarding the selling of excess dirt from the Highway Shop building project. After discussion, consensus of the board is to bring information back when closer to being ready to sell.

Klisch led discussion regarding electric vehicle (EV) charging at county parks. Klisch recommended charging \$2 per hour for EV charging to help capture the cost of electricity and infrastructure. Klisch stated that many local parks charge a fee and use an app called Plugshare. Motion by Gravley, second by Stevens, unanimous vote to set EV charging fee at \$2 per hour at county parks.

Klisch gave some updates regarding the building project, County Road 3, and bridge replacements for the year.

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Kay Gross, SWCD District Administrator, met with the board to discuss the String Lake Outlet structure. Gross stated that discussion was needed on ownership, liability, and project costs. After much discussion, consensus of the board is to have

Chairman Holmen and Kay Gross contact Attorney John Kolb regarding a taxing district around String Lake and to have the County Coordinator contact MCIT regarding liability.

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Donna Gravley, Commissioner, led discussion regarding law changes regarding tax forfeiture properties. Carolyn Rempel, Auditor/Treasurer, stated that there is a hold on all tax forfeiture properties for sale in 2024 except the one property included from 2023. Rempel will bring back to the board when more information has been clarified from the State.

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Motion by Gravley, second by Anderson, unanimous vote to hire Kady Paulson as part-time Jailer/Dispatcher on Range 12, Minimum (\$22.64) effective June 20, 2024 after successful completion of all hiring requirements.

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Motion by Stevens, second by Appel, unanimous vote to approve June warrants as follows:

County Revenue Fund	\$ 29,182.47
Ditch Fund	\$ 7,850.33
Road and Bridge Fund	\$ 38,072.68
Waste Abatement/SCORE	\$ 5,989.50
Landfill Enterprise Fund	<u>\$ 8,064.83</u>
	\$ 89,159.81

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Kelly Thongvong, County Coordinator, informed the board of a tree at the N71 Office Building that needs to be trimmed or removed and asked how the board wanted to proceed. Consensus of the board is to get quotes on both trimming and removal.

Thongvong informed the board that County Attorney interviews will be conducted on June 24.

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Commissioner Holmen updated the board on a CPT Finance Meeting that was held on June 17. Holmen also updated the board on the PrimeWest Lawsuit against the Department of Human Services.

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The meeting recessed at 6:00 p.m. and then reconvened at 7:00 p.m.

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Commissioner Appel gave an update on the CD #21 tile project, a Family Services Collaborative update, and asked for an update on broadband. Commissioners Holmen and Anderson gave a short update and stated that Federated Broadband would be coming to a meeting in the near future.

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Carolyn Rempel, Auditor/Treasurer, gave a short update on bond funds.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Carolyn Rempel, Auditor/Treasurer

Norman Holmen, Board Chair

Kelly Thongvivong, County Coordinator