

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**January 17, 2006**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, January 17, 2006. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Tomschin, Janssen, Olson and Swigerd present. Also present were HR/EM Director Darlene Nichols-Born, County Auditor Michelle Knutson, County Treasurer Cindy Nelson, Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent and Clerk Laura Berger. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Tomschin and carried to approve the minutes of the December 27<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to approve the minutes of the January 3<sup>rd</sup> re-organizational meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to approve the agenda.

Committee reports were presented.

Attorney Watson reported on the Easy Heat settlement. He recommended that it be discussed further at the Welfare Board meeting.

Attorney Watson turned the discussion of DNR land acquisition over to Commissioner Janssen, who reported on a "no net gain" resolution that Todd County has adopted. Following some discussion, the Board decided to hold a meeting to accept public comments during the February 21<sup>st</sup> regular board meeting.

Discussion was held on the proposed contract for the Courthouse restoration project.

Attorney Watson reported that it appears the Thompson Worker's Compensation Issue will proceed to a hearing.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to authorize payment of the following claims:

General	\$101,646.03
Highway	\$ 95,234.77
State	<u>    70.00</u>
Total	\$196,950.80

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Tomschin and carried to authorize a transfer of \$5,480.60 from General to Highway.

Auditor Knutson reviewed the 2004 Big Stone County Financial Statements. The State Auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the Statements. Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried that the financial statements be approved and ordered published.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2006-07**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes require a county board to establish the minimum salary for those officials for whom filing for office opens in July; and

WHEREAS, in July of 2006, filings will open for the elected positions of attorney, auditor, recorder, sheriff and treasurer.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners, the minimum annual salary for all said positions be hereby established at \$25,000.

Discussion was held on tax forfeited properties and the appraised value of the same. Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2006-08**

BE IT RESOLVED, that all parcels of tax-forfeited land listed on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #06-1 be classified as non-conservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #06-1, that is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of this land be granted, pursuant to M.S.282.01; that the sale will be held at 9:00 AM, Monday, February 27, 2006, by the Big Stone County Auditor at the Big Stone County Courthouse, for not less than the basic sale price; and that full payment is required at the time of the sale.

County Treasurer Cindy Nelson presented investment information and fund balances for 2004 and 2005 for the Board's review.

Following a break, Environmental Officer Darren Wilke, along with Tony and Larry Arens, arrived at the meeting regarding their current conditional use permit. The Board came to the consensus that there is no time limit for incorporation in a non-sensitive area. Arens have had no violations to date and will continue to incorporate as soon as possible – dependent upon weather conditions. Discussion was also held concerning yard-pack. The Board stated that it is standard farming procedure to haul during winter and incorporate in the spring. Their manure management plan will reflect that incorporation/injection will be used.

Deputy Auditor Sharon Finke arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to approve the hiring of Brian Dahl for the Emergency Management/Deputy Sheriff position, effective January 17, 2006.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Tomschin and carried to post the position of full-time Deputy Sheriff vacated by Deputy Dahl. Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to authorize Deputy Jodi Laforge to fill in until the hiring process is complete.

HR/EM Director Nichols-Born reported that the HR/PC Network Specialist job was classified at a grade 30.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to send in a new job description for Benefits Administrator/PC Network Specialist to Government Management Group for classification.

Chairman Athey appointed Shawnda Johnson to the Extension Committee for a three year term.

Commissioner Olson presented his vision for strategic planning for the future of Big Stone County.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 10:55 AM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Berger, Clerk