

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**December 12, 2006**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, December 12, 2006. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Tomschin, Olson, Janssen and Swigerd present. Also present were George Taylor, Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Tomschin and carried to approve the minutes of the November 21<sup>st</sup> regular meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to approve the agenda. Committee reports were presented.

County Recorder Gloria Arndt and Environmental Officer Darren Wilke arrived at the meeting.

Discussion was held on additional correspondence received from Martha Croatt and Richard Mueller regarding Piper Street. Attorney Watson reported that a letter and a copy of the October 3<sup>rd</sup> minutes had been sent. Watson informed the Board that he will also respond to the legal issues and ask for a dismissal.

A brief discussion was held on the lease for Countryside Public Health and the need for carpet replacement in the Community Room.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Janssen and carried to execute the Memorandum of Agreement with the University of MN for support of the 4-H Program Coordinator position at Extension.

Representatives from MN DNR and interested parties were present for a discussion on establishing a "no net gain" policy. Motion by Janssen and seconded by Tomschin to adopt a "no net gain" policy.

At 9:00 AM, Chairman Athey asked if there were any comments on the 2007 budget. No comments were received.

Following further discussion on "no net gain", the motion for adopting the policy was withdrawn. A public hearing will be scheduled after the first of the year.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the Grant Contract with the State of Minnesota for Influenza Pandemic Preparedness.

Commissioner Janssen left the meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to authorize the purchase of a tractor and two new mowers for \$64,210 from Grant County Implement as presented by County Engineer Nick Anderson.

The Board was informed that the speed trailer has arrived.

Engineer Anderson presented a Certificate of Performance for SAP 06-612-11, SAP 06-614-08, SAP 06-621-25 and SAP 06-632-06 with Bituminous Paving, Inc.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Tomschin and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2006-34**

WHEREAS, County SAP 06-612-11, SAP 06-614-08, SAP 06-621-25 and SAP 06-632-06 have in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts said completed projects

for and on behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorize final payment to Bituminous Paving, Inc. in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

Commissioner Tomschin left the meeting.

Engineer Anderson reported on the Trail Project.

Discussion was held on the on-going issues with the tower by Clinton. There is some grant money available to help with repair and/or replacement costs. Gene Johnson from Milbank Communications is working on estimates. Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to authorize up to \$10,000 to address the concerns as soon as possible.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt a revised Big Stone County Investment Policy as presented by County Treasurer Cindy Nelson.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to abate the personal property on parcel #13-9262-000 as presented by Treasurer Nelson.

Board consensus was to send a letter to employee David Hills recognizing and thanking him for his willingness to serve as Chief Deputy following the resignation of Sheriff Joseph Berning.

HR Director Sue Schultz updated the Board on the Social Worker position that is being filled at Family Services.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to adopt the revised Big Stone County Credit Card Policy.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried to implement the PERA contribution rate increases using option one, which is the first check date after January 1, 2007.

Discussion was held on establishing a rotation by department to review all job descriptions. Job evaluations done outside the rotation would be reviewed by the Personnel Committee and would have to be based on substantial changes to the position duties. Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to implement the rotational schedule presented by HR Director Schultz.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize sending in the Auditor's job description for review.

Discussion was held on setting salaries for newly elected officials.

HR Director informed the Board that there will be a reception for Commissioner Swigerd following the December 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to advertise for bids on the old furnace at the Highway Department.

Mike Swenson left the meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to appoint Trish Kellen and Theresa Diekmann to the County Extension Committee for 3-year terms, effective January 1, 2007.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to reappoint Willard Rakow to the HRA Board for another 3-year term, retroactive to October 4, 2006.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to authorize payment of the following claims as presented by Auditor Knutson:

General	\$46,904.46
Highway	24,429.75

Ditch 26.00  
 Total \$71,360.21

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

**2006-35**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County 2007 budget and levy be established as follows:

	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>HIGHWAY</b>	<b>FAMILY SERVICES</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>				
Tax Levy & Aids	\$2,019,639	\$755,000	\$808,500	\$3,583,139
Other Taxes	\$12,100	\$30,000		\$42,100
Special Assessments	\$116,000			\$116,000
Licenses & Permits	\$18,700			\$18,700
Intergovernmental	\$251,528	\$3,902,377	\$1,248,014	\$5,401,919
Charges for Services	\$163,900	\$108,000	\$44,500	\$316,400
Investment Earnings	\$154,000	\$25,000		\$179,000
Miscellaneous	\$48,270	\$9,000	\$135,950	\$193,220
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$2,784,137</b>	<b>\$4,829,377</b>	<b>\$2,236,964</b>	<b>\$9,850,478</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>				
General Government	\$1,489,531			\$1,489,531
Public Safety	\$942,902			\$942,902
Highway		\$5,538,305		\$5,538,305
Sanitation	\$195,615			\$195,615
Family Services			\$2,386,964	\$2,386,964
Health	\$71,705			\$71,705
Culture & Recreation	\$107,577			\$107,577
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$217,015			\$217,015
Economic Development	\$66,906			\$66,906
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$3,091,251</b>	<b>\$5,538,305</b>	<b>\$2,386,964</b>	<b>\$11,016,520</b>

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the contract with Plunkett's for pest control effective January 1, 2007.

The December 2007 board dates were rescheduled to the 11<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

The Highway Department has transferred \$19,369.44 out of the gravel pit restoration reserve for pit reclamation expenses.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 10:37 AM.

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 Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Michelle Knutson, Auditor