REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD February 21, 2006

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 21, 2006. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Tomschin, Janssen, Olson and Swigerd present. Also present were Mike Maas, County Attorney Bill Watson, County Assessor Sandy Vold, 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 February 7th regular meeting.

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

After recommendation by Attorney Watson, motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2006-10

WHEREAS, the County of Big Stone desires to participate in the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency, HOME Rental Rehabilitation Program, and administer it in accordance with all applicable State and Federal regulations; and

WHEREAS, in order to participate in the program it is necessary for the County of Big Stone to file an application signed by the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership Executive Director with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency; and

WHEREAS, the need for Big Stone County Board approval concerning the submission of Application for Administrative Authority.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Big Stone County, that the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership Executive Director is authorized to:

- 1. File an Application for Administrative Authority with the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for participation in the HOME Rental Rehabilitation Program:
- 2. Administer through the Southwest Minnesota Housing Partnership program funds awarded by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency for the rehabilitation of rental property in the County of Big Stone.

Attorney Watson reported that there would be an added expense of an expert witness for an upcoming trial for testimony on parental rights. The estimated cost is \$2,500 - \$5,000. It will also be discussed at the Welfare Board meeting.

Commissioner Swigerd reported that the Purchasing Committee authorized the purchase of previously used work stations from Prime West Health System for offices in the courthouse.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Janssen and carried to purchase a walk-behind broom for \$2,699.95.

Chairman Athey declared the public hearing open at 9:00 AM to take public comment on public vs. private land acquisition. There were 33 interested parties in attendance. Following many comments and much discussion from both sides, Chairman Athey adjourned the hearing.

Following a break, motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to authorize payment of the following claims:

General	\$55,904.45
Highway	38,172.13
Taxes & Penalties	296.80
Total	\$94,373.38

Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to execute the Lease Agreement with the State of Minnesota, acting for the benefit of the Department of Public Safety, for the use of Countryside Community Room for a driver exam station and related activities commencing on February 24, 2006 and continuing through February 23, 2007.

Auditor Knutson and Treasurer Cindy Nelson were present to discuss the transfer of the tax forfeiture proceedings from the Auditor's office to the Treasurer's office. Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Janssen and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2006-11

WHEREAS, the State Auditor's Office has the authority to grant a waiver from administrative rules or procedural laws; and

WHEREAS, M.S. 375A.121 currently allows for the reassignment of specific duties of the delinquent tax process from the County Auditor to the County Treasurer; and WHEREAS, the County Treasurer is currently assigned the responsibility for delinquent tax administration through the judgment stage as defined in the "Delinquent Tax and Tax Forfeiture Manual" developed by the MN Department of Revenue; and WHEREAS, it is agreed that it would be more efficient to assign all of the delinquent tax proceedings, including tax forfeiture, to one department.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby requests the State Auditor to grant a waiver allowing the reassignment of all delinquent tax and tax forfeiture duties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if the waiver is granted, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby assigns all delinquent tax proceedings, including tax forfeiture, to the County Treasurer.

County Engineer Nick Anderson updated the Board on the State Park projects.

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

2006-12

BE IT RESOLVED that Big Stone County needs temporary and permanent easements across state land located in Section 31 Township 123 N Range 46 W in order to construct and maintain drainage ditches adjacent to County Road 63. Roadway reconstruction is scheduled for the summer of 2006.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Highway Engineer is authorized to act on behalf of Big Stone County and make application to the State purchase or transfer of said easement.

The Board was informed that the DNR Trails public forum meeting is set for March 2nd rather than March 8th as stated earlier.

Steve Delehanty of the Fish and Wildlife Service arrived at the meeting.

Discussion was held on Centennial Wetland. Delehanty encouraged Engineer Anderson and the Board to meet with the project Engineer, Doug Litetzky and/or Dianne Radermacher of the UMRWD to express their concerns on this issue.

Delehanty informed the Board of a \$5,000 grant which the County will be receiving from the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation to be used for weed control in Big Stone County.

Delehanty also reported on the results of a study done on the economic value of public land.

Donnette Herberg of the Big Stone Lake Area Chamber informed the Board of a request to set up a Farmers Market on the grounds of the Big Stone County Historical Society. The Board directed Attorney Watson to check into the insurance issue. Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to approve a Farmers Market contingent on the attorney's findings.

Discussion was held on Medicare-Part D for the retirees. Retiree Lila Benson was present for the discussion.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to execute the contract for the courthouse renovation as presented by Engineer Anderson.

Engineer Anderson left the meeting

The Board directed HR/EM Director Darlene Nichols-Born to send each retiree a letter requesting which insurance option works best for them.

Nichols-Born presented the Board with a summary of the Employee Performance Reviews which were held during a closed session at the February 7th meeting. The results are as follows:

Nicholas Anderson – exemplary job

Darren Wilke – excellent job

Dan Hanratty – excellent job

Sandy Vold – excellent job

Darlene Nichols-Born – the Board thanked Ms. Nichols-Born for her work and wished her well in her retirement

Nichols-Born also updated the Board on the status of the hiring process for the HR Director position.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 12:15 PM.

	ATTEST <u>:</u>
Wade Athey, Chairman	Laura Berger, Clerk