

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
February 7, 2006

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 7, 2006. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Tomschin, Janssen, Olson and Swigerd present. Also present were Elsie Perrine, HR/EM Director Darlene Nichols-Born, County Attorney Bill Watson, County Auditor Michelle Knutson, 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 January 17th regular meeting and the January 31st special meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to approve the agenda with noted addition.

Lila Benson arrived at the meeting.

Committee reports were presented.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Janssen and carried to execute the Purchase of Service Agreement for welfare fraud between Big Stone County Family Service Center and William J. Watson, Attorney at Law.

Attorney Watson stated that the ongoing workers' compensation case has been resolved.

Discussion was held on the billing of copies made by Watson's law office. Olson and Swigerd were assigned to a committee to research other County Attorneys' billing practices and are to report back with their recommendations.

Commissioner Olson brought up the possibility of a computer for the use of the Commissioners somewhere in the courthouse. Auditor Knutson was asked to bring it up at the Department Head meeting for their input.

Discussion was held regarding the County's previous financial commitment towards the construction of dugouts at Toqua Park. Review of board minutes verified that the County would contribute up to \$1,200.00.

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

General	\$134,384.65
Highway	<u>27,347.04</u>
Total	\$161,731.69

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to hire Jodi Laforge as a regular full-time Deputy Sheriff, effective February 7, 2006.

County Assessor Sandy Vold arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Swigerd and carried to appoint Commissioner Olson to the Regional Development Commission, replacing Commissioner Swigerd.

County Recorder Gloria Arndt arrived at the meeting.

Following a discussion on restructuring, motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to authorize employees to develop a proposal to improve processes in the land records area.

Assessor Vold, Recorder Arndt and Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Following a break, County Engineer Nick Anderson provided an update on County highway projects. Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to

authorize payment of \$2,000/acre for the purchase of right-of-way for the County Rd 63 project.

The Board was informed that a DNR Trails public forum meeting has been set for March 8, 2006, from 4:30 -7:00 PM.

Discussion was held concerning possible use of the Big Stone County tower by Grant County for their 911 service.

Engineer Anderson stated that he is working with the contractor on getting a performance bond for the Courthouse renovation project. Once the bond is received, the contract can be executed.

Anderson reported that the Highway Department will be purchasing a new phone system.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Janssen and carried to execute the joint powers agreement with Lac qui Parle County regarding the reconstruction of Bridge #5980 over the Minnesota River.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to pay ditch viewers per diem.

Transportation Day at the Capitol is set for March 13, 2006.

The Highway's five-year planning meeting will be moved to August to coincide with budget planning, with the road tour to be set a few weeks before.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried to donate the old 911 shed to the BSLA Hockey Association for storage.

Attorney Watson returned to the meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to close the meeting for performance reviews.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Tomschin and carried to re-open the meeting.

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

2006-09

BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners, that a private abstracting business will no longer be allowed to operate from the courthouse after December 31, 2006.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 12:27 PM.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Laura Berger, Clerk