

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

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 21, 2006. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Tomschin, Janssen, Olson and Swigerd present. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Bill Watson, Human Resources Director Sue Schultz, and Clerk Laura Berger. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Commissioner Athey introduced and welcomed Sue Schultz as the Human Resources Director.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Janssen and carried to approve the minutes of the March 7th regular meeting.

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

Committee reports were presented.

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

General	\$37,214.24
Highway	13,449.53
Taxes & Penalties	<u>120.40</u>
Total	\$50,784.17

Auditor Knutson also reviewed the County's meal reimbursement policy and mileage claims.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to authorize the advertising and sale of the Sheriff's Department's 1998 Expedition.

Motion by Swigerd and seconded by Janssen to authorize the Deputy Sheriff/Emergency Management Director (EMD) position to be included in the Sheriff's Department and adopt the following resolution:

2006-16

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes §353.64, Subd. 5a permits the governing body of a governmental subdivision to continue membership in the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan of a Police and Fire member who is transferred to a different position with associated police and fire department functions in the same department within the same governmental subdivision.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Big Stone County hereby declares that the position titled Deputy Sheriff/Emergency Management Director currently held by Brian Dahl meets all of the following Police and Fire membership requirements:

1. The position to which this employee is being transferred has associated police department functions in the same department within this same governmental subdivision.
2. Said position is not that of an elected official of the County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body hereby requests that the above-named employee be allowed to continue as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan until date of termination for this position.

Motion carried following confirmation from EMD Dahl that the position could report to the Sheriff.

Discussion was held on Federated Telephone renting space on the County's tower for internet service. The Board asked that the discussion be tabled until the next meeting to allow the Sheriff and County Engineer to meet and report back with their recommendations.

Commissioner Olson distributed financial information he had gathered regarding county attorney offices. Olson recommended that the Commissioners, along with the Auditor's office and the County Attorney, continue the discussion when budget reviews begin.

The Board authorized HR Director Sue Schultz to attend the MCHRMA conference on April 6th & 7th in St. Cloud.

Engineer Anderson updated the Board on the 2006 construction projects. Discussion was held on the County Road #63 project.

Engineer Anderson presented the Big Stone County Highway Department's 2005 Annual Report to the Board for their review.

Engineer Anderson reported that the expected date to lift the load restrictions is May 12th.

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

2006-17

WHEREAS, Minnesota's transportation infrastructure forms the backbone of the state's economy and has a direct impact on future economic development; and

WHEREAS, too many Minnesotans are being killed in traffic crashes on dangerous roadways; and

WHEREAS, funding for highway and transit systems in Minnesota has remained stagnant and is failing to keep pace with growing population and growing demands; and

WHEREAS, local governments throughout the state are struggling to maintain local transportation systems while the state's gas tax has not been increased since 1988 and transit budgets have been cut in recent years; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature has repeatedly turned to revenue from the motor vehicle sales tax, which has been viewed as user fee revenue, in order to fund both highway and transit systems including the current dedication of 54% of motor vehicle sales tax for transportation purposes; and

WHEREAS, the legislature passed a proposed constitutional amendment during the 2005 Legislative Session that would appear on the ballot November 7, 2006 asking voters if the remaining 46% of motor vehicle sales tax revenue currently used for other purposes should be used for highways and transit systems; and

WHEREAS, passage of this amendment would mean an increase in stable revenue for highway and transit systems throughout the state that would rise to approximately \$300 million per year once the transfer of revenue is fully phased-in by 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Big Stone County strongly supports passage of the proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution dedicating all of the motor vehicle sales tax revenue to transportation with the understanding that the amendment will guarantee 60% of funds to highways through the Highway User Tax Distribution Fund.

Engineer Anderson reported that notice had been received regarding bridge bonding money for the bridge at the foot of Big Stone Lake. Construction is planned for 2007.

Keith Anderson was present to ask the Board for direction regarding services available for business research. The Board invited Mr. Anderson to attend the meeting they will be scheduling with Ortonville's City Council, and possibly tour his building in Beardsley at that time.

Following a break, discussion was held regarding the County Road #63 project. Doug Adelman, Doug Nelson, Ted Eifealdt, Inez and Anna Marie Larson and Bruce Nelson were present to express their concerns. Chairman Athey thanked them for coming to the meeting.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Liz Struve of the Minnesota Small Business Development Center presented the Board with informational packets of the services they provide and encouraged the Board to contact them for assistance.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 11:23 AM.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Laura Berger, Clerk