

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
April 4, 2006

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, April 4, 2006. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Tomschin, Janssen, Olson and Swigerd present. Also present were Elsie Perrine, Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Bill Watson, Human Resources Director Sue Schultz, and Clerk Laura Berger. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the March 21st regular meeting.

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

Committee reports were presented.

Attorney Watson stated the worker's compensation matter has been settled.

Attorney Watson reported on the Minnesota Court Information System (MNCIS). Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to approve access to MNCIS to the Big Stone County Attorney's Office and the Big Stone County Sheriff's Office. The MNCIS system is a statewide system of court records and will include access to electronic case record information and confidential case records with the Minnesota District Courts for information that is not accessible to the public.

HR Director Schultz provided information on Medicare Part D. The Insurance Committee has reviewed the costs and options and recommends that the County retirees' prescription drug coverage switch from the current Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) supplemental policy to the Medicare Part D, Option 2, with BCBS as the Plan Administrator. A further recommendation was made that the County set up a pool of funds to reimburse members when they reach the "gap" (\$2,250 to \$3,600) in coverage. Contingent upon approval from Attorney Watson, motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to authorize the implementation of the Committee's recommendations as presented by May 15, 2006, or when eligible.

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

| | |
|---------|-----------------|
| General | \$43,734.79 |
| Highway | <u>9,080.51</u> |
| Total | \$52,815.30 |

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the following transfer:

| | |
|----------------------------|-------------|
| Family Services to General | \$19,542.50 |
|----------------------------|-------------|

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Swigerd and carried to approve the Consumption & Display Permit for the Graceville Golf Club.

George Taylor arrived at the meeting.

Sheriff Joe Berning reported on the Regional Jail Study. Upon Sheriff Berning's recommendation, motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to notify the West Central Counties Regional Jail Feasibility Steering Committee that, due to it being economically unfeasible, Big Stone County is declining further involvement in the project.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Janssen and carried to execute the agreement between Sprint Communications, Big Stone County and the State of Minnesota for implementation of the 911 telephone system.

Concerns were expressed regarding pagers that didn't respond to a call from the Beardsley Fire Department. The Board directed Gene Johnson from Milbank Communications to look into the problem.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried to accept the resignation of Big Stone County Sheriff Joe Berning with regret, effective July 3, 2006. Sheriff Berning stated that he would be available to assist during the interim period.

Sheriff Berning and Engineer Anderson were present to discuss the renting of space on the County's tower. Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried that upon completion of the contract with Grant County, the County advertise the availability of two spaces on the tower. The advertisement will include a provision of no interference, a minimum bid and a termination clause.

Gary Haugen, Duane Johnson, Kevin Homan and George Taylor arrived at the meeting.

Dave Soehren and Brad Olson of the MN DNR were present regarding the purchase of land in Browns Valley Township. Discussion was held on the maintenance of ditches on land purchased by a government agency. Brad Olson stated that he would talk to the Upper MN Watershed District Office concerning the watershed. The Board asked that the DNR submit a letter of commitment stating their intent to maintain the ditches in their current condition. The proposal is to be presented to Attorney Watson prior to the next meeting. The approval for purchase was tabled until the next meeting.

A date was set for a joint meeting with Ortonville's City Council. It will be held on Friday, April 7th at 8:00 AM at Bobbi Jo's Cafe in Beardsley.

Discussion was held on the County Road #63 Project. The County Attorney's office will be sending letters to the adjoining land owners.

Following a job evaluation and upon recommendation by Family Services Director Dan Hanratty, motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried to raise the Office Support Specialist position, due to additional duties, from a grade 8 to a grade 9, retroactive to January 1, 2006.

Discussion was held regarding a request by Todd Dybdahl for permission to dig through a County road to lay tile. The Board tabled the discussion until the next meeting so that more information could be provided.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 10:40 AM.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Laura Berger, Clerk