

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**September 5, 2006**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 5, 2006. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Tomschin, Olson, Janssen, and Swigerd present. Also present were County Attorney Bill Watson, HR Director Sue Schultz, and Clerk Laura Berger. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Janssen and carried to approve the minutes of the August 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the agenda.

Committee reports were presented.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Swigerd and carried to close the meeting for attorney-client privilege pending civil litigation.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to re-open the meeting.

Attorney Watson reported that he will be sending out a license agreement to Federated Telephone for leasing space on the County's communication tower.

David Norgaard of Southwest Wind Consulting LLC was present to inform the Board of the community's opportunity to participate in the ownership of wind facilities and urge the Board, as local officials, to participate in the public hearings and informational meetings that are scheduled for October. Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Janssen and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2006-25**

WHEREAS, Otter Tail Power Company and other utilities have formally applied for Certificate of Transmission Facilities in Western Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the transmission facilities for which application has been submitted will transmit power from the Big Stone II power facility located in South Dakota to consumers in the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the environmental impacts of the new coal-burning facilities at the Big Stone plant are likely to have the greatest impact on Minnesotans; and

WHEREAS; the residents of the counties through which the transmission facilities are to be built will be impacted by both the generation and transmission facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is reasonable for the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission to require that utilities seeking Certificates of Transmission Facilities to develop renewable energy to mitigate, in part, the environmental impacts of coal-burning electric generation facilities and the siting of transmission lines; and

WHEREAS, the development of community-owned wind electric generation facilities can provide the opportunity for citizens most directly impacted by these facilities to secure benefits to offset the impact of the coal-burning generation and electric transmission facilities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners formally requests the opportunity to intervene and/or present testimony In the Matter of the Application of Otter Tail Power Company and Others for Certification of Transmission Facilities in Western.6 Minnesota (OAH Docket No. 12-2500-17037-2; MPUC Dkt No. CN-05-619) and In the Matter of the Application to the Minnesota Public

Utilities Commission for a Route Permit for the Big Stone Transmission Project in Western Minnesota (OAH Docket No. 12-2500-17038-2; MPUC Dkt No. TR-05-1275). FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board, on behalf of the citizens of the County, specifically requests that conditions be established on the Certificate of Need for Transmission Facilities that not less than 60 megawatts of wind generation facilities be developed in two or three locations in the counties impacted by the transmission facilities.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the community wind facilities' ownership structure be established so as to maximize the opportunity for local citizens to participate in the ownership of these wind facilities.

John Cunningham, Blair Johnson, Dave Torgerson, Burt Nypen, Audrey Rahlien, Joan Hasslen and Terry Gere were present for a discussion regarding the funding of a Countywide EDA. Cunningham presented the Board with a projected annual budget. Further discussion will be held during budget review.

Librarians Vicki Grimli and Ann Lauer were present to request further consideration of their 2007 budget request.

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

General	\$32,396.19
Highway	35,756.74
Ditch	<u>71.25</u>
Total	\$68,224.18

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Tomschin and carried to authorize payment to Business Telephone in the amount of \$10,455.80 as an Auditor warrant.

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

#### **2006-26**

WHEREAS, the County of Big Stone entered into Agreement No. 79742-P in 2001 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation and Traverse County for the sharing of a salt/sand storage building; and

WHEREAS, the original agreement terminated March, 2006; and

WHEREAS, amendment No.1 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 79742-P extends the termination date of the original agreement to March 23, 2011.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Big Stone hereby approved Amendment No.1 to Mn/DOT Agreement No. 79742-P.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board Chair and County Auditor are hereby authorized to execute said amendment for and on behalf of the County.

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

#### **2006-27**

WHEREAS, it appears that the original benefits or damages determined in County Ditches #5 and #21 do not reflect reasonable present day land values; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the present day land values of land benefited or damaged have changed.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the drainage authority hereby ordains that a Redetermination of Benefits and Damages pursuant to M.S. §103E. 351 is appropriate and that the same shall be carried out.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER that the redetermined benefits and damages and benefited and damaged areas shall hereafter be used in place of the original benefits and damages and benefited and damaged areas in all subsequent proceedings relating to the aforementioned drainage systems.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to execute a 5-year lease with the Farm Service Agency, effective December 1, 2006.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Tomschin and carried to execute the FY 2007 Performance Based Maintenance Grant Agreement for the Big Stone Lake Area Sno Riders with the MN DNR.

Motion by Janssen, seconded by Tomschin and carried to authorize the following ditch repair expenditures:

County Ditch #2	up to \$5,000
County Ditch #4	up to \$2,000

Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to execute an amendment to the 2004 State Homeland Security Grant to allow additional time to perform the services and tasks covered in the grant.

Motion by Swigerd, seconded by Tomschin and carried to authorize Engineer Nick Anderson to execute a Cooperative Agreement with the US Fish & Wildlife to receive a \$5,000 grant for the control of noxious weeds in Big Stone County.

Further discussion was held on the preliminary 2007 County Budget. Board consensus was to increase the 2006 Library appropriation by 8½% for 2007. In addition, Board consensus was to allocate \$50,000 towards economic development for 2007.

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

**2006-28**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the proposed 2007 budget be approved and the gross levy be established as follows:

General	\$2,019,639
Highway	755,000
Family Services	<u>808,500</u>
TOTAL	<u>\$3,583,139</u>

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 12:03 PM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Laura Berger, Clerk