

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
October 16, 2007

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 16, 2007. Chairman Tomschin called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Sandberg, Olson and Janssen present. Also present were Elsie Perrine, Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the October 2nd regular meeting.

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

Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to authorize the additional costs to prepare the Family Services building for the upcoming roof repair, including the replacement of the furnace on the north end of the building.

Attorney Watson reported on the tower site by Correll.

Attorney Watson updated the Board on the on-going Easy Heat litigation. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Janssen and carried to authorize an additional inspection to prove that XDETS cables are present in the Main Street Industries building.

Discussion was held on the Attorney's continuing education and travel budget. Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to authorize payment for continuing education if over budget.

Attorney Watson informed the Board that he may have to testify at the hearing for the Petition for Post Conviction Relief. If so, the County would have to hire an attorney to represent them in the matter.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize payment of \$6,975 out of Family Services to Minneapolis Center of Forensic Psychology.

Attorney Watson updated the Board on County Road #63.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Janssen and carried to authorize payment of the following claims as presented by Auditor Knutson:

General	\$ 27,039.36
Highway	30,246.55
Ditch	<u>175.50</u>
Total	\$ 57,461.41

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to reappoint William Stallman to the HRA Board for a 5-year term effective October 1, 2007.

Discussion was held on the letter received from the Upper MN River Watershed District regarding the need to appoint a board manager replacement to complete the term of Alvin Kamstra, who has resigned. The term runs through August 9, 2008. Motion by Athey to appoint Jeff Wolff. Motion failed for lack of a second. Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Olson and carried to appoint Terry Gillespie to fill out the remainder of the term.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the following transfers:

General to Highway	\$6,598.21
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Ditch to Highway		\$2,854.33
County Ditch #2	\$	468.97
County Ditch #4	\$	39.83
County Ditch #5	\$	134.25
County Ditch #8	\$	74.67
County Ditch #13	\$	89.50
County Ditch #21	\$	134.25
Combined Ditch #10 &11	\$	617.34
Joint Ditch #4	\$	1,146.18
Joint Ditch #7	\$	74.67
Joint Ditch #24	\$	74.67

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke and Dave Norgaard from Big Stone Wind were present to answer any questions the Board had regarding the Big Stone turbine project. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the Conditional Use Permit Applications by Big Stone Wind 1, 2, 3, 4, and 5 as recommended by the Planning Commission. Commissioner Olson abstained due to financial interest.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Tomschin and carried to accept the proposal of Dallas I. Hanson Construction in the amount of \$3,180 to repair the gutter system on the Courthouse.

Following break, Chairman Tomschin reconvened the hearing on County Ditch #21. The following were in attendance for the hearing: County Engineer Nick Anderson, Viewer John Cunningham, Delores Christianson, Elaine Gerber, Earl Holgerson, Jon Koch, Harriet Kidman, Don Stock, Randy Shelstad and Paul Maas. Engineer Anderson reported that more viewing had been done and one additional landowner had been added to the report. In addition, several landowners' benefits were reduced. Following discussion, Engineer Anderson presented the final viewers' report for the Board's approval. Chairman Tomschin declared the hearing adjourned at 10:17 AM. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to accept the final viewers' report as amended and discussed for the redetermination of County Ditch #21.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Janssen and carried to re-hire Robert Loraff as a part-time Deputy Sheriff at Grade 15 Step 4 effective October 5, 2007.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the hiring of Gayle Robinson as the Family Services Director at Grade 36 Step 4 effective November 1, 2007. Hiring is contingent upon satisfactory results of background and reference checks.

After contacting various vendors regarding a new furnace at Family Services and due to time constraints with scheduling and the weather, motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to accept the proposal from Berkner Plumbing and Heating for a new natural gas furnace for the north end of building.

Discussion was held on closing County offices for the entire day on December 24th as was done in 2001. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to close all County offices on December 24th.

Commissioner Sandberg left the meeting.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize moving expense reimbursement of up to \$2,500 to Gayle Robinson upon the submission of

invoices with \$1,250 to be paid on arrival and the remaining \$1,250 to be paid after 6 months of employment.

HR Director Schultz updated the Board on the compensation/classification study.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to amend the cafeteria plan documents to include dental premiums in the premium reimbursement plan. Allowing this is no additional cost to the County.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Janssen and carried to close the meeting at 10:47 AM to continue discussions on labor negotiation strategy.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to reopen the meeting at 11:54 AM.

Chairman Tomschin adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

Doug Tomschin, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor