

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**October 2, 2007**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 2, 2007. Chairman Tomschin called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Sandberg and Olson present. Commissioner Janssen was absent. Also present were 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 September 18<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the agenda with noted additions.

Committee reports were presented.

Commissioner Olson has been asked to serve on a committee established by the Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide rural input. Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Sandberg and carried to appoint Commissioner Olson to the Health Care Group to represent Big Stone County.

Discussion was held on trimming trees in Toqua Park. Consensus was to proceed as there is money in the park budget.

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

General	\$ 44,171.54
Highway	39,505.66
BSAG	<u>2,733.27</u>
Total	\$ 86,410.47

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize a transfer from Family Services to General in the amount of \$20,321.25 effective September 24, 2007.

Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Olson to appoint Brent Hasslen as a Board Manager to the Upper MN River Watershed District (UMRWD). Discussion was held regarding additional candidates not residing in District 4. Motion failed 2-2 with Commissioners Athey and Tomschin voting Nay. Appointment will be tabled until October 11<sup>th</sup> when Commissioner Janssen will be present.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to appoint Darren Wilke as the hearing officer as required by the Administrative Offense Procedures Ordinance.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the tobacco license of George's Bar & Grill, Inc. contingent upon receipt of the required application and fee.

Auditor Knutson reported that there will be a 3% increase in the County's Preventative Maintenance Agreement with G&R Controls effective November 1, 2007.

HR Director Sue Schultz updated the Board of upcoming meetings related to HR activities.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize setting up an additional flexible spending account option within the County's cafeteria plan.

Following break, County Engineer Nick Anderson reported the following bids had been received for the 1985 Dodge Pickup:

Scott Simonitch	\$602
Lon Moen	\$566
Steve Syverson	\$510
Ron Thompson	\$501
Darwin Karsky	\$388
Don Pullis	\$233

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to accept the high bid of \$602 by Scott Simonitch.

Engineer Anderson provided a trail update. It was discovered that there is a small piece of land that needs to be acquired from the railroad yet for right-of-way.

Discussion was held on Branch 3 of County Ditch #13. Engineer Anderson will meet with affected landowners to discuss available options.

Engineer Anderson asked the Board if they wanted to consider submitting insurance claims for damage to public property after an accident. Anderson explained that many vehicle accidents involve hitting signs posts, roadside markers, bridge barriers, and culvert ends. These all require repair by the County after the accident. Discussion followed about the State, utility companies, and many counties currently submitting these claims to the driver's insurance company, especially when there is a police report on the incident. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey to allow the Engineer to pursue claims with the parties involved for the collection of the County's repair costs following vehicle accidents involving a police report.

Upon the request of 4-H Program Coordinator Suzanne Souza and Federation Vice President Emily Burman, motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2007-29**

WHEREAS, 4-H is a community of young people learning leadership citizenship and life skills; and

WHEREAS, 4-H is one of the largest youth development organizations in Minnesota and the largest in the nation with 6.5 million young people; and

WHEREAS, 4-H in Minnesota claims 30,000 youth members and 9,000 adult 4-H leaders, while Big Stone County's 4-H program numbers more than 110 members and more than 60 volunteers; and

WHEREAS, 4-H, as a part of the University of Minnesota Extension Service, is a program where youth learn through hands-on experiences in science, engineering and technology, healthy living and citizenship projects, events and activities; and

WHEREAS, 4-H has been providing youth with the innovation research and resources from our nation's 106 land-grant universities and colleges for more than 100 years.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Doug Tomschin, Chairman of the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners do hereby proclaim October 7-13, 2007, as National 4-H Week in Big Stone County and urge the people of this community to take advantage of the opportunity to become more aware of this special program which enhances our young people's interests in their futures as part of Big Stone County 4-H Youth Development and to join us in recognizing the unique partnership between our county and our state University System.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Following further discussion on the board manager vacancy for the UMRWD, motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to appoint Brent Hasslen. Chairman Tomschin adjourned the meeting at 9:45 AM.

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Doug Tomschin, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor