

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
February 20, 2007

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 20, 2007. Chairman Tomschin called the meeting to order with Commissioners Janssen, Olson, Athey and Sandberg present. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Bill Watson and Clerk Laura Berger. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Janssen and carried to approve the minutes of the February 6th regular meeting.

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

Committee reports were presented.

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

2007-10

WHEREAS the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board was formed out of the Minnesota River Citizen Advisory Committee's recommendations and implemented by the State of Minnesota under former Governor Arne Carlson July 12, 1995; and

WHEREAS the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board has a state statute 103F.378, Section 471.59 governing the joint powers board; and

WHEREAS the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board received state funding during the years 1995-2001 and our county continues to pay dues and raise funds; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board was established to coordinate efforts to improve water quality; not to compete for the same monies as non-profit organizations, government agencies and watershed groups; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board will continue to request dues from its member counties for the purpose of supplementing administration and coordination of projects; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board has made great strides in promoting and coordinating CREP in the Minnesota River Basin, nutrient trading coordination, Clean Water Legacy Act funding, development of local and regional partnerships, integrated watershed model support, recommendations to the drainage task force, projects communications coordination through the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance and the Water Resources Center, and communications through a new website (<http://www.minnesotariver.org/>) and newsletter; and

WHEREAS, with additional funding the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board will expand programs on educating the public and watershed staff about water related issues and assist partners in obtaining additional funding for projects on the ground; and

WHEREAS, this County is a member in good standing of the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board and contributes to the mission.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this County affirms our belief in the mission of the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board, our desire to continue supporting the Board and its mission, and recognizes the value of this Board's actions.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED we support legislative action to reinstate funding for the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Board, aka Minnesota River Board (MRB) to further enhance its Mission and Results.

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

2007-11

WHEREAS, the Job Opportunity Building Zone (JOBZ) program, created in Minnesota Session Laws 2003, 1st Special Session, Chapter 21, Article 1, allows for the formation of tax free zones; and

WHEREAS, a tax free zone designation and certain JOBZ sub-zone acres in Big Stone County have been approved by the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development; and

WHEREAS, a business is interested in developing in the City of Beardsley in the former school building which is a distressed property and has thus created a pressing need for additional economic development incentives in that community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beardsley was not included in the regional JOBZ application at the time of its submission; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beardsley has recently approved a Sub-Zone Resolution of Approval to Authorize Tax Exemptions in their community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ortonville has received approval of certain sub-zone acres in their community; and

WHEREAS, the City of Ortonville wishes to transfer to the City of Beardsley up to one and one-half (1.5) acres from the City of Ortonville's Sub-Zone Area #1; and

WHEREAS, this transfer of acres will not result in a net loss or net gain of JOBZ sub-zone acres in Big Stone County; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County wishes to support the City of Beardsley in economic development activities.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners finds this transfer of JOBZ sub-zone acres to be consistent with the economic development objectives outlined in Resolution No. 2003-34; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners approves the transfer of sub-zone acres from the City of Ortonville to the City of Beardsley and approves said acres to be included in the JOBZ areas of Big Stone County.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Big Stone County agrees to provide to the new JOBZ sub-zone acres in the City of Beardsley all of the local tax exemptions and credits required and provided for under the JOBZ legislation and agrees to forgo the tax benefits resulting from the local and state tax exemptions and credits provided under the JOBZ legislation.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to close the meeting to discuss the Piper Street litigation.

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

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

General	\$28,268.51
Highway	<u>16,074.22</u>

Total \$44,342.73

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Janssen and carried to authorize the following quarterly transfer for BSAG's 2007 appropriation:

General to BSAG \$12,500

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to appoint Commissioners Olson and Tomschin as the County's representatives to the BSAG Board.

Motion by Janssen, seconded by Olson and carried to ratify payment of the following Auditor's warrants:

General	\$6,902.91
BSAG	<u>150.00</u>
Total	\$7,052.91

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to execute the service agreement with Waste Management for Toqua Park.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize HR Director Schultz to prepare and submit a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a classification and compensation plan.

Following break, discussion was held with Sheriff John Haukos regarding Beardsley Fire Department's FCC licensing issues in connection with their tower grant. Sheriff Haukos also updated the Board on the County's future emergency communication system requirements.

County Engineer Nick Anderson presented the Board with a resolution requesting comprehensive road and transit funding in 2007. Motion by Olson to adopt the resolution as presented. Motion failed for lack of a second. The Board will review the resolution and address it again at the next meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the 2007 Amendment to the MCIT Drug and Alcohol Testing Program Participation Agreement, as presented by Engineer Anderson.

Discussion was held on the need to remove trees and brush on County Ditch #20. Engineer Anderson reported that the Highway Department will be doing the maintenance.

Attorney Watson updated the Board on County Road #63. Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to proceed with the project, including authorizing Engineer Anderson to hire an appraiser and start the condemnation process, if needed.

Chairman Tomschin adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM.

Doug Tomschin, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Laura Berger, Clerk