

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**February 6, 2007**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 6, 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 Janssen, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the January 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Committee reports were presented.

Attorney Watson reported to the Board that a "Motion to Amend Complaint" had been received in the Piper Street issue.

Attorney Watson stated that the County won the appeal on the "Termination of Parental Rights" case.

HR Director Sue Schultz arrived at the meeting.

Discussion was held concerning the Committee appointment to the Citizens for Big Stone Lake. Board consensus was to continue with the appointment for one year and review if it is beneficial to the County to continue with the committee after that time.

County Recorder Elaine Martig provided the Board with a report on fees collected for 2005 and 2006 and vital statistics for 2006. Martig also reported that the Recorder's Office is in compliance with recording requirements per MS 357.182.

Recorder Martig reported that the Recorder's Office will start the process of hiring a temporary, part-time person.

Upon Recorder Martig's recommendation, motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to appoint Karol Stotesbery as Chief Deputy Recorder at a grade 13 step 12 effective February 6, 2007.

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

General	\$ 78,687.75
Highway	17,486.00
Ditch	5,966.50
State	<u>225.00</u>
Total	\$102,365.25

Discussion was held on the dumpster at Toqua Park. The Board directed Auditor Knutson to check into options available and report back.

Auditor Knutson reported that the State Auditor issued an unqualified opinion on the 2005 Big Stone County Financial Statements. Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried that the financial statements be approved and ordered published.

Knutson also reported that Federated is planning on installing their equipment on the County's tower in July, with service to customers tentatively set for August.

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

**2007-08**

WHEREAS, US Code of Federal Regulations, Title 42, Part 435.1008 states that federal financial participation (FFP) is not available in expenditures for services provided to individuals who are inmates of public institutions; and

WHEREAS, States being unable to assume the federal share of providing medical services to FFP eligible persons being held in county jails and detention facilities, tend to terminate or sometimes suspend eligibility; and

WHEREAS, this immediate cessation of benefits occurs prior to the issuance of formal charges or conviction; and

WHEREAS, counties must provide medical services to all persons incarcerated in local jails and detention facilities; and

WHEREAS, as the result of this regulation to immediately cease FFP for medical benefits, all costs of medical care must be borne solely by counties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners requests and strongly urges Congress to amend necessary federal statutes to allow federal financial participation for medical benefits to incarcerated individuals until convicted and sentenced to secure detention.

Upon recommendation of HR Director Schultz, motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2007-09**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners, the Family Services Director is hereby authorized to hire such temporary miscellaneous and semi-skilled labor as may from time to time be required at the prevailing rates in the community.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Janssen and carried to approve the Pay Equity Implementation Report as presented by HR Director Schultz.

Upon Sheriff John Haukos' recommendation, motion by Athey, seconded by Janssen and carried to appoint Deputy David Hills as Chief Deputy. Sheriff Haukos will review and submit an updated job description for pay grade level classification. The step will then be reviewed by the Personnel Committee and brought to the Board.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the updated Sheriff Department fees as presented by Sheriff Haukos.

Following a break, County Engineer Nick Anderson and Highway Technician Terry LaVoi, along with 9 interested parties, were present to discuss the County Road #63 project.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the advertising and sale of the Highway Department's 1991 Dodge Pickup and 1996 Chevy Blazer.

Vince Robinson of Development Services, Inc (DSI) and John Cunningham of Big Stone Area Growth (BSAG) were present for a discussion regarding economic development within the County. Also present for the discussion were Auditor Knutson, Deputy Auditors Sharon Finke and Heather Henrich, Burt Nypen, Rusty Dimberg and Audrey Rahlien. Robinson summarized the services that DSI will be providing. Administrative support will temporarily be provided by the Auditor's Office staff. BSAG's Board of Directors will be restructured to include two County Commissioners, one representative from each Commissioner District and two members at-large.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the expenditure of an additional 10% of the appraised value for right-of-way for the County Road #63 project.

Chairman Tomschin adjourned the meeting at 11:32 AM.

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Doug Tomschin, Chairman

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