

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

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 20, 2007. Chairman Tomschin called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Sandberg, Olson and Janssen present. 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 Janssen, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the minutes of the March 6th regular meeting as amended.

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

Committee reports were presented. Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Discussion was held on the space needs for livestock at the county fair.

Commissioner Olson reported that representatives had been out to look at the barn he offered to donate and indicated they were planning to move it to the fairgrounds. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize an additional \$5,000 to the Fair Board for various projects at the livestock area on the fairgrounds in honor of the 100th anniversary of the county fair in Clinton and the 75th anniversary of 4-H in Big Stone County.

Commissioner Olson led the follow-up discussion on broadcasting the board meetings. As requested, Auditor Knutson reported that the Departments Heads had discussed it and were in support of the idea due to the fact that it would improve internal communications. Following further discussion, motion by Sandberg and seconded by Olson to broadcast the meetings to Department Heads via their computers. Motion failed with Commissioners Tomschin, Athey and Janssen voting Nay.

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

General	\$34,550.55
Highway	<u>30,535.45</u>
Total	\$65,086.00

Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to execute the amendment to the lease with the State of Minnesota, acting for the benefit of the Department of Public Safety, for the use of Countryside Community Room for a driver exam station and related activities extending it through February 29, 2008.

Countryside Public Health Administrator Liz Auch was present to request funds toward the purchase of a new phone system for the Big Stone County location. Countryside Public Health will purchase the phones. Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to authorize up to \$2,220 for the purchase and installation of the system.

Following break, Don Kleven of the US Fish & Wildlife was present to request certification of acquisition of land in Big Stone Township. Steve Delehanty of US Fish was also present. Motion by Olson and seconded by Sandberg to certify for acquisition the following described property: T122N, R46W, 5th P.M., Section 4, the south 13 chains of Government Lot 8. Motion carried with Commissioner Janssen voting Nay.

Discussion was held with Mr. Delehanty regarding a tour of the County to view the public land ownership. A date was tentatively set for April 12th beginning at 10:00 AM.

Commissioner Tomschin discussed a call he had received regarding a Deputy Sheriff driving a county vehicle to his residence outside the County. Board consensus was to continue to allow this arrangement based on previous board approval and the benefits to the County.

HR Director Sue Schultz distributed information on diversity training (Understanding People, Understanding Culture) through the University of MN Extension Service for the Board's review.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize HR Director Schultz to assist the City of Ortonville with background checks on their Clerk/Administrator candidates.

Discussion was held on the updated Section 320 of the Employee Handbook. Adoption will follow once final revisions have been completed.

Motion by Janssen, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the classification of the Chief Deputy Sheriff position at a Grade 21 and place Chief Deputy David Hills at Step 11 effective February 6, 2007.

Discussion was held on the possible pro-ration of cafeteria benefits for part-time employees to assist with health insurance.

Board consensus was to direct HR Director Schultz to begin the preliminary work in preparation for labor negotiations.

Attorney Watson returned to the meeting.

Discussion was held on the need to hold a work session to clarify the role of Human Resources. A session was tentatively scheduled for April 10, 2007 at 10:00 AM.

Discussion was held on HR concerns regarding performance management.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to close the meeting for labor negotiations.

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

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to offer a counter proposal regarding Family Services On-Call Compensation.

Chairman Tomschin adjourned the meeting at 11:08 AM.

Doug Tomschin, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor