

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
April 3, 2007

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, April 3, 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, Swantje Willers with Department of Corrections, Sheriff John Haukos, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Sheriff Haukos introduced Department of Corrections District Supervisor Swantje Willers to the Board and distributed the STS annual report for their review. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Janssen and carried to execute the Sentence to Serve (STS) contract with the State of Minnesota for the next biennium.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the March 20th regular meeting.

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

Attorney Watson updated the Board on Family Services On-Call Compensation agreement. Final approval will be requested at the next meeting.

Attorney Watson presented a Court of Appeals update.

Attorney Watson informed the Board that there may be some upcoming costs if he decides to file a petition for commitment relating to a recent conviction of a crim sex case.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Janssen and carried to execute a Declaration indicating that any sale or lease of the landfill property may be subject to the Finance Commissioner's approval as required by the MPCA. Execution is contingent upon verification that it only includes Lot B of the property.

Sheriff Haukos reported that he has received a request for a 3-month leave of absence and resignation from Deputy Laforge. For sake of discussion, motion by Olson and seconded by Tomschin to accept the request of absence and direct the Sheriff to hire a temporary fulltime Deputy. Following discussion, motion by Olson and seconded by Tomschin to amend the motion to include just the request for leave of absence. Motion failed with Commissioners Janssen, Sandberg and Athey voting Nay. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept Deputy Laforge's resignation.

Upon request by Sheriff Haukos, motion by Janssen, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize hiring a regular fulltime Deputy Sheriff to replace Laforge. Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to authorize hiring two additional part-time Deputies to be called on when needed.

Sheriff Haukos updated the Board on his recent meeting with the Beardsley Fire Department and Gene Johnson from Milbank Communications. They will be requesting an extension of their FCC license while working on updating to narrow band.

Sheriff Haukos also informed the Board that he has begun meetings with Swift and Kandiyohi Counties to discuss the possibility of a regional Public Safety Answering Point (PSAP) with the State providing some funding to do the study.

Discussion was held on updating security for the Sheriff's Department.

Sheriff Haukos distributed a packet of information regarding the above related issues for the Board's review.

Watson and Haukos left the meeting.

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

General	\$27,881.45
Highway	<u>11,666.11</u>
Total	\$39,547.56

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize a transfer of \$21,116.01 from Family Services to General.

Discussion was held on the possible use of the Board Room computer for Township Clerks to file their annual report if they do not have on-line access. Board consensus was to allow the use.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to submit a guest editorial to the newspaper regarding the Child Protection and Safety Act.

County Engineer Nick Anderson updated the Board on various Highway Department activities.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Janssen and carried to authorize the installation of a cattle fence on Joint Ditch #7.

Engineer Anderson gave a report on the Headwaters Trail. Plans are ready to be sent in for approval, but there is a right-of-way issue with the Surface Transportation Board.

Chairman Tomschin adjourned the meeting at 10:25 AM.

Doug Tomschin, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor