

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**October 21, 2008**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 21, 2008. Chairman Janssen called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Sandberg and Olson present. Commissioner Tomschin was absent. Also present were Elsie Perrine, Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the minutes of the October 7<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Committee reports were presented. Attorney Bill Watson and County Engineer Nick Anderson arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize per diem and related expenses be paid to Commissioner Athey for attending Board Leadership Academy training.

Attorney Watson reported that the final certificate has been filed regarding the condemnation on the County Road #63 project.

Engineer Anderson reported that he had received a Public Waters Cease and Desist Order on County Ditch #2. A brief history of the ditch and what has been done was provided. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to begin the process of appealing the order.

Attorney Watson and Engineer Anderson left the meeting.

Ortonville Councilman Bob Meyer and Sheriff John Haukos were present for a continued discussion on the space needs of both the City and County. The various options, as well as bonding, were discussed.

Discussion was held on the installation of a keyless entry security system. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize installing the system for law enforcement and the courthouse as presented by Sheriff Haukos.

Countryside Public Health Administrator Liz Auch presented their 2009 budget and updated the Board on her agency's activities.

Following a break, Carolyn Engebretson, representing the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) was present to request a resolution of support and update the Board on the RRBC activities. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2008-25**

WHEREAS, we recognize that our actions today impact the legacy we leave the next generation; and

WHEREAS, we realize that working together allows us to develop and implement creative solutions to problems that work toward the betterment of the whole basin; and

WHEREAS, the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) is a unique organization that facilitates a cooperative approach within the basin as a well established forum for identifying, developing and implementing solutions to cross boundary issues; and

WHEREAS, the RRBC has developed the Red River Basin Natural Resource Framework Plan (RRB-NRFP) through in-depth basin-wide consultation as a guideline

to help unite the basin in achieving a collaborative and cooperative approach to land and water management within the basin.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Big Stone County hereby declares support for the RRB-NRFP in principle as a guideline for moving forward with a shared vision for the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Big Stone County will do our part by implementing projects, programs, and actions in our area as we are able that will contribute to this shared vision.

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

General	\$39,699.05
Highway	39,018.13
Ditch	102.68
Taxes and Penalties	127.20
State	<u>30.00</u>
Total	\$78,977.06

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the following internal transactions:

General to Highway	\$5,730.23
Ditch to Highway	\$2,102.24
County Ditch #2	\$124.70
County Ditch #4	\$130.51
Joint Ditch #4	\$474.40
Joint Ditch #7	\$ 76.35
Combined Ditch #10/11	\$551.10
County Ditch #12	\$ 90.35
County Ditch #13	\$592.48
County Ditch #16	\$ 62.35

Auditor Knutson reported that Bob Johnson is willing to also do the snow removal at the Courthouse and will be getting back to the County with a price.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to amend the 2001 Joint Powers Agreement with Pioneerland Library System as recommended by MCIT.

Due to the annual AMC conference, the December board meeting dates were set for December 16<sup>th</sup> and December 30<sup>th</sup>.

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

#### **2008-26**

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of maintaining aggregate resources for the general economy of the County; and  
WHEREAS, the County Board recognizes that property taxes are an important consideration as to the viability of the aggregate industries located in the County; and  
WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has an ad valorem property tax system based on the full market value of real estate or personal property; and  
WHEREAS, the provisions of Minn. Stat. §. 273.1115, Aggregate Resource Preservation Property Tax Law, grants special and unique treatment to owners of land

containing aggregate deposits, in comparison with other property in the County, therefore shifting the tax burden on these properties to other taxpayers; and WHEREAS, the provisions of Minn. Stat. § 273.1115, Aggregate Resource Preservation Property Tax Law, allow a county to terminate application of this law; and WHEREAS, a county may reauthorize application of this law by a resolution of the County Board revoking the termination; and WHEREAS, the County Board is required to hold a public hearing as part of the process to terminate application of this law; and WHEREAS, said public hearing has been scheduled for December 16, 2008. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby elects to begin the process of terminating participation in the Aggregate Resource Preservation Property Tax Law in Big Stone County.

County Engineer Nick Anderson reported that MCIT is no longer handling drug testing for the counties. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the agreement to perform drug testing on county employees with the current provider, First Lab, contingent upon Attorney Watson's review.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize Engineer Anderson to contact Bill Hartman to remove the garage that is on the trail right-of-way.

Discussion was held on the possible redetermination of benefits for Joint Ditch #4 as a result of a tile permit request from the Big Stone Hutterian Bretheran. It appears that an outlet fee will need to be assessed as some of the parcels affected are not benefitted into the ditch.

Commissioner Sandberg left the meeting to meet with representatives from USDA regarding the Family Services Building.

Discussion was held on Branch 3 of County Ditch #13. Board members were reminded that the petition for improvement is under the jurisdiction of the Watershed.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize renting a brush mower and tractor for ditch maintenance.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to award the bid for project CP 06-663-06 to Final Touch Excavating of East Bethel, MN.

Discussion was held on road ditch right-of-way and buffer strips. Board consensus was that the initial correspondence to landowners should come from the commissioners. Commissioner Olson will bring a draft press release to the next meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to allow part-time dispatchers to work limited custodial hours at Grade 4 Step 1 as recommended by HR Director Sue Schultz.

Board consensus was to support the Department Heads in allowing a reasonable amount of paid time off work for employees to go to their local clinic for flu shots at their own expense.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to approve Blue Cross' Alternative Option 2, at a cost of \$122 per month, as the Part D Medicare Drug Coverage provided to County retirees.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the 3% contract increase for preventative system maintenance with G&R Controls.

Chairman Janssen adjourned the meeting at 11:25 PM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Howard Janssen, Chairman

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