

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
December 30, 2008**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, December 30, 2008. Chairman Janssen called the meeting to order with Commissioners Tomschin, Athey, Sandberg and Olson present. Also present were 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 December 16th regular meeting.

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

Committee reports were presented. Family Services Director Gayle Robinson arrived at the meeting during the reports.

Commissioner Sandberg provided an IT update. Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Olson to authorize renewing the contract with Vertical Solutions to continue through March 31st at the current rate. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to amend the previous motion to include an accounting of hours from Vertical Solutions on a monthly basis. This will provide the Commissioners with a basis for planning future IT needs for the County.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to approve payment of the following claims:

General	\$ 65,677.43
Highway	62,470.95
Ditch	<u>2,190.00</u>
Total	\$130,338.38

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

Internal Transactions:

Ditch to General		\$18,404.00
County Ditch #2	\$ 168.00	
Combined Ditch #10/11	\$11,688.00	
County Ditch #14	\$ 2,852.00	
County Ditch #16	\$ 3,636.00	
County Ditch #21	\$ 60.00	
General to Ditch		\$ 2,700.00
County Ditch #2	\$ 1,200.00	
County Ditch #21	\$ 1,500.00	
Ditch to Highway		\$ 6,957.02
County Ditch #2	\$ 2,174.14	
County Ditch #8	\$ 178.21	
Combined Ditch #10/11	\$ 1,769.43	
County Ditch #13	\$ 997.60	
County Ditch #30	\$ 335.51	
Joint Ditch #4	\$ 1,502.13	
General to Highway		\$ 2,380.11
Transfer:		
General to Highway		\$66,000.00

Sheriff John Haukos arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the service agreement with Waste Management for the Government Building.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to appoint Stephanie Schumacher as the youth representative to the Extension Committee and to re-appoint Shawnda Johnson.

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

2008-32

WHEREAS, M.S. 375.055 provides that county commissioners shall receive annual salaries for services rendered while serving as a county commissioner and may receive per diem payments and reimbursement for necessary expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2009 salary of the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners shall remain at \$13,306.02 and the per diem rate shall remain at \$50.00 for service on any board, committee or commission or for the performance of services by individual commissioners when required by law.

Auditor Knutson reported that the County's 2008 state aid unallotment amount is \$64,100.

County Engineer Nick Anderson updated the Board on employees out on medical leave. Due to the short staffing, the County will not be plowing any private roads until further notice. Also, 40 miles of roads will be on limited snow removal. Most of these miles are already posted as minimum maintenance or no one homes are located on them.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on County Ditch #2. Attorney Deter and Anderson will be meeting with the MN DNR in St. Paul in January.

Engineer Anderson informed the Board that the contractor for the County Road #63 project, Final Touch, is apparently experiencing financial difficulties. He will keep the Board updated on the status of the contract.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to appoint the County Engineer as the County's Bridge Inspection Program Administrator.

Discussion was held on the proposal received from Ing Consulting Group to review possible savings/refunds on taxes paid by the County on its purchases. Consensus was to defer a decision until further information can be gathered.

Chairman Janssen thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve with them the last 4 years.

Chairman Janssen adjourned the meeting at 9:43 AM.

Howard Janssen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor