

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**February 19, 2008**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 19, 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, County Attorney Bill Watson, and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the February 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Committee reports were presented.

Attorney Watson informed the Board that due to a conflict of interest, there will be a cost to hire another attorney to represent the County.

Commissioner Sandberg clarified that in addition to the agreement with Vertical Solutions that was executed last meeting, the County is responsible for emergency on-call hours at the current rate the County pays for such services.

Discussion was held on possible cost reduction for drinking water in County buildings. The matter was referred to the Property Committee.

The RFP for the roof on the Family Services Building was discussed. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to waive the additional insurance coverage requested upon clarification from the County Engineer. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the RFP from Ward Construction contingent upon the County Engineer's approval.

Norm Glewwe and Josh Ripplinger of Wold Architects and Engineers were present to update the Board on how their firm could assist with providing options for the County's property/space concerns. They explained the process that would be used for gathering information to do the study. Representatives from the City of Ortonville, in addition to other County staff, were in attendance for the discussion. Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Olson to approve the contract with Wold Architects and Engineers to proceed with the planning process contingent upon the approval of a cost sharing agreement with the City of Ortonville. Following further discussion, motion carried.

Following break, motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to request Attorney Watson to research the contract with the West Central Regional Juvenile Center.

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

General	\$ 92,481.28
Highway	17,068.31
Ditch	200.00
BSAG	<u>80.00</u>
Total	\$109,829.59

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Tomschin and carried to execute the agreement with Swift County for sharing an Emergency Management Director effective March 1, 2008.

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

**2008-07**

WHEREAS, 2008 ditch assessments were established in Resolution 2008-01; and WHEREAS, the County has received additional invoices in relation to the redetermination of County Ditches #5 & 21 that would affect the 2008 assessments. BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the 2008 County Ditch Assessments originally established be amended as follows:

CD # 5	\$ 9,100 over 5 years
CD #21	\$18,000 over 5 years

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to establish a \$2.00/parcel administrative fee for special assessments certified by any city or township. This is consistent with the fee already charged for ditch assessments.

EJ Moberg of the State Auditor's Office was present for the exit interview on the County's 2006 audit. He reported that they issued an unqualified opinion on the 2006 Big Stone County Financial Statements. Commissioner Sandberg, the Board's rep to the Audit Committee, added congratulations to Auditor Knutson and county staff for their work. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried that the financial statements be approved and ordered published.

HR Director Sue Schultz reported that Union Representative Jon Anderson requested that the contracts be tabled for approval until the next meeting.

HR Director Schultz reported that the Personnel Committee met regarding the placement of employees on the new pay matrix. Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to approve the placement as presented with Commissioners Athey and Tomschin voting Nay.

Discussion was held on elected officials' salaries. The matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize paid and unpaid leave for Mary Amberg as presented by HR Director Schultz.

Discussion was held on office hours for the Extension Office. Board consensus was to have staff track calls and walk-ins in half-hour increments before any decisions are made.

County Recorder Elaine Martig reported that she is still working on a proposal for getting documents from 1991-2003 scanned and indexed into the Fidlar system.

Chairman Janssen adjourned the meeting at 11:08 AM.

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Howard Janssen, Chairman

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