

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
March 18, 2008

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 18, 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 Athey and carried to approve the minutes of the March 4th regular meeting.

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

Attorney Watson reported back on the County's agreement with West Central Regional Juvenile Center. The agreement was originally signed in 1996 for 20 years.

Attorney Watson provided an update on the County Road 63 project and reported that the hearing is scheduled for March 19th at 2:30 PM.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

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

Discussion was held on the payment of damages for work done on County Ditch #13. Motion by Olson and seconded by Janssen to authorize payment of damages in the amount of \$2,000 to Brian Hamann. Motion failed with Commissioners Tomschin, Athey and Sandberg voting Nay. Motion by Sandberg to authorize payment of \$1,650. Motion was rescinded. Motion by Athey, seconded by Janssen and carried to invite landowners to the April 1st board meeting to discuss the matter. Notice will be published.

Engineer Anderson reported that the County will be receiving \$550,000 of federal aid to fix the curves north of Johnson and on County Road 10.

Following break, motion by Tomschin, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize payment of the following claims as presented by Auditor Knutson:

General	\$40,703.20
Highway	33,301.83
Ditch	<u>447.25</u>
Total	\$74,452.28

Motion by Athey, seconded by Tomschin and carried to approve the tobacco license application of KJ's Kountry Store in Clinton effective April 1, 2008.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to send a letter in support of Big Stone Area Growth's application for a Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) from USDA Rural Development.

Discussion was held on a request for funding from the Ortonville EDA for a housing study. The Board felt that Grant County, SD should be contacted since they have over half of the available housing.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize an abatement on mobile home parcel #22-8355-000 as requested by County Treasurer Cindy Nelson.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke and Terry Lanoue and Torre Heiland from Waste Management were present to have a discussion on recycling. Mr. Lanoue

provided a review of their operation and moving to single-sort recycling was discussed. The Environmental Committee will be working on a new 5-year agreement.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to rescind the previous motion setting the Sheriff's 2008 salary due to the fact that after taking into account holiday pay, which all deputies receive, the amount set was less than the Chief Deputy's salary. Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Olson to set the 2008 Sheriff's salary at \$59,904.00. Following discussion, motion carried with Commissioners Athey and Tomschin voting Nay.

Sheriff John Haukos presented the 2007 annual report for the Sheriff's Office for the Board's review.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Athey and carried to transfer the squad that is being replaced from the Sheriff's Department to Emergency Management.

Chairman Janssen adjourned the meeting at 11:08 AM.

Howard Janssen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor