

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
March 4, 2008

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 4, 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 Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the February 19th regular meeting.

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

Committee reports were presented.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to execute the Mutual Aid Agreement for Emergency Management pursuant to MS §471.59 as presented by EM Director Jim Hasslen and approved by Attorney Watson. This agreement allows political subdivisions to make equipment, personnel and other resources available to other political subdivisions.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to reappoint Pat Dwyer, Richard Thomson and Vicki Oakes and appoint Ken Kellen to the Planning Commission for 3 year terms.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Tomschin and carried to reappoint Marlton (Bud) DeNeui and Charles Lindquist to the Board of Adjustment for 3 year terms.

The Board expressed their thanks to Kyle Gillespie for his years of service on the Planning Commission.

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

General	\$10,390.15
Highway	16,741.87
Ditch	11,313.75
BSAG	<u>3,146.94</u>
Total	\$41,592.71

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the audit engagement letter with the Office of the State Auditor for the 2007 audit.

Randy Nelson of Prairie Country RC&D presented an overview of 2007 projects and activities.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution and execute the Annual County Boat and Water Safety Grant Agreement:

2008-08

WHEREAS under the provisions of M.S. Section 86B.105, the Sheriff of each county is required to carry out the provision of Chapter 86B and the Boat and Water Safety Rules, hereinafter referred to as the "Minn. Rules", including patrol, enforcement search and rescue, watercraft inspection, waterway marking and accident investigation, all hereinafter referred to as the "Sheriff's Duties"; and

WHEREAS in connection with the Sheriff's Duties, M.S. Section 86B.701 provides that the County submit to the Commissioner of Natural Resources a budget to carry out the Sheriff's Duties; and

WHEREAS M.S. Section 86B.701 and the Minn. Rules provide for the allocation of funds by the Commissioner to the County based on certain criteria and conclusions to assist the funding of the Sheriff's Duties; and

WHEREAS the County has submitted a proposed budget to the State.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State shall reimburse the County up to \$2,036.00 for the activities stated in Chapter 86B.

Due to the fact that Big Stone County is the only benefited landowner assigned to County Ditch #28, motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to cancel the ditch assessment for 2008. Any expenditures will be paid as they are incurred.

Board consensus was to approve the new items for display in the rotunda by the Big Stone Arts Council.

Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Olson to approve the \$500 request for funding to be used towards the "Upper MN Valley Celebrating the Sesquicentennial Visual Arts Display". Motion carried with Commissioner Tomschin voting Nay.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to authorize the budgeted \$500 appropriation to help sponsor Meander 2008.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Athey and carried to amend the 2008 Emergency Management Budget as presented. The budget is being amended to reflect some additional grants and the sharing of a Director with Swift County.

Following break, motion by Athey, seconded by Tomschin and carried to accept the resignation of Karen Stone with regret effective March 5, 2008.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize hiring Clint Sova for the temporary part-time dispatcher position at Grade 6 Step 2 effective March 5, 2008. Motion by Olson, seconded by Janssen and carried to authorize the HR Director, if the need arises, to hire from the remaining list without further advertising.

Following lengthy discussion on elected officials' salaries, the following motions were made and carried:

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to set the 2008 Treasurer's salary at \$56,725.50 with Commissioners Athey and Tomschin voting Nay.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to set the 2008 Recorder's salary at \$46,098.00 with Commissioners Athey and Tomschin voting Nay.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to set the 2008 Auditor's salary at \$66,378.00 with Commissioners Athey and Tomschin voting Nay.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to set the 2008 Sheriff's salary at \$56,500.00 with Commissioners Athey and Tomschin voting Nay.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to set the 2008 Attorney's salary at \$76,966.50 with Commissioners Athey and Tomschin voting Nay.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the reclassification of the Financial Assistance Specialist position to a Grade 9 based on Rod Kelsey's review and the Family Services Director's approval.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to execute the union labor contracts with Family Services and Highway.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to approve the request of Eric Banken to use up to 40 hours paid leave of absence, per year, for volunteer EMT service as per the employee handbook Section 307.4, Emergency Volunteer Leave, and based upon the Department staffing needs.

Commissioner Tomschin left the meeting.

County Engineer Nick Anderson reviewed his time commitment to serving on the Ortonville City Council. Because the Board recognizes the benefits to the County from his service, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve Engineer Anderson's membership on the Ortonville City Council.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to execute the contract with Ward Construction for the roof on the Family Services building contingent upon Attorney Watson's review.

Engineer Anderson updated the Board on the trail and a ditch issue on Joint Ditch #24.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the Engineer to upgrade the 2006 and 2007 tractors to 2009 models at a cost of \$5,000.

Engineer Anderson reviewed the transportation bill and how it will affect Big Stone County.

Chairman Janssen adjourned the meeting at 11:35 AM.

Howard Janssen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor