

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
August 19, 2008

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

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the minutes of the August 5th regular meeting.

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

Commissioner Olson reported that the MN Board on Agency had voted down Region 6W's request to partner with the Land of the Dancing Sky Area Agency on Aging.

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

General	\$23,484.44
Highway	<u>20,742.78</u>
Total	\$44,227.22

Motion by Athey, seconded by Tomschin and carried to authorize payment to the MN County Recorders Association in the amount of \$50.00 as an Auditor Warrant.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to execute the service agreements with Waste Management for Toqua Park, the Courthouse and Family Services.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to approve 3-year assessment agreements with Otrej and Almond Townships.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to accept the request from Vertical Solutions to extend the current contract period until October 5, 2008, at no additional cost to the County.

County Engineer Nick Anderson presented a Certificate of Performance for CP-06-0801 with Kingsway Construction. Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2008-19

WHEREAS, County Project 06-0801 has in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts said completed project for and in behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorize final payment to Kingsway Construction in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

Discussion was held on bonding options available for counties. Engineer Anderson will arrange a meeting with a financing representative to explain further.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize removing the Highway Maintenance Supervisor position from the Union as per the Unit Clarification Order received from the Bureau of Mediation Services presented by HR Director Sue Schultz.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to place Highway Maintenance Supervisor Gary Haugen at Grade 13, Step 10 as it is now a non-union, exempt position.

Motion by Tomschin and seconded by Olson to change the mileage reimbursement amount to 75% of the IRS rate. Following discussion, motion carried.

Discussion was also held on meal reimbursement. The matter was referred to the Department Heads as they are in the process of reviewing the Employee Handbook.

Motion by Olson and seconded by Janssen to approve the hiring of Leslie Smith as a Social Worker for Family Services at Grade 11, Step 1 effective August 28, 2008, as presented by HR Director Sue Schultz. Following discussion, motion carried.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize increasing the limit on the Employee Health Care Reimbursement Account from \$3,000 to \$4,000 for the 2009 Open Enrollment period.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Tomschin and carried to execute the 2008 Emergency Management Preparedness Grant in the amount of \$11,487 as presented by Emergency Management Director Jim Hasslen.

Marc Vaillancourt from the Southwest Initiative Foundation presented an update on the Foundation.

Following a break, Bill Rois, a consultant for the Minnesota Climate Change Corps (CCC), informed the Board of the opportunity to participate in the effort to reduce the carbon footprint of Minnesota communities at no cost to the County. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to execute the agreement with the Minnesota CCC contingent upon the approval of the County Attorney and authorize Commissioner Olson to be the contact for the project.

Scott Bauer of the Graceville Ambulance was present to request additional funding for the ambulance service for 2009.

Discussion was held on the County's space needs and the results of the study prepared by Wold Architects. Various options were discussed. Department Heads Gayle Robinson, Sue Schultz and Nick Anderson were also present for the discussion.

The Board continued their review of the preliminary 2009 County budget. Chairman Janssen adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

Howard Janssen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor