

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
August 5, 2008

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, August 5, 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, Elsie Perrine, Josh Ripplinger, County Attorney Bill Watson, and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the minutes of the July 15th regular meeting.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the agenda with noted addition.

Committee reports were presented.

Attorney Watson reported that land commissioners had been appointed for the County Road #63 project and have viewed the property. They have 90 days to submit their report to the Court.

Connie Nygard and Kristi Fernholz from Western MN Prairie Waters were present to provide a review of 2007 and request a 3-year funding commitment. Donnette Herberg was also present.

Josh Ripplinger from Wold Architects presented the results of the Facilities Needs Study. County and City of Ortonville committee representatives will meet to review the results and make a recommendation to their respective board/council.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the hiring of Jacqueline Wollschalger as the Social Services Supervisor for Family Services at Grade 14, Step 3 as presented by HR Director Sue Schultz.

HR Director Schultz reported on the status of the Employee Handbook update.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to offer group dental insurance as an option in the cafeteria plan if there is enough employee interest.

Discussion was held on hiring an Office Clerk/Appraiser to be shared initially by the Assessor's Office and the Auditor's Office. Due to the fact that funding is in place and this position is a replacement for outside contracting and a scheduling change, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize advertising and filling the position.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Following a break, motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to adopt the following resolution as presented by County Treasurer Cindy Nelson:

2008-15

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners desires to offer for sale certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, said parcels of land have been viewed by the County Board of Commissioners and have been classified as non-conservation lands as provided for in Minnesota Statute 282.01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that all parcels of land on the attached list have been

viewed and comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8 and 282.018 and other statutes that require the withholding of tax-forfeited lands from sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby requests approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the sale of said lands.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the solid waste license renewals for the City of Beardsley, City of Clinton, Mattheisen Disposal and Waste Management as recommended by Environmental Officer Darren Wilke.

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

General	\$100,935.49
Highway	74,500.70
Ditch	<u>187.50</u>
Total	\$175,623.69

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the FY 2009 Snowmobile Maintenance and Grooming Grant Agreement for the Big Stone Lake Area Sno Riders with the MN DNR.

Auditor Knutson reported that notice was received that the County's 2008 MCIT dividend is \$54,819 and is allocated as follows: Workers' Compensation \$13,605 and Property/Casualty \$41,214.

Auditor Knutson reported that the petition for the improvement to Branch 3 of County Ditch #13 was forwarded to the Upper MN River Watershed District as required by state statute.

Discussion was held on ways the County could control the costs of heating homes under the County's care. Commissioner Olson reported on information he had received regarding a solar heat option. Board consensus was to have Commissioner Olson pursue further research on the solar heat option and possible funding.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to adopt the following resolution supporting the transition of Area Agency on Aging:

2008-16

WHEREAS, the five counties of Region 6W have jointly supported by resolution that the counties of Region 6W be allowed to partner with the Land of the Dancing Sky; and WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board on Aging has requested certain assurances from the five counties related to budget and management of services; and

WHEREAS, the Land of the Dancing Sky AAA (LODS) has requested the same as well as assurance of county participation on the LODS Area Agency on Agency Board; and WHEREAS, the five counties of Region 6W agree to provide assurance of continued participation on the LODS Board; and

WHEREAS, the five counties of Region 6 W agree to the necessity for providing a soft landing to any change in service delivery necessitated by reduced funding.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Big Stone County agrees to participate financially up to a maximum of \$8,000 in 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is Big Stone County's intent to participate with the other counties of Region 6W to assure a soft landing with no dramatic cuts in nutrition

services for years 2010 and 2011 in order to bring service levels in harmony with the current available federal and state funding for nutrition programs.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Big Stone County agrees to appoint a county commissioner to serve on the LODS Board and pay said commissioner's expense to attend Board meetings for a minimum of three years.

Commissioner Tomchin and Mike Swenson left the meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve a 1-year assessment agreement with Malta Township as presented by County Assessor Sandy Vold.

Dean Larson of Pictometry gave a presentation on how the County could make use of their product. Pictometry is a revolutionary information system that allows users to see up to 12 different views of every square foot.

Following a break for lunch, the Board continued their review of the preliminary 2009 County budget.

Discussion was held regarding the 27th payroll that occurs this year due to how the dates fall and if it should be paid in 2008 or 2009. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the payment of the extra payroll in 2008.

Chairman Janssen adjourned the meeting at 2:40 PM.

Howard Janssen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor