

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
September 16, 2008

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 16, 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, 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 August 28th special meeting and the September 2nd regular meeting.

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

Committee reports were presented. County Engineer Nick Anderson arrived at the meeting.

As requested by Attorney Watson, motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to close the meeting at 8:55 AM for attorney-client privilege regarding County Road #63.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Sandberg and carried to reopen the meeting at 9:12 AM.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to accept the written offer of \$67,641.45 for payment as a total compensation package to all landowners and the acknowledgement of \$50/acre for fee-title recording of existing right-of-way.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Engineer Anderson informed the Board of the DNR's decision to add additional funding in the amount of \$100,000 towards the trail project. Motion by Olson and seconded by Sandberg to move forward on the project and accept the additional funding with the intention to pave the first leg of the trail. Motion carried with Commissioner Athey voting Nay.

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

2008-21

WHEREAS, Big Stone County has applied to the Commissioner of Transportation for a grant from the Minnesota State Transportation Fund for Construction of Bridge No. 06J14; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Transportation has given notice that funding for this bridge is available; and

WHEREAS, the amount of the grant has been determined to be \$76,540.00 by reason of the lowest responsible bid.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Big Stone County does hereby agree to the terms and conditions of the grant consistent with Minnesota Statutes, Section 174.50, Subdivision 5, Clause (3), and will pay any additional amount by which the cost exceeds the estimate, and will return to the Minnesota State Transportation Fund any amount appropriated for the bridge, but not required.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Athey and carried to award the bid on SP 06-598-002 to Midwest Contracting and execute the contract for the same.

Engineer Anderson provided updates on the County Road #63 and trail projects.

Engineer Anderson reported that ditch inspectors are now required to inspect buffer strips along county ditches and report annually to BWSR.

Discussion was held on the opportunity to sell wetland bank credits to Strata Corporation for the development of a new quarry.

The County road tour was set for October 10, 2008, at 10:00 AM.

Myron Knutson of Public Financial Management (PFM) presented information on bonding options that are available to fund highway projects.

Following a break, motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to establish a \$200 per event rental fee for the use of the enclosed hazardous waste trailer as presented by Environmental Officer Darren Wilke.

Environmental Officer Wilke reported that the appliance collection was a success and that there would be an additional collection or two in 2009.

Discussion was held on the letter received from Citizens for Big Stone Lake in support of buffer strips on farmland around and along water sources. Board consensus was to establish a policy for presentation at the annual township meeting.

Discussion was held on tax forfeited properties and the appraised value of the same as presented by County Treasurer Cindy Nelson. Motion by Olson and seconded by Tomschin to set the appraised values at the delinquent tax amounts. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to amend the previous motion to set the value of the bare lots at \$50 each.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Tomschin and carried to adopt the following resolution as presented by Treasurer Nelson:

2008-22

BE IT RESOLVED, that all parcels of tax-forfeited land listed on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land #08-1 be classified as non-conservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on the List of Tax-Forfeited Land #08-1, that is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of this land be granted, pursuant to M.S. 282.01; that the sale will be held at 9:00 AM on October 24, 2008, by the Big Stone County Treasurer at the Big Stone County Courthouse, for not less than the basic sale price; and that full payment is required at the time of the sale.

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

General	\$42,848.95
Highway	<u>28,913.72</u>
Total	\$71,762.67

Auditor Knutson reported that no bids were received for snow removal at Family Services. No action was taken.

Attorney Watson returned to the meeting.

Auditor Knutson presented information on the legislative changes to the aggregate material production tax. Rates will be increasing effective January 1, 2009, and the tax distribution has been changed.

Motion by Olson and seconded by Sandberg to ratify the reclassification of Bobbie Oakes to Case Aide as approved at Welfare Board. Motion carried with Commissioner Tomschin voting Nay.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to extend the temporary dispatcher position until April of 2009.

HR Director Sue Schultz provided a hiring update on the Appraiser/Office Clerk position and reminded board members of the upcoming safety training and open enrollment meetings.

Discussion was held on the County's space needs. Commissioner Sandberg reported that Sheriff Haukos is working on gathering some numbers for a law enforcement center. Family Services Director Gayle Robinson reported that the office remodeling is in progress for the Social Services Supervisor. Discussion was also held on the water issues with the east wall.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to execute the Agreement as Award of Compensation for County Road #63 as presented by Attorney Watson.

Chairman Janssen adjourned the meeting at 11:22 AM.

Howard Janssen, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor