

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**October 6, 2009**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 6, 2009. Chairman Olson called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Berning, Sandberg and Wulff 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 Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the September 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the agenda with noted addition.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Athey – Law Library; Fair Board; Prairie 5

Wulff – BSAG; RC&D; RLF; PIC; Toqua Park

Olson – BSAG; RDC; Personnel (multiple)

Sandberg – MSI; Personnel (multiple); Technology (Land Records); RRB; CBSL; Property

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to execute the License Agreement with Federated Telephone Cooperative for use of the power shed located by the State's communication tower at the Schumacher location.

Discussion was held on the sewer overcharge. Board consensus was to pursue full collection of the overpayment as per statute. Auditor Knutson reported that the City Clerk had requested a copy of the revised spreadsheet including a full 6 years and that the City was revisiting it at their meeting last night. No word has been received on what their decision was.

Discussion was held on drafting an ordinance for mini trucks. Attorney Watson will contact Traverse County as they are already in the process of establishing an ordinance. Sheriff John Haukos, Environmental Officer Darren Wilke and Interim Family Services Director Gale Mittelstaedt arrived during the discussion.

Eric Anderson from Project Resources Corporation presented an overview of the Riverwind Project they are developing in Moonshine Township. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to adopt the following C-BED resolution of support:

**2009-40**

WHEREAS, it is the policy of the State of Minnesota to foster Community-Based Energy Development (C-BED) projects; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 216B.1612, Subdivision 2(f)(3) calls for County Board support for C-BED projects; and

WHEREAS, the development of the Riverwind project in Big Stone County provides for economic benefits and opportunities for residents in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Riverwind project which is proposed for development in Big Stone County will be owned by a Minnesota limited liability company organized under State of Minnesota laws.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners supports the development of the Riverwind project.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the County's CSSA plan for submission as presented by Interim Family Services Director Mittelstaedt.

The approval of grant applications will be done at the next Welfare Board meeting.

HR Director Sue Schultz reported that the Personnel Committee was recommending the hiring of Dan Meyer for the Veterans Service Officer (VSO) position at Grade 8 Step 5 at 40 hours per week. HR Director Schultz also reported that Mr. Meyer has respectfully requested the Board to consider a Step 7. Commissioner Athey stated that he would like to see it offered at a Step 1 or 2. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the hiring of Mr. Meyer for the VSO exempt position at Grade 8 Step 5 at 40 hours per week.

HR Director Schultz reported that the MedicareBlue Rx rates are down 5.7% for 2010.

HR Director Schultz reported that open enrollment will be held on November 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>. She is currently reviewing information regarding Humana Group Dental and Delta Group Dental, but no other changes are anticipated. Enrollment forms will be due November 20<sup>th</sup>.

Based upon the recommendations of the CDC and EMD Jim Hasslen, motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to amend the sick leave policy to state that a doctor's note will not be required for employees who are out sick more than three days with flu symptoms. This amendment will be in effect until April 30, 2010.

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

General	\$106,405.17
Highway	178,548.08
Ditch	<u>400.00</u>
Total	\$285,353.25

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to execute the updated ACH Origination Agreement with Minnwest Bank.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to appoint Pam Stueve to the Extension Committee to fill out John Cunningham's term which will end in 2010. The Board officially accepted John's resignation with regret and thanked him for his many years of service to the Committee.

Commissioner Sandberg reported that he and Commissioner Berning will be attending a meeting regarding the new Legacy funds.

Discussion was held on the recent letter received from West Central Regional Juvenile Center asking the Board to reconsider the proposal to amend the joint powers agreement to allow for a 2/3 majority vote to make changes to the original agreement. Board consensus was to stay with their original decision on September 1<sup>st</sup> to not amend the agreement.

Motion by Berning and seconded by Wulff to approve the collection agreement with Financial Consultants Company Inc. and authorize Sheriff Haukos to sign the agreement. Following discussion, motion carried.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to amend the Pay for Stay Policy from "90 days" to "due date". The form will be amended accordingly.

Discussion was held on the request from Federated Telephone to purchase the County's communication tower (Schumacher Tower). The County Engineer and Sheriff are recommending that the County wait to make a decision about the tower until they are sure there are no issues with the new system. This will also allow time to review the grant requirements regarding the disposition of the tower.

Following a break, County Engineer Nick Anderson provided an update on the County Road #63 and #62 projects.

Engineer Anderson reported that he will be submitting information for a DNR permit on County Ditch #2.

Discussion was held on the fund distribution for the 2010 gross levy. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to allocate the 2010 gross levy as follows:

General	\$2,413,308
Highway	\$ 850,000
Family Services	\$ 900,000

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM.

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Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor