

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
November 17, 2009

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, November 17, 2009. Chairman Olson called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Berning, Sandberg and Wulff present. Also present were Elsie Perrine, Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the minutes of the November 3rd regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Athey – WACCO; Prairie 5; Extension; Planning Commission

Wulff – Extension

Berning – Countryside Public Health

Olson – Personnel; Dream Team for Kids; Planning Commission

Sandberg – Museum; CBSL; Personnel

Sheriff John Haukos arrived during the reports.

Attorney Watson reported that the County has received another bill for a fact witness in the Hyden case.

Attorney Watson reported that Assistant Attorney General Bill Klumpp will be assisting with the upcoming murder case.

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

General	\$43,509.91
Highway	17,171.39
Ditch	<u>1,059.50</u>
Total	\$61,740.80

Auditor Knutson reported that the actuarial study has been completed and Jill Urdahl of Hildi Inc. will be scheduling a conference call to discuss the report.

Auditor Knutson asked for questions and/or comments on the year-to-date financial information provided for the Board's review.

County Engineer Nick Anderson reported that they suspended work on the County Road #63 project due to the weather conditions.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on the trail. Discussion was held on putting up signage for the public's safety during hunting season.

Engineer Anderson updated the Board on the Thielke Lake Permit process.

Engineer Anderson reported that the County Ditch #2 cleanout will not get done this year.

The Highway Department has received many calls on beaver dams, including one on Joint Ditch #4. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize up to \$3,000 to be spent to remove the dam and some trees that are overhanging the ditch.

Engineer Anderson updated the Board on the project to fix the curves on CSAH #21 north of Johnson.

Discussion was held on the letters that will be going out informing various landowners of right-of-way encroachments.

Discussion was held on plans to install benches along the trail by the local arts group. Consensus was that all requests go through the Highway Department.

Auditor Knutson reported that notice was received that the County's 2009 MCIT dividend is \$53,031 and is allocated as follows: Workers' Compensation \$17,546 and Property/Casualty \$35,485.

Auditor Knutson reported that TNT notices will be mailed on November 20th and reminded those present that the December 1st meeting would begin at 4:30 PM to accommodate the levy and budget hearing at 6:00 PM to meet the new requirements.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to classify the VSO as a Department Head.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize HR Director Sue Schultz to post a temporary position at RSVP as requested by RSVP Director Karin Mack contingent upon Welfare Board approval.

HR Director Schultz reported that the Extension Office is changing its hours to 10:00 AM – 4:30 PM Monday – Thursday effective November 30, 2009.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the Conditional Use Permit application of Donnette Herberg as recommended by the Planning Commission and presented by Environmental Officer Darren Wilke. In addition, Board consensus was to allow Ms. Herberg to erect a sign on land owned by the County with the understanding that it will be maintained.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor