

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
December 1, 2009

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, December 1, 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, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the November 17th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Athey – Fair Board; Prairie 5

Wulff – RC&D; RLF; Local Foods Meeting

Olson – BSAG; Local Foods Meeting; Personnel

Sandberg – MSI; Personnel; Property

Commissioner Athey reported that the Highway Department has received verbal approval for the permit on the Thielke Lake project.

Attorney Watson reported that the mini truck ordinance has been drafted and sent to the Sheriff for review.

Attorney Watson updated the Board on the fees for the criminal fines that the small cities can receive for the work done by his office.

Fair Board representatives, Bruce Wellendorf and Travis Fitzner, presented a financial report for 2009 and requested the same funding from the County for 2010. The Board thanked the Fair Board members for all the work they do.

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

General	\$16,047.51
Highway	6,330.61
Ditch	<u>411.55</u>
Total	\$22,789.67

Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to execute the agreement with Countryside Public Health for tobacco compliance checks.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to execute an additional supplemental lease agreement with the FSA office. This agreement adjusts the square footage to reflect the actual square footage rental rate paid for the actual space rented. The total lease amount will not change.

The Board approved the new items for display in the rotunda by the Big Stone Arts Council.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept the resignation of Carol Kockx effective December 1, 2009. The resignation was accepted with regret and with appreciation for her years of service.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2009-44

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Minnesota as declared in MS 353.63 is to give special consideration to employees who perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of others; and

WHEREAS, MS 353.64 permits governmental subdivisions to request coverage in the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan for eligible employees of police departments whose position duties meet the requirements stated therein and listed below.

BE IT RESOLVED that Board of Commissioners of Big Stone County hereby declares that the position titled Part-time Deputy Sheriff, currently held by Craig Miska meets all of the following Police and Fire membership requirements:

1. Said position requires a license by the MN peace officer standards and training board under sections 626.84 to 626.863 and these employees are so licensed;
2. Said position's primary (over 50%) duty is to enforce the general criminal laws of the State;
3. Said position charges these employees with the prevention and detection of crime;
4. Said position gives these employees the full power of arrest; and
5. Said position is assigned to a designated sheriff's department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body hereby requests that the above-named employee be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan effective the date of that employee's initial Police and Fire salary deduction by the governmental subdivision.

By consensus, the Board ratified the changing of dental plans for the employee cafeteria plan.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to undesignate the funds currently set aside for County road projects to apply them towards the County Road #63 project.

A sketch of the seating area proposed to be installed along the new trail was presented for the Board's review.

Auditor Knutson distributed copies of the actuarial study by Hildi, Inc. for the Board's review. There will be a conference call with Jill Urdahl to discuss the report at the next meeting.

Discussion was held on the 2011 budget year. Board consensus is to strive to balance the budget in 2011.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Following a break, Chairman Olson called the hearing to order to take public comment on the County's 2010 budget and levy. Orvin Anderson, Mark Block, Ron Kottke, Ardell and Dan Hasslen and Treasurer Cindy Nelson were also present. The 2010 summary budget and levy was distributed. Chairman Olson invited the public to speak and ask questions. Some of the discussion included an explanation of the changes in property classifications by the State, what is included in General Government and comments on the Highway Department budget. The public in attendance was also asked for their thoughts on what services they thought could be cut in order to lower the budget. No comments were received and the hearing was closed. The public was thanked for attending.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 6:50 PM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor