

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

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 17, 2009. Chairman Olson called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Sandberg and Wulff present. Commissioner Berning was absent. 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 Wulff and carried to approve the minutes of the February 3rd regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Athey – Planning & Zoning

Wulff – Prairie Country RC&D; Toqua Park

Olson – Personnel; Planning & Zoning; PrimeWest

Sandberg – Personnel; Property; Citizens for Big Stone Lake

Commissioner Wulff reported that he has not received any further information from the Toqua Troopers 4-H Club regarding the letter of support they requested for the 2009 Community Leadership Award.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve Change Order No. 1 related to total project cost and the amount of bond required by the contractor for the Family Services building project.

Attorney Watson presented a Memorandum of Understanding on the Rural Sexual Assault Project that he and Sheriff Haukos are involved with.

Attorney Watson reported that the contract with Kandiyohi County is ready, but he is waiting to hear from Sheriff Haukos on when it will begin.

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

General	\$ 32,550.02
Highway	108,491.99
Ditch	<u>1,878.40</u>
Total	\$142,920.41

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the new items for display in the rotunda by the Big Stone Arts Council.

Auditor Knutson reviewed miscellaneous correspondence received.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the reinstatement agreement for Chief Deputy Sheriff David Hills as presented by HR Director Sue Schultz.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize hiring a replacement part time custodian.

HR Director Schultz reported that the Personnel Committee has requested that an employee climate survey be done again. They will be distributed this week.

Five landowners on County Ditch #2 were present for an update on the recent meeting with the DNR regarding the cease and desist order. County Engineer Nick Anderson reported that the order has been suspended until the Highway Department

can survey the various tiles. Discussion was held on what position the landowners would like the County to take regarding compromise. Once the survey is completed, Engineer Anderson will report to landowners with the data collected before meeting with the DNR again. Maintenance Supervisor Gary Haugen was also present for the discussion.

Brad Olson from the MN DNR and Travis Issendorf with the Federal Farm Program & Working Lands Initiative presented information on funding available in Otrej and Toqua Townships for use in reseeding county ditches. They will be contacting the respective township officers regarding the program and will present it at the annual township meeting with Engineer Anderson.

Engineer Anderson reported on the projects that were submitted for the stimulus funding which included the County Road #6 overlay and pavement of the trail.

Engineer Anderson reported that even with the new gas tax money, the County's 2009 allotment went down approximately \$21,000.

Following a short break, Environmental Officer Darren Wilke presented a preliminary plat of Ridge Creek Second Addition for the Board's review. Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the preliminary plat for Ridge Creek Second Addition as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke presented information on L.G. Everist's Conditional Use Permit (CUP) Application for mobile temporary asphalt plants to be set up on their site to use their aggregate products. Todd Schuver, Chris Klein and Mark Block from L.G. Everist; Big Stone Wildlife Refuge Manager Alice Hanley; and Dale Livingston from Friends of Morris Wetland Management District were also present and spoke regarding the application. Mr. Schuver reviewed why they were seeking approval of the application. Ms. Hanley and Mr. Livingston expressed their concerns with approving the application. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the CUP with the conditions recommended by the Planning Commission including a mandatory review of the application after the cessation of the first plant. Following the motion for approval, Ms. Hanley presented a letter addressing their concerns for the record and asked to be contacted when a plant is coming in.

County Recorder Elaine Martig provided the Board with reports on fees collected and vital statistics for 2007 and 2008. Martig reported that her office continues to be in compliance with the recording requirements set by statute in 2007. A review of future projects was also provided for the Board's information.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 11:14 AM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor