

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**March 17, 2009**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 17, 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, Sheriff John Haukos, 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 March 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Athey – Bonding Meeting

Wulff – Bonding Meeting; Minnesota River Board; SW MN Private Industry Council

Berning – Countryside Public Health; Property

Olson – PrimeWest

Sandberg – Land Records; Technology; Property; CBSL

Family Services Director Gayle Robinson arrived at the meeting during committee reports.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to send a letter to AMC to encourage ITV use and forward a copy to area counties.

Attorney Watson asked if the Board was interested in waiving the conflict of interest on the termination and subsequent adoption of the Wood case in addition to custody. Family Services Director Robinson expressed her concern with the request. The matter was dropped.

Board consensus was to pay the additional costs presented by Attorney Watson on the Hyden case.

Discussion was held on the replacement of the Attorney's copier. The computer is in the budget to be replaced, but the copier needs to be. Board consensus was to allow the purchase of the copier. Additional funds needed will come out of reserves.

Krecia Leddy of NRCS and Gary Hoffman and Vernon Johnson of SWCD were present for a discussion on the long term use of the county office building. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2009-12**

WHEREAS, the Farm Service Agency (FSA) leases office space in the County Office Building; and

WHEREAS, said lease terminates on November 30, 2011; and

WHEREAS, FSA has requested a written response as to the County's intent for said space at the end of the lease term.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners is hereby providing official notification of the County's intent not to renew the lease with the Farm Service Agency for office space in the County Office Building at the end of the current lease term.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that early termination of the lease is hereby approved if requested by the Lessee.

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

General	\$27,401.46
Highway	23,170.99
Ditch	<u>592.15</u>
Total	\$51,164.60

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize the Auditor to pay West Central Juvenile Detention as an auditor warrant when the invoice for the County's share of the 2008 budget deficit is received.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the audit engagement letter with the Office of the State Auditor for the 2008 audit.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the tobacco license application of Beardsley Country Market for 2009 effective April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to reappoint Jon Pansch as the County's representative on the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Board for a 3-year term.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept Traverse County's alternative appointments to the Joint Ditch Drainage Authorities in order to resolve perceived or actual conflicts of interest of individual Commissioners. The original joint resolution in 2001 established that Traverse County members would be made up of Commissioners from Districts 3 and 5. The Commissioners from Districts 2 and 4 were appointed in 2009.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the Auditor to pay the budgeted \$500 towards the 2009 Meander as an auditor warrant.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to send a letter of support for the City of Appleton's federal grant application for broadband technology in the city and surrounding areas.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize the requirement of fitness for duty exams for Custodian positions for all new hires as recommended by HR Director Sue Schultz.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to offer the regular part time custodian position to Christine Boyle contingent upon passing a fitness for duty exam and background check.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the hiring of Carrisa Kampen as a part time fill-in custodian contingent on reference/background checking and passing a fitness for duty exam.

HR Director Schultz reported that since the County provides employer paid group insurance benefits, bids must be sought every 5 years. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize Ochs, Inc. to handle the RFP process to bid Big Stone County's core insurance benefits.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the new performance evaluation form for department heads as presented by HR Director Schultz.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the Technology Incident Report Form as recommended by the Technology Committee.

Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Berning to execute the contract with Vertical Solutions to provide computer network/IT services for the County. Motion carried with Commissioner Athey voting Nay.

Following a break, Brad Odegard with Department of Corrections, Eileen Burgess with the Sentence to Serve (STS) Program and Sheriff John Haukos provided a review of the STS program and its benefits to the County. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to execute the STS contract with the State of Minnesota for the next biennium.

Carolyn Drude of Ehlers & Associates was present to explain the process for bonding. County Engineer Nick Anderson and Sheriff Haukos were also present for the discussion. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution calling for a public hearing on the capital improvement plan and authorizing the issuance and sale of general obligation capital improvement plan bonds:

**2009-13**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of County Commissioners of Big Stone County, Minnesota (the County), as follows:

1. Approval of the 2009 to 2013 Capital Improvement Plan. The County has prepared and intends to approve its Capital Improvement Plan (the CIP) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 373.40.

2. Approval of the Issuance of Capital Improvement Plan Bonds. The County intends to issue its capital improvement plan bonds (the Bonds) to finance capital improvements as described in the County's Capital Improvement Plan, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 373.40.

3. Public Hearing. A public hearing is hereby scheduled to be held on the approval of the CIP and the issuance of the Bonds at 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7, 2009, in the Commissioner's Board Room, at the Big Stone County Courthouse, in Ortonville, Minnesota. The County Auditor is hereby authorized and directed to cause notice of such public hearing in substantially the form attached hereto to be published in the official newspaper of the County not less than fourteen (14) days nor more than twenty-eight (28) days prior to the date of the hearing.

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

**2009-14**

IT IS RESOLVED that Big Stone County enter into a Joint Powers agreement with the twelve Mn/DOT District 4 counties of Becker, Big Stone, Clay, Douglas, Grant, Mahnomon, Pope, Otter Tail, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, and Wilkin for the following purpose:

Define the rights and obligations of each county for the delivery of project S.P. 088-070-006, a district wide Federal Highway safety project that will provide safety improvements in the form of pavement markings, rumble stripes, and signing on selected eligible highway routes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper County officers be and hereby are authorized to execute such agreement and any amendments, and thereby assume for and on behalf of the County all of the obligations contained therein.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the County's ditch viewers, John Cunningham, Martin Heck and Eldon Knutson, to attend training as requested by Engineer Anderson.

Departments were present to participate in a discussion of possible cost saving measures for the County.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM.

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Brent Olson, Chairman

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