

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
September 15, 2009

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 15, 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 Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the September 1st regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – RC&D

Berning – Countryside Public Health

Olson – PrimeWest; Pioneerland; DREAM for Kids; Personnel

Sandberg – Technology (Land Records); Personnel

Attorney Watson reported that there will be some upcoming expenditures related to a trial in October.

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

General	\$36,272.52
Highway	<u>17,112.51</u>
Total	\$53,385.03

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the contract with Ehlers & Associates to provide "Limited" Continuing Disclosure Reporting Services for the County in accordance with SEC Rule 15c2-12.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to execute the FY 2010 Snowmobile Maintenance Grant Agreement for the Big Stone Lake Area Sno Riders with the MN DNR.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to reappoint James Kaye to the HRA board for a 3-year term effective October 4, 2009.

Auditor Knutson reported that it appears the County has been overcharged for sewer on the city utility bill. She has been in contact with the City regarding the matter.

In lieu of the eliminated formal TNT hearing, the Board will be rescheduling their December 1st meeting to begin at 4:30 PM with the budget and levy discussion to be held beginning at 6:00 PM at which time the public will have the opportunity to speak. The meeting will be held in the Commissioner's Room.

County Engineer Nick Anderson provided an update on the County Road #63 project.

Engineer Anderson reported that the Highway Department will be removing a tree that is causing some issues to the landowner and is in the right-of-way on Minnesota Street.

Discussion was held on County Ditch #2. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize \$7,500 to be spent on a clean out in Section 36 of Akron Township.

Engineer Anderson reported that the work approved on County Ditch #4 will not be done until the ditch is fenced off from cattle grazing.

Engineer Anderson reported that there will be an upcoming agreement with the DNR for funding of the maintenance of the trail.

Discussion was held on the proposed budget for county ditches for 2010.

Following a break, Suzanne Souza, Heidi Torgerson, and Kay Stanek were present to provide an update on Extension.

Kristi Fernholz from Western Minnesota Prairie Waters was present to provide an overview and ask the Board for financial support for 2010. Craig Randleman was present to offer support. Chairman Olson thanked Ms. Fernholz for her efforts promoting regional tourism and for coming to the meeting.

HR Director Sue Schultz reported that she has not received an agreement from Swift County regarding sharing a Family Services Director. She will follow-up before the Welfare Board meeting.

HR Director Schultz provided an update on the status of the VSO hiring process.

HR Director Schultz reported on the union groups' decisions regarding the Board's request to consider a reduction in the cafeteria plan contribution for 2010. The Family Services union group agreed to the request and the Highway union did not. Therefore there will be no changes made at this time as the request had to be agreed to by all employee groups.

Discussion followed on the preliminary 2010 County budget.

Motion by Wulff and seconded by Sandberg to adopt the following resolution:

2009-39

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the proposed 2010 budget be approved and the gross levy be established at \$4,163,308.

Following discussion, motion carried.

Auditor Knutson presented year-to-date financial information for the Board's review.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 11:04 AM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor