

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
October 5, 2010

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 5, 2010. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Berning, Olson and Wulff present. Also present were Elsie Perrine, Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the September 21st regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – Pomme de Terre
Olson – RDC; Pioneerland; Personnel
Sandberg – MSI; CBSL; Personnel
Athey – Prairie 5; WACCO

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

General	\$49,726.32
Highway	<u>49,162.58</u>
Total	\$98,888.90

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

The County received notice that S. Pauli Norwegian Evangelical Lutheran Church has been entered into the National Register of Historic Places.

Sheriff John Haukos arrived at the meeting.

VSO Dan Meyer provided information on his office's activities during the past month for the Board's review. Meyer reported that Ron Quade of the MN Department of Veterans' Affairs (MDVA) and the MDVA's Director of Communications would like to come out and meet with him to do an article on the work being done in the office.

A discussion on the budget was held.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the hiring of Terry Ocana for the IT Technician position at Grade 11 Step 1 effective November 8, 2010, as recommended by HR Director Sue Schultz.

Motion by Athey and seconded by Olson to approve the renewal of the MedicareBlue Rx for retirees. Motion carried with Commissioner Berning abstaining. HR Director Schultz was directed to contact Employment Attorney Darcy Hitesman to inquire as to what the County's options are for future changes.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the intermittent leave request of Jim Hasslen effective through December 31, 2010.

Discussion was held on scheduling Department Head evaluations.

State Noxious Weed Advisor Don Opdahl and Weed Inspector Harold Nelson were present for a discussion on a problem with noxious weeds in the County. Opdahl reviewed the procedures for dealing with the problem. He encouraged planning for 2011 with a meeting involving the affected townships and the Ag Inspector and then approach Traverse County as well if they are experiencing the same issue.

Commissioner Wulff will contact the affected townships to start the process and will serve as the County's rep, if needed.

County Engineer Nick Anderson presented a Certificate of Performance for CP 06-663-006 with Riley Brothers Construction, Inc. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2010-31

WHEREAS, County CP 006-663-006 has in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts said completed project for and on behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorize final payment to Riley Brothers Construction, Inc. in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

Engineer Anderson reported that after completing the Thielke Lake project according the plans, the water level still isn't where it should be. Various options were discussed.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize up to \$3,000 for cleaning out County Ditch #30.

Anderson updated the Board on various beaver issues that are being addressed and reported that they are planning to complete one half of the buffer strip seeding project on Joint Ditch #4 next spring.

Engineer Anderson presented an amended settlement agreement he received from the DNR regarding County Ditch #2. Discussion was held on needed changes in paragraphs 7 and 8 on page 4. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the presented agreement as amended with the changes discussed.

Anderson reported on issues with the box culvert project on County Road #25.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to close the meeting at 10:16 AM to discuss strategy for labor negotiations as per MS §13D.03. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to reopen the meeting at 11:44 AM.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 11:45 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor