

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**December 1, 2010**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 4:30 PM on Wednesday, December 1, 2010. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Berning, Olson and Wulff present. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the November 23<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – RDC  
Sandberg – MSI  
Athey – WACCO

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

General	\$ 9,176.78
Highway	13,298.36
Ditch	<u>3,387.50</u>
Total	\$25,862.64

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

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the Highway Department to trade-in two tractors and an additional \$2,000 for the purchase of two new ones as requested by County Engineer Nick Anderson.

Commissioner Berning reported that he had received another call regarding the flag pole on the roof of the courthouse. It was stated again that due to liability reasons and the fact that there is already a flag by the Veterans monument, the flag was no longer being flown on the courthouse. However, a quote will be requested on the cost to make the necessary changes to alleviate the liability issues.

Due to the receipt of significant citizen input regarding the drainage permit process at the Upper MN River Watershed District, Board consensus was to invite Dianne Radermacher to an upcoming meeting to get an update and discuss the permit process.

County Engineer Nick Anderson and HR Director Sue Schultz arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to close the meeting at 4:57 PM to discuss strategy for labor negotiations as per MS §13D.03. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to reopen the meeting at 5:12 PM.

A break was taken so the Personnel Committee could meet with Union Representative Jon Anderson.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to close the meeting at 5:26 PM to continue to discuss strategy for labor negotiations as per MS §13D.03. Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to reopen the meeting at 5:55 PM.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to accept the counter offers presented by the union groups with the timing of the furloughed hours to be further negotiated with the Highway group.

HR Director Schultz left the meeting.

Chairman Sandberg called the hearing to order at 6:00 PM to take public comment on the County's 2011 budget and levy. Information was distributed for review. Richard Mueller arrived. Following a brief discussion with Mr. Mueller, the hearing was closed.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 6:16 PM.

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Roger Sandberg, Chairman

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