

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
May 18, 2010

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 18, 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, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the May 4th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – BSAG; Pomme de Terre; Park

Berning – Countryside Public Health

Olson – PrimeWest; Dream for Kids; BSAG

Sandberg – CBSL; Technology; Property; Personnel

Family Services Director Gale Mittelstaedt arrived at the meeting during committee reports.

Attorney Watson reported that an appeal was filed on the Danny Barnes case and that the Attorney General's Office is willing to handle it at no cost to the County other than any travel costs, if necessary.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to close the meeting at 9:00 AM for consideration of a disciplinary matter. Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to reopen the meeting at 9:13 AM. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to ratify the termination of Financial Worker Patty Ruth effective May 14, 2010.

County Engineer Nick Anderson arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize filling the Financial Worker vacancy as requested by Director Mittelstaedt.

Janeen Stenso, the Outreach Coordinator for the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC), was present to provide an update on the RRBC's activities including the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP), the Long Term Flood Solutions (LTFS) and the Natural Resources Framework Plan (NRFP). The Board requested that comments regarding the installation of tiling with gates be included in future documentation.

Sheriff John Haukos arrived at the meeting.

Discussion was held on the possibility of changing the way the County pays for beaver trapping in our ditch systems. Consensus was to leave as is with decisions being made on a case by case basis.

Engineer Anderson reported that the Watershed District denied the County's permit application for the weir installation on County Ditch #2.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to support CBSL and a letter to be sent regarding the need to study the restoration of the Whetstone River to its original channel.

Commissioner Olson provided an update regarding the recent discussions of establishing a county-wide EDA. Attorney Watson was asked to address any possible legal issues.

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

2010-19

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Minnesota as declared in MS 353.63 is to give special consideration to employees who perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of others; and

WHEREAS, MS 353.64 permits governmental subdivisions to request coverage in the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan for eligible employees of police departments whose position duties meet the requirements stated therein and listed below.

BE IT RESOLVED that Board of Commissioners of Big Stone County hereby declares that the position titled Part-time Deputy Sheriff, currently held by Jennifer Cronen, Kyle Arndt and Curtis Hormann, meets all of the following Police and Fire membership requirements:

1. Said position requires a license by the MN peace officer standards and training board under sections 626.84 to 626.863 and these employees are so licensed;
2. Said position's primary (over 50%) duty is to enforce the general criminal laws of the State;
3. Said position charges these employees with the prevention and detection of crime;
4. Said position gives these employees the full power of arrest; and
5. Said position is assigned to a designated sheriff's department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body hereby requests that the above-named employees be accepted as members of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan effective the date of the employees' initial Police and Fire salary deductions by the governmental subdivision.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to execute the Use Agreement Amendment for the Schumacher Tower as presented by Sheriff Haukos.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to execute the EMPG agreement with the State of Minnesota as presented by Emergency Management Director Jim Hasslen.

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

General	\$ 52,503.21
Highway	64,610.47
Ditch	<u>2,163.40</u>
Total	\$119,277.08

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the Off Sale Beer License for Lakeshore RV Park.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the Auditor to enter into a 3-year commitment with Qwest when the current carrier increases rates.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:19 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor