

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
August 17, 2010

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, August 17, 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, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the August 3rd regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – RLF; RC&D

Berning – Countryside

Olson – RDC

Sandberg – Museum; CBSL

Athey – Fair

HR Director Sue Schultz arrived at the meeting.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke and County Assessor Sandy Vold were present for an update on GIS. Wilke stated that there is a \$750 cost to incorporate oblique imagery. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the expenditure.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the solid waste license renewals for the City of Beardsley, City of Clinton, Mattheisen Disposal and Waste Management contingent upon receipt of proof of insurance as recommended by Environmental Officer Darren Wilke.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to close the meeting at 8:43 AM to discuss strategy for labor negotiations as per MS §13D.03. Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to reopen the meeting at 9:02 AM. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to direct HR Director Sue Schultz to send a petition stating the County's desire to negotiate the employee union contracts.

Liz Maiers from the Southwest Initiative Foundation presented an update on the Foundation.

HR Director Schultz reviewed the process the County has been going through regarding IT. Deputy Auditor Sharon Finke presented the proposals received from Kandiyohi County and Computer Professionals Unlimited.

Scott Busche, the IT Director from Stevens County, presented his assessment of Big Stone County's IT needs. Busche recommended that the County consider hiring a full time IT technician. Busche would be willing to assist with the hiring and provide part time supervision at least through the employee's probation. HR Director Schultz drafted and graded a position based on the recommendations from Busche. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to establish an IT Systems Technician position at Grade 11 and authorize the posting and hiring of the position.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize the hiring of Nicole Siedschlag for the Financial Worker position at Grade 7 Step 1 effective August 23, 2010.

Promoting Siedschlag leaves an opening in the Office Support Specialist position. HR Director Schultz requested that the County hire from the current Merit System County competitive Office Support Specialist list since that position was filled less than 6 months ago. Motion by Berning and seconded by Wulff to hire from the current list. Following discussion, motion carried.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to offer the Office Support Specialist position to Debra Steuart at Grade 4 Step 1 effective September 7, 2010.

HR Director Schultz provided an update on the Community Resources Program Coordinator position.

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

2010-25

WHEREAS, the 2009 Minnesota Legislature adopted MS §353.371 allowing for phased retirements by eligible Public Employee Retirement Association members; and WHEREAS, the County could benefit by the phased retirement of employees in some circumstances.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Big Stone Board of Commissioners authorizes the County's participation in the phased retirement program in accordance with MS §353.371 and Public Employee Retirement Association policies and procedures.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that County department heads have discretion in determining to whom phased retirement options will be offered and are authorized to create temporary non-complement positions for that purpose.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board directs the HR Director to develop and implement procedures to administer the phased retirement program.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve Deputy Recorder Karol Stotesbery's request to participate in a 1-year phased retirement option beginning January 1, 2011.

Cafeteria Enrollment will be held on November 4th.

Following a break, motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the purchase of a plat cabinet as requested by County Recorder Elaine Martig. The expenditure is budgeted in 2011, but if purchased now, the County will save \$395 on shipping. The funds will come out of the Technology Reserve which are specifically for this type of purchase.

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

General	\$55,291.69
Highway	<u>43,996.34</u>
Total	\$99,288.03

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

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

2010-26

BE IT RESOLVED by Big Stone County that the County enter into the attached Grant Contract with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the following Program: County Veterans Service Office Operational Improvement Grant Program. This grant must be used to enhance the operations of the County Veterans Service Office under MS §197.608 Subd. 4(a), and should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by Big Stone County that Daniel Meyer, the County Veterans Service Officer, be authorized to execute the attached Grant Contract for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County.

County Engineer Nick Anderson updated the Board on a letter received from the DNR denying their previous authorization for the box culvert project on County Road #25. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to direct Anderson to contact Senator Kubly and Representative Falk regarding the County's concerns with the DNR's permitting. In addition, a letter will be sent from the Board requesting a meeting with the DNR at the next Board meeting.

The meeting was recessed until after the Welfare Board meeting.

The meeting was reconvened at 1:00 PM to continue the review of the preliminary 2011 County budget. Department Heads Sue Schultz, Cindy Nelson and Nick Anderson were also present.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 1:57 PM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor