

**RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**January 4, 2011**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, January 4, 2011. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Olson, Berning, and Wulff present. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, Elsie Perrine, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Upon call for nominations for Board Chairman, motion by Olson and seconded by Berning to nominate Commissioner Athey. Following 3 calls for further nominations and hearing none, the vote was called and was unanimous for Commissioner Athey. The meeting was turned over to newly elected Chairman Athey. Chairman Athey then called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Olson to nominate Commissioner Wulff. Following 3 calls for further nominations and hearing none, the vote was called and was unanimous for Commissioner Wulff for Vice Chairman.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the December 14<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the agenda with noted addition.

The bids received from the Ortonville Independent and the Northern Star for publishing those notices as legally required were reviewed. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept the bid and surety bond of the Ortonville Independent as the official newspaper of the County for 2011. The Northern Star will publish second notices as required by law.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to establish the following committee appointments:

**Commissioner List**

<b>AMC Voting Delegates</b> .....	All Commissioners
<b>Appeals Committee</b> (relating to the Ag Inspector) .....	Commissioners Athey & Olson Wulff the Alternate
<b>Audit Committee</b> .....	Commissioner Sandberg
<b>Big Stone Area Growth</b> .....	Commissioners Olson & Wulff
<b>Bois de Sioux Watershed District</b> .....	Commissioner Wulff
<b>Central MN Regional Radio Board</b> .....	Commissioner Sandberg Berning the Alternate
<b>Citizens for Big Stone Lake</b> .....	Commissioner Sandberg
<b>Community Resource Sharing Partnership (CRSP)</b> .....	Commissioners Sandberg & Wulff
<b>Countryside Public Health</b> .....	Commissioner Berning
<b>Ditches &amp; Roads</b> .....	All Commissioners
<b>Joint Ditch 7/24 Authority</b> .....	Commissioners Olson, Sandberg & Berning
<b>Joint Ditch 4 Authority</b> .....	Commissioners Wulff, Athey & Olson
<b>Joint Ditch 10/11 Authority</b> .....	Commissioners Sandberg, Athey & Olson
<b>Environmental Committee</b> .....	Commissioners Sandberg & Olson
<b>Extension Committee</b> .....	Commissioners Wulff & Athey
<b>Fair Board</b> .....	Commissioner Athey
<b>Food Shelf</b> .....	Commissioner Sandberg

<b>Historical Society</b> .....	Commissioner Sandberg
<b>Insurance Committee</b> .....	Commissioners Athey & Sandberg
<b>Investment Committee</b> .....	Commissioner Sandberg
<b>Juvenile Corrections Committee</b> .....	Commissioners Berning & Athey
<b>Law Library Committee</b> .....	Commissioner Athey
<b>Land Records Committee</b> .....	Commissioner Sandberg
<b>Legislative Committee</b> .....	All Commissioners
<b>Main Street Industries Board</b> .....	Commissioner Sandberg
<b>MCIT</b> .....	Chair Vice Chair the Alternate
<b>MN River Board</b> .....	Commissioner Wulff Athey the alternate
<b>Personnel &amp; Labor Relations Committee</b> .....	Commissioners Olson & Athey Wulff the Alternate
<b>Pioneerland Library Board</b> .....	Commissioner Olson
<b>Planning &amp; Zoning</b> .....	Commissioners Athey & Olson
<b>Pomme de Terre River Association</b> .....	Commissioner Wulff
<b>Prairie Country RC&amp;D Council</b> .....	Commissioner Wulff Sandberg the alternate
<b>Prairie Five Community Action Council</b> .....	Commissioner Athey
<b>Prime West Health Systems</b> .....	Commissioner Olson Sandberg the alternate
<b>Private Industry Council</b> .....	Commissioner Wulff Chief Elected Officials Board Olson the alternate
<b>Public Safety Committee</b> .....	Commissioners Berning & Athey
<b>Purchasing &amp; Property Management</b> .....	Commissioner Berning Sandberg the Alternate
<b>Red River Basin Commission</b> .....	Commissioner Wulff
<b>Regional Development Commission (RDC)</b> .....	Commissioner Olson Sandberg the alternate
<b>Safety Committee</b> .....	Commissioner Sandberg & Berning
<b>Sentence to Service Advisory Board (STS)</b> .....	Commissioner Berning
<b>Soil &amp; Water Conservation District</b> .....	Commissioner Athey Olson the alternate
<b>Supporting Hands Nurse Family Partnership</b> .....	Commissioner Berning Olson the alternate
<b>Technology Committee</b> .....	Commissioner Sandberg
<b>Toqua Park Committee</b> .....	Commissioners Athey & Wulff
<b>WACCO</b> .....	Commissioner Athey Sandberg the alternate
<b>WesMN Revolving Loan Fund</b> .....	Commissioner Wulff
<b>911 Advisory Board</b> .....	Commissioner Berning

**Other Committee Members**

<b>AMC Voting Delegates</b> .....	Auditor, Engineer & HR Director
<b>Appeals Committee</b> (relating to the Ag Inspector) .....	John Cunningham
<b>Audit Committee</b> .....	State Auditor Rep, County Auditor, HR Director, Sharron Bystol & Verden Gerber
<b>Bois de Sioux Watershed District</b> .....	Engineer
<b>Central MN Regional Radio Board</b> .....	Sheriff

<b>Environmental Committee</b> .....	Environmental Officer
<b>Extension Committee</b> .....	Lay members as appointed
<b>Insurance Committee</b> .....	No more than two representatives from General, Family Services & Highway
<b>Investment Committee</b> .....	Treasurer, Family Services Director & Engineer
<b>Juvenile Corrections Committee</b> .....	Family Services Director, Sheriff, County Attorney, Probation Officer & Judge
<b>Law Library Committee</b> .....	County Attorney
<b>Land Records Committee</b> .....	Sharon Finke, Cindy Nelson, Darren Wilke, Elaine Martig, Sandy Vold, Nick Anderson & John Haukos
<b>Personnel &amp; Labor Relations Committee</b> .....	HR Director
<b>Planning &amp; Zoning</b> .....	Lay members as appointed
<b>Safety Committee</b> .....	Safety Director, Engineer, Sheriff, Custodian Sue Kaess & Ed Roeder
<b>Sentence to Service Advisory Board (STS)</b> .....	Sheriff
<b>911 Advisory Board</b> .....	John Haukos, David Hills, Janet Messmer & Michelle Knutson

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

- Olson – RDC
- Athey – Prairie 5

Attorney Watson is reviewing the proposed changes to the Tobacco Ordinance. The hearing was rescheduled for 9:00 AM on February 15, 2011.

Attorney Watson submitted a quote for a new computer for his office. The Property Committee will have IT Systems Technician Terry Ocaña review it before approving the purchase.

Attorney Watson reported that he has received a bill for a fact witness from the Raffety trial and is recommending it be paid. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize payment in the amount of \$625 to Dr. Geoffrey Tufty as presented.

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

General	\$176,905.58
Highway	93,723.86
Debt Service	55,605.00
Ditch	<u>15,832.50</u>
Total	\$342,066.94

Auditor Knutson reviewed the 2010 ditch loan activity with the Board. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the following internal transactions effective 12/31/10:

Ditch to General		\$21,824.00
County Ditch 2	\$ 708.00	
Combined Ditch 10/11	\$16,138.00	
County Ditch 14	\$ 1,672.00	
County Ditch 16	\$ 3,078.00	
Joint Ditch 4	\$ 228.00	
General to Ditch		\$20,300.00
County Ditch 2	\$15,000.00	
County Ditch 8	\$ 1,700.00	
Joint Ditch 4	\$ 3,600.00	

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the 2011 aggregate gravel tax budget with revenues estimated to be \$80,000.

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

**2011-01**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2011 County Ditch Assessments be established as follows:

<u>Ditch</u> <u>Number</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
2	\$15,000
8	\$ 2,200
13	\$ 2,500
17	\$ 500
19	\$ 1,000
20	\$ 500
30	\$ 500

VSO Dan Meyer reported that the County has been awarded \$10,000 for outreach for 2011. Meyer also provided information on his office's activities during the past month for the Board's review.

Upper Minnesota River Watershed District representatives Dianne Radermacher, Terry Gillespie and Gary Haugen along with Environmental Officer Darren Wilke and County Engineer Nick Anderson were present for a discussion on the drainage permitting process. Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Following a break, motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to adopt the following resolutions as presented by County Engineer Nick Anderson:

**2011-02**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners that the County Highway Engineer is hereby instructed to hire such miscellaneous and semi-skilled labor and such machinery and equipment as may from time to time be required at the prevailing rates in the community.

**2011-03**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners that the County Highway Engineer is hereby authorized to purchase gravel material from various pits at the prevailing rates for graveling and re-graveling the Big Stone County roads.

**2011-04**

WHEREAS the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need to be helpful to cities and townships during an emergency or natural disaster.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners that the County Highway Engineer is hereby authorized and instructed to pay by regular payroll up to the amount of five thousand dollars for approved emergency labor performed off the regular County Road System.

**2011-05**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners that the County Highway Engineer is hereby authorized and instructed to impose weight and load restrictions as he deems necessary on any or all County Roads and County State Aid Highways pursuant to Chapter 500, Article 4, Section 1, Subdivision 3 of Laws of 1959.

**2011-06**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners that the County Highway Engineer is hereby authorized to spray weeds and objectionable vegetation in all of the County Ditch Systems without further approval of the County Board of Commissioners so long as expenditures do not exceed \$1,000.00 for any single County Ditch. This resolution excludes Joint Ditches.

Discussion was held on the snow removal routes. Engineer Anderson reported how the Department handled the recent holiday weather and that they are creating a map showing the low priority routes.

Engineer Anderson reported that there is an upcoming meeting with the union regarding the hiring of part time help.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke updated the Board on a complaint he received regarding the tax forfeited lake property. Discussion was held on the specifics of the complaint. Once spring is here, the issues can be addressed. In the meantime, Wilke will get an estimate for rip rapping the shore line to prevent further erosion.

Discussion was held on the State's request to transfer ownership of the County's landfill. The matter was tabled until Attorney Watson has reviewed the current agreement.

Environmental Officer Wilke reported that the Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for Strata Granite Quarry is now in a 30-day public comment period. Once the EAW process is complete and the Board has given a positive or negative declaration on whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is needed, the Conditional Use Permit process can begin.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to re-appoint Jim Lund to the Board of Adjustment and Don Diekmann and Mark Blackwelder to the Planning Commission for three-year terms as recommended by Environmental Officer Wilke.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the list of depositories for the County as presented by County Treasurer Cindy Nelson.

Treasurer Nelson presented investment information and fund balances for 2009 and 2010 for the Board's review.

Discussion was held on setting policy for the County's involvement with sandbagging for future flooding. Commissioners Berning and Sandberg will meet with Emergency Management Director Jim Hasslen and Sheriff John Haukos and report back with recommendations.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the following internal transactions effective 12/31/10:

Ditch to Highway		\$6,682.21
County Ditch 2	\$3,694.35	
County Ditch 4	\$ 260.00	
County Ditch 8	\$ 50.00	
County Ditch 13	\$ 615.45	
County Ditch 30	\$1,623.44	
Joint Ditch 4	\$ 438.97	
General to Highway		\$6,647.20

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

**2011-07**

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Housing & Redevelopment Authority is in the process of submitting an Application for Small Cities Development Program Funds for City of Barry and three-five (3-5) rural county residents; and

WHEREAS, this is a program designed specifically for very low income range people; and

WHEREAS, these grant funds would benefit the very low income residents of Big Stone County who are otherwise unable to secure a loan for repairs to their residences.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Big Stone County Housing & Redevelopment Authority is hereby authorized to apply for these funds on behalf of Big Stone County.

Discussion was held on the entities whose annual property value assessments are not being conducted by County Personnel. Commissioner Olson will meet with the County Assessor to discuss this further and report back.

Family Services Director Gale Mittelstaedt was present to recommend the hiring of Rose Schlieman for the Part Time Social Worker Position. Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to hire Schlieman at Grade 11 Step 1 effective January 10, 2011.

On behalf of HR Director Schultz, Auditor Knutson reported that the County received notification that it is in compliance with the Local Government Pay Equity Act.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to amend the Life Insurance policy so that employees participating in the Phased Retirement Option can remain eligible for benefits, but at their own expense.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the increase in the administration fee to Corporate Health Systems, our plan administrator for the flex plan, as presented.

Commissioner Olson brought up the possible stream videoing of the board meetings for the employees. Motion by Olson and seconded by Sandberg to explore the idea further, taking a look at both the advantages and disadvantages. Following further discussion, motion carried.

Environmental Officer returned to the meeting with an invitation from Strata to meet with them or go on a tour of their other operations. Commissioners Berning and Sandberg will go as representatives of the Board.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 11:37 AM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

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