

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
October 4, 2011

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 4, 2011. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Berning, Olson, Sandberg 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 Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the September 20th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Dream for Kids; RDC

Sandberg – MSI; Property; Museum; RRB

Athey – Prairie 5

Wulff – Pomme de Terre; Wetland Mitigation (RC&D); Toqua Park

Berning – Countryside Public Health

Attorney Watson reported that he has recommended some changes to Countryside Public Health's Joint Powers Agreement.

Attorney Watson also reported on a call he received from Ditch Attorney John Kolb regarding a wetland/ditching issue.

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

Big Stone Area Growth	\$ 7,500.00
Big Stone SWCD	14,375.00
Hancock Concrete	2,293.75
Hitesman & Wold	2,044.00
Pioneerland Library	15,455.50
Rain for Rent	25,755.92
Regents of the U of MN	13,618.60
Ronglien & Sons Excavating	5,511.00
William Watson	4,109.88
West Con	28,696.23
50 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>9,007.41</u>
Total	\$128,367.29

Discussion was held on possible citizens for the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon committee.

VSO Dan Meyer provided information on his office's activities during the past month for the Board's review.

HRA representatives Jodi Hormann, Nancy Lee, Jim Kaye and Bill Stallman were present to update the Board on their role in the County. Board appointments were also reviewed and needed to be updated. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to reappoint Jim Reynolds retroactive to October 4, 2010, and Willard Rakow effective October 4, 2011 for 5-year terms.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to appoint Commissioner Athey as the Board's representative to the HRA Board.

Following a break, HR Director Sue Schultz discussed upcoming holiday hours and furlough issues. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to keep the Courthouse open until 4:30 PM on November 10th and 23rd and allow Department Heads to coordinate staggered furlough hours with staff. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to close Family Services at 2:30 PM on November 10th and 23rd. Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to close the Courthouse and Family Services on December 23rd. Employees can either work or take vacation for their scheduled hours.

HR Director Schultz requested dates from the Commissioners for a special meeting to do Department Head performance evaluations. She will coordinate and report back.

Discussion was held regarding staffing with County Assessor Sandy Vold. Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize hiring a part-time position for 1245 hours per year.

AMC Director Jeff Spartz was present to update the Board on AMC's activities. He stressed the importance of policy development and encouraged them to participate in that process.

Philip Deal of the Wheaton-Dumont Coop Elevator provided information on their request for a economic development tax abatement. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to proceed with a public hearing to present the request for an abatement up to \$50,000 per year for 10 years.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution setting a date for a public hearing on the approval of an economic development tax abatement resolution:

2011-41

WHEREAS, the Wheaton-Dumont Coop Elevator has expressed a desire to construct a grain terminal and agribusiness center in Graceville Township, Big Stone County, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the County Board wishes to consider utilization of an economic development tax abatement to fund a portion of the cost of this project, as authorized under the authority of Minnesota Statutes 469.1812 to 469.1815 (the "Abatement Law"); and

WHEREAS, prior to approving an abatement resolution and the use of tax abatement, the County must hold a public hearing.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners that a public hearing be held on the use of economic development tax abatement for the proposed project at 10:00 AM on Tuesday, November 1, 2011, at the Commissioners' Room of the Big Stone County Courthouse in the City of Ortonville.

HR Director Schultz and Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Hasslen were present to request increasing part-time Custodian Christie Boyle to full-time status. Discussion was held on the increase in hours required for emergency management and the possibility of hiring out for snow removal services. Following the discussion, the matter was referred to the Personnel Committee.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to close the meeting at 11:10 AM to discuss labor negotiation strategy. Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to reopen the meeting at 11:27 AM.

County Engineer Nick Anderson updated the Board on the needed pipe replacement for the Artichoke Lake Outlet. The cost will be approximately \$35,000 installed. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the expenditure and move forward with the project as presented by Engineer Anderson.

Engineer Anderson reported that the plans are ready for the Highway 12 tile project, but there are issues with funding the project.

Engineer Anderson reported that the Meadowbrook Road project got approved for 0.85 miles of pavement from the State Park Road Account Fund. The project is scheduled for 2012 construction.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 11:41 AM.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor