

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**December 1, 2011**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 4:30 PM on Thursday, December 1, 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 Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the November 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – RDC; PrimeWest

Sandberg – Audit; MSI

Wulff – Park

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

Cretex Concrete Products	\$ 31,772.53
Tom Heck	5,074.00
L.G. Everist	2,051.36
Ronglien & Sons Excavating	11,292.50
William Watson	4,109.88
West Con	8,828.55
61 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>15,795.73</u>
Total	\$78,924.55

Auditor Knutson reported that the Audit Committee had met and are recommending the adoption of the presented Fund Balance Policy as required by GASB 54. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the Big Stone County Fund Balance Policy as recommended.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the \$100,000 loan request from the Upper MN River Watershed District for the Highway 12 Flood Mitigation Project. The loan will be at 6% interest payable in 3 annual installments beginning December 1, 2012.

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

**2011-47**

WHEREAS, County SAP 006-622-006 has in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts said completed project for and on behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorize final payment to Ronglien & Sons Excavating, Inc. in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

Discussion was held on ditch balances and needed assessments for 2012.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke reviewed the Natural Resources Block Grant Agreement with the Board. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the Natural Resources Block Grant Agreement and appoint Environmental Officer Wilke as the authorized representative.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the 2011 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Agreement with the State of Minnesota as presented Emergency Management Director Jim Hasslen.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to hire Ailsa Nowacki for the part-time Officer Clerk/Appraiser position at Grade 7 Step 1 contingent upon satisfactory completion of reference checks as recommended by HR Director Sue Schultz.

Discussion was held on the setting of salaries for the elected department heads.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the following for non-union employees:

- For 2012 - 2% COLA and \$20 per month Cafeteria Contribution Reduction
- For 2013 - 1% COLA and \$20 per month Cafeteria Contribution Increase
- Beginning in 2012 - Cafeteria Contribution Increase for Part-time

Employees:

35-49% of full-time \$150 per month

50-74% of full-time \$200 per month

75-99% of full-time \$250 per month

- Employees hired on or after January 1, 2012, would not receive a sick leave payout upon resignation or a 50% payout of sick leave balance over 100 days at year end.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Chairman Athey called the hearing to order at 6:00 PM to take public comment on the County's 2012 budget and levy. Richard Mueller was present. Information was distributed for review. Following a brief discussion with Mr. Mueller regarding value changes and tax implications, the hearing was closed.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 6:13 PM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

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