

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD  
December 20, 2011**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, December 20, 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 Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the minutes of the November 22<sup>nd</sup> special meeting, the November 29<sup>th</sup> special meeting and the December 1<sup>st</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Dream for Kids; Pioneerland Library

Sandberg – Beyond the Yellow Ribbon; Property; CBSL

Athey – HRA; SWCD; Prairie 5

Wulff – AMC Conference; PIC

Berning – Countryside

Discussion was held on the proposed Supplemental Lease Agreement for FSA received from the National Leasing Rep. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize sending the counter offer and revised Agreement as presented by Auditor Knutson.

Attorney Watson reported that he was able to attend the Court of Appeal argument and so did not have to hire another attorney as approved at the last meeting.

Attorney Watson reported that the MCAPS dues increased \$510.40 for 2012. Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve reimbursing Attorney Watson for the increase.

Attorney Watson reported that he is still working on the easement agreement for the bike trail.

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

Mike Hartman, Art Lee, Kathy Longhenry, Arlen Giese, Gene Homan, Norm Haukos and Clark Mastel were present for a discussion on the proposed quarry by Strata. Various concerns were raised including its affect on air quality with dust issues, property values and water supply. The Board recommended that a representative go and tour one of Strata's sites and all were encouraged to bring their concerns with information to support them to the public hearing with the Planning Commission.

Engineer Nick Anderson reported that one bid had been received on the 2 acre parcel in Odessa Township. Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to accept the bid from Duane Markus in the amount of \$6,800 for the parcel.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize a clean out of silt on County Ditch #8 estimated to cost around \$3,000.

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

Computer Professionals

\$ 3,747.33

Fridgen Excavating	20,500.00
MAXIMUS	3,350.00
Traverse County	2,550.00
Regents of the U of MN	12,168.75
Royal Tire Inc.	3,176.98
66 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>19,364.06</u>
Total	\$62,307.12

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the following internal transactions:

Ditch to Highway	\$1,881.34
County Ditch 8	\$ 97.48
County Ditch 30	\$1,487.58
Joint Ditch 4	\$ 296.28
General to Highway	\$7,825.71

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the following tobacco license applications for 2012:

- Bonnie's Hometown Grocery
- George's Bar & Grill Inc.
- Graceville Bar & Lounge
- Graceville Country Market
- Hartman's Super Valu
- Headquarter's Bar, Inc.
- Holiday Stationstore #105
- KJ's Kountry Store
- Tri County Coop
- TD&C Inc dba Cenex-Ortonville

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

**2011-48**

WHEREAS, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board ("GASB") has adopted Statement 54 ("GASB 54"), a new standard for governmental fund balance reporting and governmental fund type definitions that became effective in governmental fiscal years starting after June 15, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County elects to implement GASB 54 requirements, and to apply such requirements to its financial statements beginning with 2011.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners commits the following portions of its fund balance as follows:

General Fund:	\$ 87,626.00	For future Capital Project expenditures plus any future amounts received for the MCIT Workers Comp Dividend
	\$400,251.96	For future Building Maintenance expenditures plus any future amounts received for the MCIT Property Casualty Dividend
	\$ 63,591.71	For MSI Equipment and Building Repair
Highway Fund:	\$ 40,190.97	For County Road Projects plus any future amounts received from Gravel Tax

Family Services Fund: \$150,000.00 For Out of Home Placements

Discussion was held on establishing a fee and application for a precious metal license. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to set the fee for a Precious Metal License at \$150 and to approve the application as presented contingent upon Attorney Watson's review and approval.

Auditor Knutson reported that the Election Services Agreement is being revised so it will be brought to the next meeting for approval.

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

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to re-appoint Shawnda Johnson to the Extension Committee for a 3-year term and appoint Kenneth Schumacher as the youth representative for a 2-year term.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the Auditor to pay any claims received by December 31<sup>st</sup> so as to account for them in the current year's business.

Discussion was held on ditch assessments for the 2012 ditch budget.

Discussion was held on the general consensus of the Restructuring Adhoc Committee which was to put a question on the 2012 general election ballot for changing the status of the Auditor, Treasurer and Recorder to hired positions versus elected. The Board directed Auditor Knutson to research the process of putting a question on the ballot and to report back later in the meeting.

Commissioner Wulff reported that he had received a bid on a mower for Toqua Park from Titan. No action was taken at this time.

The meeting was recessed for Welfare Board.

The meeting reconvened at 12:30 PM. Suzi Kleindl and Bobbie Oakes arrived at the meeting.

Discussion was held on the future of Prairie Country RC&D. Motion by Olson and seconded by Sandberg to send a letter to the other sponsors of the RC&D addressing the possible dissolution of the agency. Motion carried with Commissioner Wulff voting Nay.

Auditor Knutson reported that the deadline for submitting a ballot question is the date of the primary election. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to start the process to put elected vs. hired on the ballot for 2012.

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

**2011-49**

WHEREAS, M.S. 375.055 provides that county commissioners shall receive annual salaries for services rendered while serving as a county commissioner and may receive per diem payments and reimbursement for necessary expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2012 salary of the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners shall remain at \$13,306.02 and the per diem rate shall remain at \$50.00 for service on any board, committee or commission or for the performance of services by individual commissioners when required by law.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to set the salaries for elected officials for 2012 as follows:

Attorney	\$80,861.30
Auditor	\$71,822.14

Recorder	\$49,878.92
Sheriff	\$64,817.22
Treasurer	\$59,595.90

HR Director Sue Schultz reported that Ortonville School has given a 60-day notice to terminate the contract with the County for IT services.

As per M.S. 13.05, HR Director Schultz stated the results of the appointed Department Head performance reviews as follows:

**November 22, 2011 Special Meeting**

This has been a difficult year for the Highway Department due to furloughs and decreasing budgets. County Engineer Nick Anderson, does a good job of finding the balance between ideology and reality. Nick made a commitment to the Board to improve interoffice communication.

During the past year, Environmental Officer Darren Wilke has shown initiative looking down the road trying to find greater efficiencies and identifying the proper role for his Department in the years to come with regard to relationships with other agencies. Darren does very professional work with multiple agencies and the public.

Family Services Director Gale Mittelstaedt has done a great job returning the agency to normalcy and competency. Gale should begin moving forward in the process of moving day-to-day operations to the Social Services Supervisor and concentrate on activities at the state level along with strategic planning.

County Assessor Sandy Vold has been dealing with a changeable environment due to the State Legislation. Sandy has been doing a good job with reduced staffing and increased technology demands and the Board appreciates her efforts.

**November 29, 2011 Special Meeting**

The Board is very pleased with the hard work of CVSO Dan Meyer. Dan's commitment to the veterans has made the Veteran's Service office a very busy and client-oriented place.

Jim Hasslen, as the EMD, Safety and Building Maintenance Supervisor, has to wear multiple hats and manage multiple priorities. Jim needs to take on more ownership of maintenance side and work to increase communications. Jim has done a good job with his Emergency Management duties.

HR Director Sue Schultz has done a good job balancing the needs of two counties. The Board expressed appreciation for her candor and transparency.

IT Director Terry Ocaña moved into a position that was in disarray and has made the IT Department an integral part of the county system. Terry has the trust of the employees and the Board. The Board appreciates Terry's knowledge and creative problem solving.

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

**2011-50**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County 2012 budget and levy be established as follows:

	<b>GENERAL</b>	<b>HIGHWAY</b>	<b>FAMILY SERVICES</b>	<b>DEBT SERVICE</b>	<b>DITCH</b>	<b>2012 TOTAL</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Tax Levy & Aids	\$2,711,339	\$900,000	\$906,720	\$89,000		\$4,607,059
Other Taxes	\$7,600	\$35,000				\$42,600
Special Assessments	\$133,800				\$88,500	\$222,300
Licenses & Permits	\$16,700					\$16,700
Intergovernmental	\$363,527	\$3,391,850	\$1,277,047			\$5,032,424
Charges for Services	\$170,800	\$162,000	\$210,715			\$543,515
Investment Earnings	\$60,700	\$15,000				\$75,700
Miscellaneous	\$110,302	\$29,000	\$57,394			\$196,696
Other Financing Sources	\$141,394	\$30,000				\$171,394
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$3,716,162</b>	<b>\$4,562,850</b>	<b>\$2,451,876</b>	<b>\$89,000</b>	<b>\$88,500</b>	<b>\$10,908,388</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
General Government	\$1,776,292					\$1,776,292
Public Safety	\$1,025,799					\$1,025,799
Highway		\$4,667,580				\$4,667,580
Sanitation	\$195,121					\$195,121
Family Services			\$2,451,876			\$2,451,876
Health	\$102,961					\$102,961
Culture & Recreation	\$144,223					\$144,223
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$241,335				\$107,530	\$348,865
Economic Development	\$32,344					\$32,344
Debt Service				\$85,548		\$85,548
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$3,518,075</b>	<b>\$4,667,580</b>	<b>\$2,451,876</b>	<b>\$85,548</b>	<b>\$107,530</b>	<b>\$10,830,609</b>

Discussion was held on establishing a policy for economic development tax abatements. Attorney Watson will provide some policy examples at a future meeting.

The meeting was recessed until after union negotiations.

The meeting was reconvened at 2:45 PM.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to close the meeting at 2:45 PM to discuss labor negotiation strategy. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to reopen the meeting at 2:51 PM.

A settlement was not reached with the unions.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 2:55 PM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

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