

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**July 19, 2011**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, July 19, 2011. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Berning, Sandberg and Wulff present. Commissioner Olson was absent. 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 Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the July 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson via Auditor Knutson – PrimeWest; DREAM; BSAG; Planning & Zoning; Collaborative

Sandberg – Museum; CBSL; Property

Athey – Planning & Zoning

Wulff – MRB; RLF; BSAG; Pomme de Terre; Toqua Park

Berning – Property; Supporting Hands; Countryside Public Health

Attorney Watson reported that the Attorney General's Office will be handling the appeal case for Danny Barnes so there will be no cost to the County.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the following assessment agreements as presented by County Assessor Sandy Vold:

3-year Agreements: Townships of Almond, Otrey and Toqua

1-year Agreements: Townships of Akron, Artichoke, Malta, Moonshine and Odessa

Discussion was held on the City of Graceville's wetland credit request. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to set a price of \$3,500 per credit plus any applicable fees for the City's request since they are another local government entity.

The Board stated that they will review all requests for wetland credits on a case by case basis.

Discussion was held on the water issues on various county roads. Engineer Anderson reported that he has applied for permits to pump water on CR 4, CR 61 and CR 21 by Peterson Lake. Other roads with issues that were reported on were CR 53 and CR 67.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the County Engineer to proceed with road construction projects that are ready to go or are in progress in which the funding is with the County (county funded or projects in which 95% of CSAH dollars are within the County). Further, the County Engineer is directed to perform any work that is necessary within the state right-of-way, which overlaps the county right-of-way, for these authorized county road projects.

Engineer Anderson reported that he received a quote from Curt Plotz of Plotz Timber Harvest from Marshall for removing trees along 3 miles of Joint Ditch #4 in the amount of \$29,000. Auditor Knutson was directed to set up a joint ditch meeting to approve the project.

Discussion was held on County Ditch #30 and the options to divert water. A possible redetermination of benefits was mentioned. No action was taken at this time.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke presented information on the Conditional Use Permit Application (CUP) of Bituminous Paving, Inc. to open 2 new gravel pits in Odessa Township. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve a pit in section 17 and motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve a pit in section 21 as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to appoint Neil Brandt to the Board of Adjustment to finish out the term of Dan Walters. The Board expressed their appreciation for Mr. Walters years of service as a Board of Adjustment member.

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

Discussion was held on the County's safety program and the possibility of handling it in-house. Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to rescind the motion from the last meeting to execute a 3-year contract with Safe-Assure. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the program to be handled in-house by Christi Boyle. Building Maintenance Supervisor Jim Hasslen stated that 150 hours of Boyle's schedule will be reassigned to the program resulting in no additional staff hours. In addition, Hasslen requested that \$750 be set aside to purchase any needed training resources and that a separate accounting be established. Maintenance Supervisor Gary Haugen will take care of the required safety training for the Highway Department.

Don Kleven of the US Fish & Wildlife was present to request certification of acquisition of lands for habitat easements in Artichoke and Toqua Townships. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to certify for acquisition the following described property:

1. T122N, R44W, 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Section 14, part of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$  and Section 23, part of the NW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ .
2. T124N, R47W, 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Section 22, Lot A of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$  and Section 23, Lot A of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ .
3. T122N, R44W, 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Section 22, Lot A within part of GL 6 and all of GL 5

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

BNSF Railway Company	\$ 3,103.08
CDW Government	3,329.32
Computer Professionals	3,967.33
John Deere	2,137.50
Kandiyohi County	28,155.20
Ortonville Independent	4,711.45
Serocki Excavating	18,425.07
Sullivan Excavating	2,940.00
Tri County Co-op	2,425.72
Tubbs of Soft Water	6,527.05
West Con	12,233.31
48 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>11,489.09</u>
Total	\$ 99,444.12

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

Ditch to Highway		\$ 338.71
CD 2	\$58.19	
CD 13	\$87.15	
JD 4	\$99.22	
JD 7	\$94.15	
General to Highway		\$ 6,498.39

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 Berning and carried to approve the new items for display in the rotunda by the Big Stone Arts Council.

Auditor Knutson reported that Ehlers provided a status report on refunding of existing bond issues. The report indicated it is not recommended at this time.

Discussion was held on the staffing in the Assessor's and Environmental Offices. Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve that, at the discretion of those department heads, their non-exempt employees be allowed to work some or all of their furloughed hours as needed during the busiest times as recommended by the Personnel Committee. This will be effective July 25<sup>th</sup> and revisited in 30 days.

Auditor Knutson distributed copies of the 2012 departmental budgets that have been received to date for the Board's review. Discussion was held on various items.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to close the meeting at 10:38 to discuss labor negotiation strategy.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Sandberg and carried to reopen the meeting at 10:43 AM.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 10:43 AM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

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