

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**January 17, 2012**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, January 17, 2012. Chairman Wulff called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Olson and Sandberg present. Commissioner Berning was absent. 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 Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the January 3<sup>rd</sup> re-organizational meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – Beyond the Yellow Ribbon; CBSL; Property

Athey – HRA; P&Z

Wulff – RLF; BSAG

Olson – PrimeWest; BSAG

Sheriff John Haukos arrived at the meeting during the committee reports.

Attorney Watson reported that he had reviewed the contract with Hildi & Associates for preparing the OPEB valuation report. Auditor Knutson has contacted Hildi to revise the contract to include Attorney Watson's comments.

Attorney Watson reported that he prepared a contract between Family Services and the Food Shelf for administrative functions. This will be discussed further at Welfare Board.

Attorney Watson also reported that he is working on the bike trail easements and that he and Environmental Officer Wilke had met to discuss information for the next meeting regarding Strata.

Sheriff Haukos provided an update on the Department's squad cars and their schedule for replacement. Upon the recommendation of Sheriff Haukos, motion by Olson and seconded by Sandberg to authorize the following:

1. Advertise for bids for the sale of the 1991 Dodge pickup;
2. Keep the Durango as is to be used for boat and water and for the part-time deputies;
3. Order new squad off state bid list; and
4. Additional costs for equipment for the new squad.

Following discussion on the use of donated funds for the additional equipment, motion carried with Commissioner Athey voting Nay.

HR Director Sue Schultz and Deputy Auditor Sharon Finke arrived at the meeting.

HR Director Schultz reported that MCIT has requested the County to review insured items and report them at actual cash value. Department Heads are reviewing the schedules and will report any changes to HR Director Schultz to be updated.

Discussion was held on the County's Retiree Health Plan structure. An employee is requesting that there be an option to receive cash in lieu of health benefits at retirement. Board consensus was to leave the plan as is.

HR Director Schultz reported on her research into hiring a public relations firm to provide education on elected versus hired. Following discussion, HR Director Schultz was directed to contact AMC for further information on the process.

Haukos, Schulz and Finke left the meeting.

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

|                               |                 |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Computer Professionals        | \$ 4,398.17     |
| ESRI, Inc.                    | 2,534.38        |
| Kandiyohi County              | 32,438.18       |
| Palmer Johnson Power Systems  | 3,653.11        |
| The Shop                      | 2,223.02        |
| Traverse County               | 2,150.00        |
| West Con                      | 6,160.00        |
| 46 Payments Less Than \$2,000 | <u>9,553.65</u> |
| Total                         | \$63,110.51     |

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

|                    |            |
|--------------------|------------|
| Ditch to Highway   | \$ 272.26  |
| County Ditch 30    | \$217.47   |
| Joint Ditch 4      | \$ 54.79   |
| General to Highway | \$6,902.75 |

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to appoint delegates to the following AMC Policy Committees:

|                      |                                 |
|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Commissioner Athey   | Environment & Natural Resources |
| Commissioner Olson   | General Government              |
| Commissioner Berning | Public Safety                   |

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

Auditor Knutson reported that a letter of support had been received from Chippewa County regarding the Board's position on the possible dissolution of Prairie Country RC&D.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to close the meeting at 9:30 AM to discuss labor negotiation strategy. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to reopen the meeting at 10:02 AM.

The Highway Department Union has filed a petition for mediation. The Family Services Union has presented a counter offer so the Board directed HR Director Schultz to present a counter offer from the Board.

Chairman Wulff adjourned the meeting at 10:03 AM.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter W. Wulff, Chairman

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