

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**July 3, 2012**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, July 3, 2012. Chairman Wulff called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Berning, Olson and Sandberg 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 Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the June 19<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – Food Shelf; Museum; Property; MSI

Athey – Prairie 5

Wulff – Toqua Park

Berning – Property

Olson – PLS; RDC

Attorney Watson reported on the status of the language for the ballot question this fall and the leases he drafted that are on the agenda.

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

Bear Graphics	\$ 2,570.06
Big Stone Area Growth	7,500.00
Big Stone SWCD	15,400.79
Bond Trust Services Corporation	15,242.50
City of Graceville	5,000.00
City of Ortonville	5,000.00
Countryside Public Health	25,230.50
Crop Production Services	4,171.96
Election Systems & Software	3,919.59
Grant County	2,250.00
M-R Sign Co	2,957.45
Nelson Electric	7,336.58
James Nitz Construction	2,350.00
Pioneerland Library System	15,455.50
Serocki Excavating	8,672.86
Office of the State Auditor	7,499.52
Synergy Graphics	3,578.59
Titan Machinery	7,353.00
Tri City Paving	13,282.92
William Watson	4,145.05
48 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>17,153.08</u>
Total	\$176,069.95

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to execute the farm lease with Kelly Stattelmann.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the lease agreement with Ronald F. Carlson Enterprises, Inc. that includes a per diem rate of \$170 until August 31, 2012.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the On Sale Liquor License for Club 7-75.

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

Commissioner Sandberg	Transportation
Commissioner Wulff	Health & Human Services

Discussion was held on the Commissioners attendance at AMC District meetings as requested by Family Services Director Gale Mittelstaedt. Consensus was that they would rotate so that at least one commissioner would be in attendance.

Following discussion on the extension of the contract with CPUI, the matter was tabled until the next meeting.

Discussion was held on whether the County could use special assessments as a way to receive payment for work done by the Highway Department. Attorney Watson will review the statutes and report back to the Board.

4-H Program Coordinator Suzanne Souza provided an annual update on the 4-H program.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the following 2-year assessment agreements as presented by County Assessor Sandy Vold: Townships of Akron, Artichoke, Big Stone, Graceville, Malta, Moonshine, Odessa and Prior and the City of Johnson.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution for tax-forfeited land as requested by County Treasurer Cindy Nelson:

**2014-14**

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners desires to offer for sale certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, said parcels of land have been viewed by the County Board of Commissioners and have been classified as non-conservation lands as provided for in Minnesota Statute 282.01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that all parcels of land on the attached list have been viewed and comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8 and 282.018 and other statutes that require the withholding of tax-forfeited lands from sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby requests approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the sale of said lands.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to hire Rebecca Hogrefe for the Financial Worker position at Grade 7 Step 1 effective July 23, 2012, as recommended by HR Director Sue Schultz.

HR Director Schultz updated the Board on the recent hiring of the HR position in Stevens County. The new Director will start on September 4<sup>th</sup>.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to adopt the following resolution as requested by County Engineer Nick Anderson for the gravel crushing contract:

**2012-15**

WHEREAS, County Project 06-1201 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 in behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorize final payment to Hard Rock Screening, LLC in the amount shown on final pay estimates.

Discussion was held on installing a stop sign on County Road 60 at the intersection of CSAH 35. Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the installation.

Engineer Anderson reported that approval has been given for the contractor to use warm-mix bituminous for this summer's project.

Deputy Auditor Sharon Finke arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to close the meeting at 9:48 AM to discuss labor negotiation strategy.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to reopen the meeting at 9:57 AM.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to adjust the 2013 COLA for the non-union employees to 2%.

Discussion was held on the differences in the contracts regarding employee benefits. HR Director Schultz will assemble cost figures and report back to the Board.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

The remainder of the meeting was spent working on the 2013 County budget. Chairman Wulff adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.

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Walter W. Wulff, Chairman

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