

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD  
November 19, 2013**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, November 19, 2013. Chairman Berning called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Olson, Sandberg and Wulff present. 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 Wulff and carried to approve the minutes of the November 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Athey – AMC District Mtg; Personnel

Wulff – Toqua Park; Extension; AMC District Mtg

Olson – Personnel (2); RDC; Dream for Kids; AMC District Mtg

Sandberg – CBSL; PrimeWest; Dept Head Mtg; AMC District Mtg;  
Property

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to appoint Commissioner Wulff as an alternate on Joint Ditch 24 if needed for a quorum at the upcoming meeting.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to appoint Commissioner Berning as an alternate on Combined Ditch 10 & 11 if needed for a quorum at the upcoming meeting.

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

Advantage Police Supply	\$ 2,588.87
American Engineering Testing	7,840.00
Computer Professionals	4,059.07
FMI	2,784.33
Fridgen Excavating	8,190.00
Office Peeps	3,420.00
Ronglien & Sons Excavating	3,900.00
West Con	11,663.15
39 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>4,255.85</u>
Total	<u>\$58,701.27</u>

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

Family Services to Highway	\$ 307.16
General to Highway	\$ 2,415.99
Ditch to Highway	\$ 1,031.35
County Ditch #4	\$ 216.41
County Ditch #12	\$ 495.59
County Ditch #20	\$ 98.72
Joint Ditch #24	\$ 220.63

Auditor Knutson reported that the County's Cost Allocation Plan for FY 2012 has been completed and is available.

US Fish & Wildlife representative Cheri Sloneker was present to request certification of acquisition of land for a habitat easement in Odessa Township. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to certify for acquisition the following described property: T121N, R45W, 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Section 5, that part of the SE1/4.

County Engineer Nick Anderson reported on the various ditch projects that have been completed. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve an additional \$2,500 needed to complete the work done on County Ditch #20.

Engineer Anderson reported that the Highway Department will be trading the 2004 tractor and mower plus \$3,000 for a new one from Titan Machinery.

Discussion was held on motor grader replacements. Motion by Olson and seconded by Athey to approve the purchase of two blades in May of 2014 and delay the purchase of the loader scheduled in 2014 until 2015. Following further discussion, motion carried.

Engineer Anderson stated that there is no report on the Ottertail Pole Line Agreement at this time as Attorney Watson is still reviewing it.

Engineer Anderson was asked to install some signage on County Road #68 by the public access to Big Stone Lake.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Wulff and carried to close the meeting at 9:36 AM for the purpose of discussing labor negotiation strategy as requested by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to reopen the meeting at 10:09 AM.

The meeting was recessed until after the Local Social Services Agency Board meeting.

The meeting reconvened at 12:30 PM for Department Head evaluations. Chairman Berning was absent. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to close the meeting at 12:30 PM for the evaluations of IT Director Terry Ocaña and Family Services Director Pam Rud. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to reopen the meeting for continued evaluations of elected officials. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to close the meeting at 3:16 PM for the evaluation of HR Director Dawn Gregoire. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to reopen the meeting at 3:35 PM.

Vice Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 3:35 PM.

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Joseph J. Berning, Chairman

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