

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**March 5, 2013**

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

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the agenda with noted addition.

Attorney Watson reported that Attorney Aaron Jordan from Stevens County will be covering in his absence.

Attorney Watson recommended that the County advertise for the Beardsley Shop since other parties are interested in purchasing it and if the County wants to set a minimum bid, they may do so.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Athey – Prairie Five; HRA; Fair Board

Wulff – Extension; RLF

Berning – Property

Sandberg – MSI; Property

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to appoint Cara Greger to the Extension Committee for a 2-year term.

Sheriff John Haukos reported that the collection agency they have been using for pay for stay is no longer in business. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize Sheriff Haukos to execute an agreement with Collection Bureau of Little Falls, Inc. contingent upon Attorney Watson's review.

VSO Dan Meyer provided information on his office's activities during the past month for the Board's review. Admin Assistant Liane Rausch reported on the projects she has been working on.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize the hiring of Billie Jo Anderson for the Financial Worker position effective March 25, 2013, at Grade 7 Step 1.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize the hiring of Darwin Karsky for the Highway Maintenance Supervisor position effective March 18, 2013, at Grade 13 Step 1. Upon satisfactory performance, Karsky will move to Step 2 at 6 months and Step 3 at 1 year.

County Engineer Nick Anderson reported that the DNR will not be paying \$5,800 of additional costs on the Meadowbrook project as included in the amended agreement approved at the January 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Engineer Anderson also reported that the DNR is not paying some of the maintenance costs for the trail due to late signing of the contract during the state shutdown.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the Highway Department to contract with Moonshine Township to doing their mowing on a 1-year trial basis.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize filling the Highway Technician position that will be vacated by Terry LaVoi.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize Engineer Anderson to advertise for bids for the sale of the Beardsley Shop at a minimum bid of \$20,000.

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

GHA Technologies	\$ 8,521.66
MacQueen Equipment	2,654.06
William Watson	4,202.33
West Con	19,575.52
51 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>8,060.64</u>
Total	\$53,014.21

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

Auditor Knutson provided an update on the County's annual financial audit.

A brief discussion was held on possible funding for West Central MN Prairie Waters.

Discussion was held on the disposal of some older County vehicles. Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the disposal of excess vehicles in a timely fashion.

The County has been invited to sit on a panel at the Legislative Conference on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Consensus was to have Commissioner Olson serve as the County's rep to the panel.

Commissioner Athey reported that he had been approached about installing a score board at the ball field in Toqua Park. Consensus was to gather more information and discuss it at the next board meeting.

Chairman Berning adjourned the meeting at 10:12 AM.

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Joseph J. Berning, Chairman

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