

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
April 2, 2013

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, April 2, 2013. Chairman Berning called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Sandberg and Wulff present. Commissioner Olson was not present but arrived during committee reports. 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 March 19th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Athey – Prairie Five

Wulff – RRB

Sandberg – MSI; ESB; Property

Olson – RDC; Pioneerland; Legislative Conference

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

Big Stone Area Growth	\$ 8,750.00
Big Stone SWCD	15,000.00
Haukos Electrical Service	3,260.44
KJ's Kountry Store	2,308.41
Pioneerland Library System	15,919.25
Regents of the U of MN	12,290.64
William Watson	4,202.33
West Con	17,997.83
16 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>18,003.53</u>
Total	\$97,732.43

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 Athey and carried to approve the Consumption and Display Permit and the On Sale Beer License for Graceville Golf Club.

Auditor Knutson reported on the results received from Countryside Public Health on the 2012 tobacco compliance checks.

Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the purchase of a 72" Grasshopper mower for Toqua Park from Titan Machinery for \$12,100 plus tax after trade-in.

Discussion was held on the upcoming meeting with area counties to discuss cooperation among their respective Family Services departments. Commissioners Berning and Athey will attend the meeting with Wulff as the alternate.

Facilities Technician Jared Heck presented quotes for a tractor with various accessories for snow blowing and mowing. Heck will meet with the Park Committee to discuss other options.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the purchase of a new natural gas furnace for the Government Building.

Discussion was held on the recent water issues in the Courthouse due to ice jams and what options there may be to fix the problem for the future.

VSO Dan Meyer provided information on his office's activities during the past month for the Board's review. Admin Assistant Liane Rausch presented recently created brochures that will be available for distribution.

Discussion was held on the quote received for remodeling the north end of the 2nd floor of the Courthouse. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to accept the quote from Hasslen Construction for the project.

County Engineer Nick Anderson reported that due to the Federal CDL requirements regarding hand held cell phones, the Department has been outfitted with headsets.

Engineer Anderson provided updates on several Department issues.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2013-13

WHEREAS Minnesota Counties have had to rely increasingly on the property tax to maintain roads and bridges; and

WHEREAS the annual funding gap for counties has resulted in deferring basic maintenance, delaying expansion projects with resulting safety concerns, mounting congestion, and missed economic growth for businesses and commuters; and

WHEREAS the rural road networks in the state should be adequate to bring goods to market; and

WHEREAS transportation-related jobs put over \$2.8 billion in the pockets of Minnesotans and generated almost \$195 million in income tax revenue in 2011; and

WHEREAS according to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), every \$1 billion invested in highway construction would support approximately 27,800 jobs; and

WHEREAS the overall transportation and transit needs for Minnesota exceed \$2.5 billion dollars per year for the next twenty years; and

WHEREAS transportation funding comes primarily from user fees and are constitutionally dedicated to transportation purposes; and

WHEREAS the wheelage fee and local option sales tax for transportation should be options for all county boards to implement to meet their specific county needs; and

WHEREAS a comprehensive transportation solution should include funding for roads, bridges and transit, and address the varying needs in different parts of the state.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners encourages the Minnesota Legislature to pass and the Governor to sign a bill that brings adequate funding to Minnesota's statewide transportation system.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the plat for SAP 06-621-024, the CSAH 21 project.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire and Family Services Director Pam Rud arrived at the meeting. Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to accept the resignation of Social Worker Rhonda Beckman effective April 8th.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize filling the Social Worker position.

HR Director Gregoire provided an update on various HR items.

Chairman Berning adjourned the meeting at 9:56 AM.

Joseph J. Berning, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor