

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**September 17, 2013**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 17, 2013. Chairman Berning called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Olson, Sandberg and Wulff present. Also present were Steve Berkner, 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 Wulff and carried to approve the minutes of the September 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the agenda with noted additions.

City of Ortonville Mayor Steve Berkner provided an update on the Columbian Hotel Property. Mayor Berkner requested the County's commitment to abate their share of the taxes if the proposal for the City to take ownership of the property goes through. Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Olson to approve the abatement if needed. Following further discussion, motion carried. Discussion was also held on setting up a meeting with city planning and zoning officials and councils to discuss possible policies for dilapidated structures and forfeited properties.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Athey – Toqua Park; SWCD

Wulff – RLF; BSAG; Pomme de Terre; PIC

Berning – CSPH

Sandberg – Museum; CBSL

Attorney Watson reported that the County has started e-charging, but they are still working through some issues.

Attorney Watson also reported that the City of Graceville would like to have a dialog with the County regarding concerns they have regarding Toqua Park. Discussion was held on the status of an ordinance to deal with some of the concerns.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Facilities Technician Jared Heck presented quotes from Midwest Insulation for rewrapping the heating and cooling pipes in the Courthouse. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept the quote of \$24,500 to rewrap the cooling pipes.

Chairman Berning provided an update on the replacement of the west doors of the Courthouse. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize up to \$3,000 to replace them.

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

Computer Professionals	\$ 4,073.07
GHA Technologies	3,235.48
Milbank Communications	3,163.50
West Con	7,534.69
43 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>13,847.43</u>
Total	\$31,854.17

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

Family Services to Highway	\$ 407.21
General to Highway	\$ 2,050.86
Ditch to Highway – County Ditch #16	\$ 3,425.84

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

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to reappoint Don Sykora to the HRA Board for a 5-year term effective October 1, 2013.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to appropriate \$708 per year for 2014-2016 to the Pomme de Terre River Association.

Discussion was held on another shredding option for the County to consider. The Board will discuss it further at Family Services.

Commissioner Sandberg reported on the AMC Transportation Policy meeting where the transportation funding formula was discussed. He and Engineer Anderson attended the meeting.

Discussion was held on the tax forfeited property on Orchard Street. Commissioner Sandberg reported that no asbestos was found so the County can proceed with demolition. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the quote from Ronglien Excavating for \$3,900 for the demolition and clean-up of the property.

Further discussion was held on future clean-ups of forfeited property. Consensus was that those decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis and based on the best net result to the taxpayer.

Toqua Park fees were revisited. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to set the following park fees for 2014:

Season Pass	\$500
Camper Fee	\$20/day
Tent Fee	\$10/day
Hunter's Pass (after August 31 <sup>st</sup> )	\$50
Tournaments	\$50/day

The tournament fee will not be charged for C-G-B School activities.

Chairman Berning adjourned the meeting at 9:53 AM.

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Joseph J. Berning, Chairman

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