

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
October 21, 2014

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 21, 2014. Chairman Olson called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Berning, Sandberg and Wulff 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 Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the October 7th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

- Wulff – SWMAMHC; Toqua Park
- Berning – Countryside; Property
- Olson – Personnel; Broadband; Dream for Kids; Pioneerland
- Sandberg – Property; CBSL
- Athey – HRA; Personnel; Broadband

Attorney Watson reported that there may be some additional expenses related to an upcoming trial.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to execute the agreement with the Historical Society regarding the ownership of the buildings at the Museum as presented by Attorney Watson.

Attorney Watson updated the Board on his recent conversations and correspondence with bond council regarding the use of abatement bonds for the possible broadband initiative project.

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

Bituminous Paving	\$ 11,222.48
Kandiyohi County Sheriff Dept	3,858.40
Kris Engineering	8,916.48
Regents of the U of MN	12,474.39
Robert R Schroeder Construction	6,000.00
Traffic Marking Service	29,268.15
West Con	14,999.00
49 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>16,432.90</u>
Total	\$103,171.80

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

General to Highway	\$ 2,641.24
Family Services to Highway	\$ 139.57
Ditch to Highway	\$ 672.44
County Ditch 2	\$ 70.99
Joint Ditch 4	\$ 176.23
County Ditch 16	\$ 240.85
Joint Ditch 24	\$ 184.37

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to execute the FY 2015 Snowmobile Maintenance Grant Agreement for the Big Stone Lake Area Sno Riders with the MN DNR.

Discussion was held on the request for the County's participation in Western MN Prairie Waters. Board consensus was to not participate at this time.

PrimeWest representatives Jim Przybilla and Al Carlson were present to provide an update on the County Employee Health Coverage project and request the County's approval for financial assistance with the second phase of the project. Insurance committee members Dawn Gregoire, Sharon Finke and Terry Ocaña were also present. Following discussion, motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to continue to support the project and authorize the phase 2 amount of \$10,243.

Auditor Knutson reported that the County received Rinke Noonan's comments regarding the Clean Water Act.

IT Director Terry Ocaña, Jacki Anderson from the RDC, Kevin Beyer from Federated Telephone and Jodi Hormann from the HRA were present for the discussion on the broadband initiative project. Attorney Watson reported that there are differing opinions from bond council on using abatement bonds to help fund the project. Ocaña reported that he had done some additional research as well and feels that there is support for using abatement bonds for the project. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2014-23

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners is aware of Federated Telephone Company's intent to apply for the Broadband Development Grant Program to be submitted to the State of Minnesota in October 2014 for funding to provide fiber to the premise in rural Big Stone County to areas that are underserved or unserved with broadband; and

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners agrees that broadband is an essential part of community infrastructure because it offers many opportunities including, but not limited to: promoting access to government resources and information such as GIS, tax records, permits, or paying taxes online; opportunities to buy and sell goods especially for home-based businesses; offers access to healthcare including VA medical records for veterans; and expands educational opportunities for all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners feels it is in the best interest of the County to endorse said project because having a variety of broadband options is an expectation of future residents and business and is directly connected to opportunities that could increase the economic prosperity in the County; and

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners realizes that financing of broadband infrastructure is challenging and as a result are willing to have the County be a financial partner in the above identified project; and

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners has determined that the County has the financial capacity to assist with this project and will move forward with a bonding process of up to four million dollars (\$4,000,000.00) when and if grant funds are awarded.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby endorses Federated Telephone Cooperative's Big Stone County Fiber to the Premise project and supports their efforts to increase broadband access in Big Stone County.

The support of Big Stone County for this project is subject to the legal authority to do so. It is anticipated that to issue bonds necessary for this project, if legally issuable, Big Stone County or other legal entity authorized by statute shall require a hearing and pursuant to statute are required to make sufficient findings in the order to issue the bonds. Findings are not able to be determined at this time until a hearing called for that purpose is held.

Auditor Knutson provided a list of names of those who had been nominated to serve on the committee to recommend options for a county economic development service provider. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to appoint the following individuals to the committee contingent on receipt of official documentation confirming the nominations:

Member	Representing
Jon Pansch	Graceville Township
Kent Morrill	Malta Township
Rusty Dimberg	Ortonville Township
Kristen Haggerty	Prior Township
Audrey Rahrlien	City of Graceville
Eric Banken	Ortonville EDA
Becky Parker	Ortonville EDA
Kim Sykora	Ortonville EDA & City
Joyce Reynolds	HRA
Don Sykora	HRA
Jacki Anderson	RDC
Terry Ocaña	Big Stone County
Brent Olson	Big Stone County Commissioner
Roger Sandberg	Big Stone County Commissioner

John Haukos expressed his concerns to the Board regarding the fall draw-down of Big Stone Lake as it is causing issues with the accesses. He will also speak with Upper MN River Watershed to see if it could be done in January instead.

Gary Haugen, Dave Botker, Environmental Officer Darren Wilke, Blayne Johnson from SWCD and County Engineer Nick Anderson were present for a discussion on Shoreland Ordinance requirement. Haugen brought up a recent permit request to clean out a private ditch that goes through his and Botker's land as well as others. There has been discussion on the recent enforcement of a 50' buffer strip along public waters. Consensus was that changes should be made to update the statute and options were discussed as to how to proceed to accomplish that. The Board thanked those present for bringing this to their attention.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to adopt the following resolution as presented by Engineer Anderson:

2014-24

WHEREAS, County SP 006-610-022 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 on behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorize final payment to Bituminous Paving, Inc. in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution as presented by Engineer Anderson:

2014-25

WHEREAS, County SAP 006-612-012, SAP 006-615-005 and SAP 006-625-010 have 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 projects for and on behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorize final payment to Central Specialties, Inc. in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on the 2014 construction projects.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to ratify the replacement of the Artichoke Lake outlet pipe.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on various ditches.

Facilities Technician Jared Heck and Architect Jeff Stromgren presented the bids received for the repair and remodel of the Courthouse and Government Building. The bids were as follows:

	Hasslen Construction	Tradesmen Construction
Courthouse Remodel	\$210,000	\$238,325
Government Bldg Remodel	\$158,000	
Combined Remodel	\$363,000	\$418,192

Following discussion, motion by Olson and seconded by Berning to accept the combined bid from Hasslen Construction. Following further discussion on the window portion of the bid, the motion was amended to include changing to Pella windows at an approximate savings of \$21,000. Motion carried with Commissioner Athey voting Nay.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to execute the Business Associate Agreement with PrimeWest Health relating to the collection of health information for the County Employee Health Coverage Project as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

HR Director Gregoire provided clarification on the life insurance options discussed at previous meetings. Consensus was to continue to offer the \$2,000 child and spouse option, sharing the cost and offer the \$10,000 child only coverage as an additional option.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to close the meeting at 11:08 AM for the purpose of discussing labor negotiation strategy as requested by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to re-open the meeting at 11:16 AM.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to accept the Union's offer as presented.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 11:17 AM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor