

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
October 7, 2014

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 7, 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 Engineer Nick Anderson, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the September 16th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – Hazard Mitigation Task Force; Toqua Park; Pomme de Terre; Extension (Awards Program)

Olson – Dream for Kids; PrimeWest; Planning & Zoning; Personnel

Sandberg – Property; Museum; CBSL; Broadband

Athey – Planning & Zoning; Extension (Awards Program); Fair Board; Prairie 5

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

2014-22

WHEREAS, Big Stone County recognizes the need to preserve, protect and enhance the quality of the waters of the United States; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota has State MPCA, MnDNR, and BWSR regulatory programs effectively accomplishing this but recognizes some States do not; and

WHEREAS, the Federal water quality regulations require a definition of waters of the United States, WOUS, to determine where the Federal water quality regulatory programs have jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, federal, state, and local governments all share the goal of a clear, concise, non-ambiguous, and practical definition of WOUS; and

WHEREAS, the current definition of WOUS has been problematic and resulted in extensive federal permit delays, project cost increase, controversies and court cases; and

WHEREAS, the proposed new WOUS definition is overly complex and subject to interpretation of several terms including "connecting", "tributary" and "significant nexus", which we believe would potentially result in expansion of federal regulatory oversight to nearly all county highway and agricultural drainage ditches and result in costly delays and court cases.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Big Stone County requests the proposed new WOUS not be implemented and the EPA work with local and state governments to develop a map showing WOUS and/or clear and concise regional definitions.

Engineer Anderson reported that they will be purchasing the budgeted loader shortly.

Engineer Anderson reported that he has been asked to participate in a career fair at C-G-B School on November 20th. Anderson asked if the County would like to have a

booth there to promote all careers. Chairman Olson also volunteered to attend the fair on behalf of the County.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning 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
Computer Professionals	4,378.00
Hasslen Construction	60,258.00
Kandiyohi County Sheriff Department	5,905.93
Nelson Electric	2,087.09
Pioneerland Library System	16,396.75
Traverse County Sheriff	2,047.00
Twin Valley Tire	4,205.46
William J Watson	4,370.42
West Con	8,488.30
Widseth, Smith & Nolting	2,613.75
48 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>15,969.43</u>
Total	\$150,470.13

Discussion was held on the revenue received from Main Street Industries.

Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Wulff to authorize reallocating of one-half of the revenue received to the General Fund to be set aside for building maintenance effective January 1, 2015. Motion carried with Chairman Olson abstaining.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize a transfer of \$1,000,000 from the Family Services Special Revenue Fund to the General Fund as recommended by the Local Social Services Agency Board and to be more in line with the State Auditor's recommendation of fund balances.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize a conditional offer to Michael LaMee as a part-time Deputy Sheriff as recommended by Sheriff John Haukos. LaMee's hiring is contingent on a physical and background check approval and will be effective upon completion of the above requirements.

VSO Admin Assistant Liane Rausch provided information on the office's activities during the past month for the Board's review.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the Museum's request to recognize all buildings located at the Museum as their property and that they will insure them.

4-H Program Coordinator Suzanne Souza and robotic team members Carter Brown and Zakari and Robert Angelo did a presentation on the robotics program.

Souza also reported that it is National 4-H week and this year's theme is "#iam4H". Wednesday, October 8th, is 4-H Youth National Science Day and they will be in the 5th grade classrooms with this year's experiment, "Rockets to the Rescue!"

Upper MN Valley RDC Executive Director Dawn Hegland provided an update on the RDC and some of the resources available.

RDC Tourism Planner Melissa Carruth provided a tourism update and an overview of Western MN Prairie Waters. Vicki Oakes was also present and encouraged the Board to participate in Prairie Waters and stressed how important regional connections are.

Vince Robinson from BSAG was present to review M.S. §469.1082 relating to the establishment of a county EDA. Robinson reported that the first step will be to put together a committee to recommend options for a county economic development service provider. Once the committee is appointed, they will have 90 days to issue a report for the preferred organizational option. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize Chairman Olson to send out a letter to all appropriate units of government and agencies looking for 11-15 people to serve on the committee. IT Director Terry Ocaña was also present for the discussion.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke reported on the recent Planning Commission meeting regarding the CHS Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application for a fertilizer/agronomy plant south of Clinton. CHS representatives Dean Longnecker and Jared Nordly were also present. Wilke reviewed the project and the recommended conditions by the Planning Commission. Following discussion, motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the application with conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Environmental Officer Wilke also reported on the CUP application by Mark and Shirley Botker for medical cannabis. Wilke reported that the application to the State did not make the deadline, but if the Board chooses to approve the CUP application, the permit is good for one year. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the application with conditions as recommended by the Planning Commission.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire presented the Avesis renewal and reported that rates are up slightly. Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize the renewal.

HR Director Gregoire reported that the Safety Committee had discussed performing hearing exams for certain county positions. Board consensus was to perform exams on any employee who would have exposure to 85 decibel or higher weighted average noise level.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to close the meeting at 10:32 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 10:46 AM.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to execute the Agreement for Consulting Services with Hildi Inc. for a Post-Employment Benefit Valuation Report as required under GASB Statement 45.

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

Commissioners Sandberg and Berning will represent the County at the AMC District Meeting on November 7th in Yellow Medicine County.

IT Director Ocaña, Community Development Coordinator Vicki Oakes and Don Lundell were present for a discussion on the broadband expansion grant opportunity. Ocaña reviewed Federated Telephone's proposed project and the grant application process. A letter from Lyndon Johnson was also presented and discussed. Ocaña requested that the Board pass a motion to continue to move through the process until there is evidence that the County does not have legal authority to pursue a bond and

lend funds to Federated for this project. Mr. Lundell related some of his personal experience with the need for reliable broadband access and asked that the Board consider the recommendation. Attorney Watson expressed concerns with the draft resolution that Ocaña presented. Attorney Watson will contact Ehlers and bond council to address his concerns. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to move forward with the process and commit to be a partner with Federated in the project unless Attorney Watson finds a legal reason the County cannot participate.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor