

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
December 16, 2014**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, December 16, 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 Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the minutes of the December 2nd regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – Pomme de Terre; PIC; AMC

Berning – CSPH

Olson – PrimeWest; P&Z; AMC

Sandberg – EDA Exploration; Property

Athey – AMC; HRA; Fair Board

Attorney Watson reported that there may be some costs for translation on an extradition case.

Attorney Watson distributed copies of an opinion from bond counsel for the use of abatement bonds for financing the proposed Federated Telephone's possible fiber optic broadband project.

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

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

2014-27

WHEREAS, County SAP 006-621-024 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 Midwest Contracting, LLC in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

Engineer Anderson presented the following bid summary for the tiling project for Joint Ditch 24:

Koehl Excavating	\$285,397.35
J&J Earthworks	\$307,027.00
Riley Brothers Construction	\$328,425.30
Fridgen Excavating	\$378,068.00
H&S Contracting	\$409,102.00
Quam Construction Company	\$443,357.00
Ryan Contracting Company	\$458,864.00
Duininck Bros	\$507,516.00
Sellin Brothers	\$633,030.00
Central Specialties	\$772,072.00

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to award the bid to Koehl Excavating.

Discussion was held on upgrading tractors at the Highway Department. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the County Engineer to trade-in the two 2014 John Deere tractors and to spend an additional \$2,000 for the purchase of two new ones from Schuneman Equipment. Two additional tractors will also be rented at \$12.50 per hour. One additional tractor will be leased from Larson's at \$10 per hour.

Discussion was held on space needs at the Ortonville Shop. The Board authorized Engineer Anderson to get a quote on hiring an architect or engineer to look at it.

Engineer Anderson provided information on plans for ditch work in 2015.

Chairman Olson provided an update on the EDA Exploration Committee.

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

Big Stone SWCD	\$ 4,388.50
Carquest of Ortonville	2,355.41
Door Service Company	5,383.00
Election Systems & Software	7,240.71
Kandiyohi County Sheriff	2,752.00
Main Street Industries	2,111.99
MAXIMUS	3,350.00
Nelson Electric	2,205.99
Schuneman Equipment	7,154.62
46 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>19,464.35</u>
Total	\$56,406.57

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

General to Highway	\$ 2,380.67
Family Services to Highway	\$ 205.99
Ditch to Highway	\$ 2,049.99
Joint Ditch 7	\$ 53.24
Combined Ditch 10/11	\$ 656.91
Joint Ditch 24	\$1,014.04
County Ditch 30	\$ 325.80

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the Auditor to pay any claims received by December 31st so as to account for them in the current year's business.

Auditor Knutson reviewed the draft 2015 ditch budget with the Board.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the new items for display in the rotunda by the Big Stone Arts Council. Featured artist is Jim Foster.

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

2014-28

WHEREAS, M.S. 375.055 provides that county commissioners shall receive annual salaries for services rendered while serving as a county commissioner and may receive per diem payments and reimbursement for necessary expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2015 salary of the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners shall be \$14,051.18 and the per diem rate for service on any

board, committee or commission or for the performance of services by individual commissioners when required by law shall be \$50 for in-county and \$75 for out-of-county.

Motion by Athey, seconded Sandberg and carried to set the salaries for elected officials for 2015 as follows:

Attorney	\$87,500.14
Auditor	\$78,566.54
Recorder	\$55,023.80
Sheriff	\$71,710.08
Treasurer	\$63,237.20

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried re-appoint Dr. Robert Ross as Coroner for a 4-year term as required by statute.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2014-29

WHEREAS, the policy of the State of Minnesota as declared in Minnesota Statutes 353.63 is to give special consideration to employees who perform hazardous work and devote their time and skills to protecting the property and personal safety of others; and WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 353.64 permits governmental subdivisions to request coverage in the Public Employees Police and Fire plan for eligible employees of police or sheriff departments whose position duties meet the requirements stated therein and listed below.

BE IT RESOLVED that the County Commissioners of Big Stone County hereby declares that the position of Deputy Sheriff, currently held by Michael LaMee, meets all of the following Police and Fire Plan membership requirements:

1. Said position requires a license by the Minnesota peace officer standards and training board under sections 626.84 to 626.863 and this employee is so licensed;
2. Said position's primary (over 50%) duty is to enforce the general criminal laws of the state;
3. Said position charges this employee with the prevention and detection of crime;
4. Said position gives this employee the full power of arrest, and
5. Said position is assigned to a designated police or sheriff's department.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this governing body hereby requests that the named employee be accepted as a member of the Public Employees Police and Fire Plan effective the date of this employee's initial Police and Fire Plan salary deduction by the governmental subdivision.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to amend the 2014 Budget for the following:

Loader (originally for 2015)	\$195,000
Seal Coat Project	\$546,000
Change Order on CSAH 10 Project	\$290,000

Auditor Knutson and County Recorder Elaine Martig requested some staffing changes in their offices. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve moving Deputy Auditor Heather Henrich to full time in the Auditor's Office and increase Karol Scherer to 3 days per week in the Recorder's Office and to revisit it in six months.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke reported on the recent Planning Commission meetings regarding the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application from RC Technologies for a tower. Representatives from RC Technologies and Nate's Net were also present. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the CUP application as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Environmental Officer Wilke provided an update on the grant requirements for the funds received for Aquatic Invasive Species. Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2014-30

WHEREAS, 2014 Session Law Chapter 308 enacted by the Legislature provides Minnesota counties a County Program Aid grant for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention. The amount designated for each county is based on the number of watercraft trailer launches as well as the number of watercraft trailer parking spaces within each county. Big Stone County was allocated \$37,730 for 2014 and \$83,845 in 2015 and years following; and

WHEREAS, the legislation requires that Big Stone County must establish, by resolution or through adoption of a plan, guidelines for the use of the proceeds, which are to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within the County; and

WHEREAS, the County may appropriate the proceeds directly, or may use any portion of the proceeds to provide funding for a joint powers board or cooperative agreement with another political subdivision, a soil and water conservation district in the County, a watershed district in the County, or a lake association located in the County. Any money appropriated by the County to a different entity or political subdivision must be used as required under this section; and

WHEREAS, the County must submit a copy of its guidelines for use of the proceeds to the Department of Natural Resources by December 31st of the year the payments are received; and

WHEREAS, AIS is a high priority action item identified in the 2014-2023 Water Plan. A stated action item in the Water Plan is to develop an AIS Management Plan for Big Stone County and to provide educational and financial assistance, as available, on AIS prevention methods.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby designates oversight of Big Stone County's AIS prevention efforts to the Big Stone County Environmental Services Department and delegates to them the responsibility to prepare, implement and report annually a plan to allocate the funding in accordance with the above legislation.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Environmental Officer Wilke provided information on the DNR's Outdoor Recreation Grant Program. Board consensus was for Wilke to pursue applying for funds to be used at Toqua Park.

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

2014-31

BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County 2015 budget and levy be established as follows:

GENERAL	HIGHWAY	FAMILY SERVICES	DEBT SERVICE	DITCH	2015 TOTAL
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REVENUES

Tax Levy & Aids	\$2,969,100	\$918,000	\$824,547	\$90,075		\$4,801,722
Other Taxes	\$10,100	\$35,000				\$45,100
Special Assessments	\$118,000				\$143,900	\$261,900
Licenses & Permits	\$18,400					\$18,400
Intergovernmental	\$623,346	\$3,158,000	\$1,210,791			\$4,992,137
Charges for Services	\$173,825	\$167,000	\$371,080			\$711,905
Investment Earnings	\$12,000	\$5,000				\$17,000
Miscellaneous	\$113,650	\$36,000	\$33,000			\$182,650
Other Financing Sources	\$87,265	\$31,000	\$8,000			\$126,265
TOTAL REVENUES	\$4,125,686	\$4,350,000	\$2,447,418	\$90,075	\$143,900	\$11,157,079

EXPENDITURES

General Government	\$2,133,646					\$2,133,646
Public Safety	\$1,038,114					\$1,038,114
Highway		\$4,253,970				\$4,253,970
Sanitation	\$192,937					\$192,937
Family Services			\$2,447,418			\$2,447,418
Health	\$98,572					\$98,572
Culture & Recreation	\$173,525					\$173,525
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$342,514				\$408,680	\$751,194
Economic Development	\$37,844					\$37,844
Debt Service				\$87,085		\$87,085
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$4,017,152	\$4,253,970	\$2,447,418	\$87,085	\$408,680	\$11,214,305

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 10:38 AM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor