

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
December 2, 2014

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Courtroom at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, December 2, 2014. Chairman Olson called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Sandberg and Wulff present. Commissioner Berning was absent. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the November 18th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – Toqua Park

Olson – Pioneerland; EDA Exploration; RDC

Sandberg – Museum; Property

Athey – Prairie 5

Sandberg for Berning – EMS

HR Director Dawn Gregoire presented the following results of the appointed Department Head performance reviews held on November 18th as per M.S. 13.05:

As the State continues to require more of small counties, Emergency Management Director Jim Hasslen has done well to address this. Working with other counties will be critical in the future.

The Environmental Office faces several challenges including zoning, water quality and quantity, as well as waste issues. Environmental Officer Darren Wilke has addressed these challenges and handles them well.

The County roads are in very good condition with the help of the Highway Department. The Department is functioning well. The Board would like County Engineer Anderson to continue to strive to improve communication skills.

VSO Dan Meyer serves many of the County's Veterans and is often asked to help other counties with their Veteran Services. The County appreciates his efforts.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to execute the labor union contracts contingent upon the County Attorney's approval.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the same 1.5% COLA and step adjustments for the non-union employees for 2015-2017 as the union employees are receiving.

Discussion was held on setting elected officials' salaries. The Board will review the information received and set them at the next meeting.

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

Computer Professionals	\$ 4,154.00
Kandiyohi County Sheriff	3,718.00
Rice Stromgren Architects	13,629.28
Sanford Health	3,266.76
Traverse County Sheriff	2,551.13
William Watson	4,370.42
West Con	21,867.25

43 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>15,396.31</u>
Total	\$68,953.15

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 Sandberg and carried to execute the audit engagement letter with the Office of the State Auditor for the 2014 audit.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the following tobacco license applications for 2015:

- C & E Short Stop
- DG Retail, LLP dba Dollar General
- Graceville Bar & Lounge
- Hartman's Super Valu
- Headquarter's Bar, Inc.
- Holiday Stationstore
- One More, Inc.
- Tri-County Coop
- TD&C Inc dba S & D One Stop

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to appoint Rachel Hoernemann to the Extension Committee as the youth representative for a 2-year term.

At 6:00 PM following a break, Chairman Olson asked for public comment on the County's 2015 budget and levy. Auditor Knutson presented the summary budget and levy information. The public comments were received.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 6:01 PM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor