

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
February 18, 2014

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 18, 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, 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 February 4th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – Extension; RLF; Pomme de Terre
Olson – Pioneerland; RDC; Insurance; PrimeWest
Sandberg – CBSL; Department Head; Audit; Property; MSI
Athey – SWCD; Extension; HRA

Attorney Watson reported that he had reviewed the SSTS ordinance and the warranty deeds for the landfill property.

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

Border States	\$ 4,084.66
CDW Government	3,242.25
Computer Professionals	4,139.00
GovConnection	2,507.05
L&O Acres Transport	3,424.06
Midwest Community Planning	3,000.00
Pro West & Associates	9,700.00
Traverse County	21,431.98
Twin Valley Tire	4,320.00
60 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>16,414.47</u>
Total	\$72,263.47

Commissioner Athey expressed concerns with the need for the Sheriff's Office to purchase a second pickup instead of a car. Following discussion, motion carried to pay the presented claims with Commissioner Athey voting NAY.

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

Family Services to Highway	\$ 186.59
General to Highway	\$1,713.21

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 Sandberg and carried to appoint Sandy Helgeson to the County's Audit Committee.

Discussion was held on the Minnesota River Basin (MRB) Joint Powers Agreement termination process. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Sandberg and carried to

adopt the following resolution to terminate the MRB Joint Powers Agreement and end business operations of the MRB Joint Powers Board on April 1, 2014:

2014-07

The Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Agreement (hereafter referred to as the “joint powers agreement”) was signed by 37 counties on July 12, 1995 and revised March 16, 1998, November 15, 1999, May 15, 2000, and approved with revisions on July 12, 2000, thereby establishing the joint exercise of powers to promote water quality improvement and management of the Minnesota River Watershed (in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 103B.311, 103B.315, and 471.59). The 37 counties that signed the agreement in 1995 included Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown*, Carver, Chippewa, Cottonwood, Dakota*, Douglas*, Faribault, Freeborn, Grant*, Hennepin, Jackson*, Kandiyohi, Lac Qui Parle, Le Seuer, Lincoln*, Lyon*, Martin, McLeod, Murray, Nicollet, Pipestone*, Pope*, Ramsey, Redwood, Renville, Rice*, Scott, Sibley, Steele*, Stevens, Swift*, Traverse*, Waseca, Watonwan*, and Yellow Medicine*. As of January 1, 2014, 15 counties (*) had withdrawn from membership.

WHEREAS, after nearly 20 years of initiatives and challenges, as well as calls for change from its valued partners, the MRB delegates passed Resolution 12-01 in September 2012 to dedicate funds for a full external review of the MRB governance structure, mission, duties, services provided, and funding; and

WHEREAS, the external review process was led by an independent consultant and a steering committee that included one representative from each of the following entities: Minnesota River Board, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD), Minnesota River Watershed Projects, citizen-led organizations, agricultural and water resource interests, and the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD); and

WHEREAS, after several rounds of revisions, the end result of the external review process included guiding principles, primary functions, and recommendations for the governance and funding of a new basin entity; and

WHEREAS, the MRB delegates passed a motion on December 16, 2013, to advance the recommendations with no additional MRB involvement in the process, on a split vote (11 in favor, 6 opposed, 1 abstention); and

WHEREAS, the MRB delegates passed a resolution on December 16, 2013 to complete required business, transfer existing projects, and/or otherwise cancel all agreements and bring the MRB business operations to a close on April 1, 2014.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the MRB member counties must establish that the sentiment of the members is for the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Agreement termination process to be initiated; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as per Section 7, Part B of the joint powers agreement, when a majority of the member counties agree, by resolution, to terminate the agreement, termination may then, but only then, be initiated; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, per the joint powers agreement, a majority of the member counties is defined as 12 of the 22 counties that paid dues during the first half of FY2014 (July 1, 2013 – December 31, 2013); and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon receipt of a majority of member county resolutions to terminate the Minnesota River Basin Joint Powers Agreement, the

MRB shall wind up its business, including the defense and provocation of any claims against it; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that prior to the April 1, 2014, the MRB shall compile the review process recommendations, testimony from the December 16, 2013 meeting, other reports, and copies of this resolution from the member counties as part of a final MRB report that will be distributed to the Minnesota Legislature, Local Government Roundtable participants (Association of Minnesota Counties, MAWD, and MASWCD), natural resource agency leadership, and any other interested parties.

Department Heads John Haukos, Dawn Gregoire and Nick Anderson arrived at the meeting during the MRB discussion.

County Engineer Anderson requested that the 5-year Plan for Highway be amended to include milling County Highways 12 and 15 with an estimated cost of \$400,000. There would be no affect to the levy, as the projects would be funded by State Aid. Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to amend the Plan as requested.

Discussion was held on whether to sell the old tower that was on the Schumacher property. Consensus was to sell it with advertising locally first.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Sandberg and carried to hire civil engineering student, Dylan Koch, for summer help at the Highway Department.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on the signing and culvert inventories for the townships.

Discussion was held with Engineer Anderson on the possible options for the maintenance of Toqua Park. The Park Committee will meet with Engineer Anderson later this week to continue discussions.

HR Director Gregoire reported that discussion was held at the Department Head meeting to change the Courthouse hours of operation to coincide with Family Services, which are 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM. Employees would continue to work their normal hours with a shorter lunch period. She is waiting to hear back from Court Administration to see if changing the hours would be an issue for them.

Sheriff Haukos presented information on call time for the deputies and stated that call time pay has not changed for 13 years. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize increasing call time pay to \$3.00 per hour or \$180 per pay period per deputy. This is with the understanding that if staffing changes, the amount will be revisited.

Chairman Olson called the hearing to order at 9:39 AM to take public comment on the County's Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems Management Ordinance. Environmental Officer Darren Wilke reviewed the changes from the previous ordinance. Approval from the State was received last week. No public comments were received. The hearing was closed at 9:45 AM. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the Ordinance. *Following the meeting it was discovered that the public notice of the intent to adopt was not published so there will be another public hearing on March 18, 2014.*

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve and execute the Warranty Deed for the County's closed landfill and convey the property to the State of Minnesota through the MPCA as presented by Environmental Officer Wilke.

The Board is still trying to find individuals to serve on the HRA board.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize the Auditor to contact neighboring county gravel pit owners so that operators can be made aware of their obligation as importers to submit aggregate tax to the County.

DNR Wildlife Manager Dave Trauba and Ducks Unlimited Biologist Josh Kavanagh were present to review the recent land acquisition by Ducks Unlimited that will be donated and transferred to the DNR to be restored to native grasses. The 25.41 acres are adjacent to Marsh Lake in Section 15 of Akron Township. The Board also presented a map showing the all of the government easements and land ownership in the County.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 10:05 AM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor