

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
February 4, 2014

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 4, 2014. Vice Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey and Wulff present. Commissioners Berning and Olson were 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 Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the minutes of the January 21st regular meeting.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the agenda with noted additions.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – Bois de Sioux; Toqua Park; Pomme de Terre

Sandberg – SHIP; CBSL; MSI; ESB; Museum

Athey – Toqua Park

Olson (via email) – SHIP; Pioneerland; RDC

Social Worker Supervisor Suzi Kleindl arrived at the meeting during committee reports.

Attorney Watson reviewed the County's options regarding an issue with the collection of gravel tax. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to direct the Auditor to send a letter with the amount still due.

County Engineer Nick Anderson reported that the furnace in the Ortonville shop needs to be replaced. Following discussion on the various options available, motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize the purchase of the furnace and heat pump as presented by Engineer Anderson.

Engineer Anderson reported that the tree removal project on Joint Ditch #4 will begin again the 3rd week in February.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize the Engineer to apply aquatic herbicide to control the coontail problem on County Ditch #2.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on the Otter Tail power line for the County Highway 21 project.

VSO Dan Meyer provided information on his office's activities during the past month for the Board's review.

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

GovConnection	\$ 3,645.02
MacQueen Equipment	3,111.31
Office Peeps	2,110.98
William J Watson	4,370.42
37 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>10,487.90</u>
Total	\$23,725.63

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to execute the audit engagement letter with the Office of the State Auditor for the 2013 audit.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize a payment of \$3,929 to the Big Stone County Ag Society as an auditor warrant for a reimbursement of 2014 insurance premiums.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the expenditures for Commissioner Wulff to attend the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Conference on March 25-26, 2014.

Department Heads Darren Wilke, Dawn Gregoire, Terry Ocaña, Sandy Vold and John Haukos were present for a discussion on Pictometry. If the County agrees to a 2-flyover option over 6 years, there is a substantial discount. Some departments are requesting that more tiles up the lake shore be done and that the change finder option be added, which are with additional costs. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the 2-flyover option with the additional tiles and the change finder option and execute the contract with Pictometry contingent upon Attorney Watson's approval.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the sale of the K-9 squad as recommended by Sheriff Haukos.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the hiring of Mackenzie Moen as a Social Worker at Grade 11 Step 1 effective February 10, 2014, as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

HR Director Gregoire reported that the labor union contracts have been finalized. Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve and execute the contracts as presented. Commissioner Athey expressed his disappointment with the union business agent's preparation during negotiations.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize non-union part-time employees who are regularly scheduled at least 30 hours per week to receive a prorated employer contribution to the 125 Cafeteria Plan.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize expenditures up to \$6,000 for the purchase of 4 automated external defibrillators (AEDs) and the related training needed. The units will be distributed to the Courthouse, Government Building, Family Services and the Ortonville Highway Shop.

HR Director Gregoire reported that there will be a meeting with the RDC and the counties of Chippewa, Swift, Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine and Big Stone to discuss HR needs and viable options to address them.

Discussion was held on the future of Toqua Park. Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize the payment of \$15/hour for services provided by the City of Graceville for maintenance at the park.

Discussion was held on proposed legislation that AMC is supporting to allow counties to use their official websites to publish official notices, proceedings and summaries. Although the Board was in agreement that having the option to use the website would be beneficial, no action was taken to pass the proposed resolution in support of the legislation at this time.

Vice Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:40 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Vice Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor