

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

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

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – Toqua Park

Olson – RDC; Pioneerland; BSAG

Sandberg – CBSL; Water Plan; Broadband; Museum; Property

Athey – Prairie 5 (2); Toqua Park; Fair Board; SWCD

Discussion was held on the painting of the rotunda. Commissioner Sandberg reported that only one bid has been received. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the hiring of Lieffort Painting from Watertown, SD for an estimated cost of \$18,615 which includes the addition of the words, flowers, and moulding.

IT Director Terry Ocaña and Federated Telephone General Manager Kevin Beyer presented information on the opportunity to submit a letter of interest to the FCC by March 7th for possible funding of the installation of fiber optic to additional areas in the County. Following discussion, motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize Mr. Beyer to send the letter of interest. Vicki Oakes, Rusty Dimberg, Steve Berkner and Sheriff John Haukos were also present for the discussion.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

Emilee Nelson of Pheasants Forever gave a presentation on the Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan. Blayne Johnson from SWCD and Curt Vasek from the DNR were also present. Mr. Vasek stated that the program is meant to promote a balance on the landscape.

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

Scott Bauer from the City of Graceville and County Engineer Nick Anderson were present for a discussion on Toqua Park. Engineer Anderson reported that he could get the County set up with a service for taking park reservations online and the Highway Department could assist with some of the mowing. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize paying the City of Graceville \$20 per hour for maintenance and services for the Park on a 1-year trial period up to 600 hours. Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to authorize Engineer Anderson to proceed with contacting Sunrise Reservations to set up a web-based reservations program.

Engineer Anderson distributed copies of the 2013 Annual Report for the Highway Department.

Sheriff Haukos reported that the County needs to have an ordinance in order for the Sheriff's Office to do criminal history background checks for employment and licensing purposes. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to hold a public hearing to consider the adoption of the Ordinance Relating to Criminal History Background for Applicants for County Employment and County Licenses. Notice of Intent shall be published with the hearing being set for May 6th at 10:00 AM during the regular meeting of the County Board.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire reported that Court Administration did not have issues with changing the Courthouse hours. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to change the Courthouse hours of operation to 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM effective May 5, 2014. As stated in the previous meeting, employees would continue to work their normal amount of hours with a shorter lunch period.

Discussion was held on the status of the County's cafeteria plan with the requirements of the Affordable Care Act. Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize Commissioner Olson to draft a letter to area legislators with the help of HR Director Gregoire to state the County's position on how the current plan should be acceptable and encourage them to support changing the law to allow pre-tax premium reimbursement through a Section 125 Cafeteria Plan.

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

Heiman Fire Equipment	\$ 4,037.95
Pictometry Visual Intelligence	6,299.11
Rausch Granite	3,442.50
Office of the State Auditor	5,947.40
William J Watson	4,370.42
West Con	2,716.50
37 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>9,308.97</u>
Total	\$36,122.85

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

2014-08

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes require a county board to establish the minimum salary for those officials for whom filing for office opens in May; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2014, filings will open for the elected positions of attorney, auditor, recorder, sheriff and treasurer.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners, the minimum annual salary for all said positions be hereby established at \$25,000.

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

Commissioner Athey inquired if there were any names for the HRA Board appointments. No names were brought forth.

Auditor Knutson presented a map of an upcoming Native Prairie Bank easement by the DNR in Odessa and Akron Townships for the Board's information.

Curt Bailey of Hasslen Construction was present with Sheriff Haukos to update the Board on the moisture issues encountered when remodeling the Deputies offices.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the Property Committee to work with Hasslen Construction to immediately address the health concerns and to fix the problem on a permanent basis.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 10:46 AM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor