

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
August 19, 2014

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, August 19, 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 Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the August 5th regular meeting and the August 5th Highway Department 5-Year Plan Meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – Pomme de Terre

Olson – PrimeWest; Personnel; Broadband; Canvassing

Sandberg – Museum; CBSL; Dept Head; Broadband; Property

Athey – Personnel; HRA; Fair Board

Attorney Watson reported on the request received regarding a reconveyance of a County gravel pit in Odessa Township. Attorney Watson will review the information with County Engineer Anderson and bring it back to the next meeting.

Ortonville/Graceville Head Librarian Vicki Bartz from the Library presented their 2015 budget request and provided an update on their programming and plans for computer replacement.

SWCD Technician Blayne Johnson presented their 2015 budget and provided an update on their activities the past few years.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution and execute the grant contract as presented by CVSO Dan Meyer:

2014-17

BE IT RESOLVED that Big Stone County enter into a Grant Contract with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the County's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the County Veterans Service Office, as specified in Minnesota Laws 2013 Chapter 142 Article 4. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman and CVSO be authorized to execute the Grant Contract for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County.

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

Computer Professionals	\$ 4,185.00
Elections Systems & Software	2,775.13
Hancock Concrete Products	12,114.58
Liftoff	4,000.00
Ridgeview Excavating	6,142.50

Tri County Co-op Oil Assn	2,505.00
West Con	4,416.00
59 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>24,754.68</u>
Total	\$60,892.89

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

General to Highway	\$ 1,687.93
Family Services to Highway	\$ 77.31
Ditch to Highway	\$ 1,498.97
County Ditch 2	\$ 374.68
Joint Ditch 4	\$ 590.96
Combined Ditch 10/11	\$ 533.33

County Treasurer Cindy Nelson was present to request the Board set sale prices for this year's tax forfeited properties for the respective cities if they want to purchase them. Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to set the price at \$100 each.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to adopt the following resolution for tax-forfeited land as requested by Treasurer Nelson:

2014-18

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners desires to offer for sale certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, said parcels of land have been viewed by the County Board of Commissioners and have been classified as non-conservation lands as provided for in Minnesota Statute 282.01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that all parcels of land on the attached list have been viewed and comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8 and 282.018 and other statutes that require the withholding of tax-forfeited lands from sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby requests approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the sale of said lands.

IT Director Terry Ocaña presented an updated Electronic Communication Policy for changes to email access and data protection. Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the revised policy and incorporate those changes into the handbook.

Discussion was held on centralized printing. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve moving forward with a new leased copier to replace the Assessor's Office printer to be used by the offices on the south side of the 2nd floor of the Courthouse and authorize IT Director Ocaña to execute the lease agreement.

Discussion was held on the broadband initiative project. IT Director Ocaña reported that the project to bring fiber optic internet to the County excluding the cities of Ortonville, Graceville and Clinton, is estimated at \$5,000,000. The grant Federated Telephone is applying for is \$2,500,000 with a \$1 for \$1 match. Federated Telephone has asked the County for assistance in securing a long term loan for these dollars. Options for funding the \$2.5 million match were discussed. Motion by Sandberg,

seconded by Berning and carried to authorize IT Director Ocaña to draft a letter to Ehlers to explore bonding options and seek input. IT Director Ocaña stated that broadband could fall under the IT umbrella.

Attorney Watson presented a draft tobacco policy. Minor changes were discussed and the policy will be presented for approval at the next meeting.

Architect Jeff Stromgren presented revised draft plans for the repair and remodel of the Courthouse and Government Building. Discussion followed. The Board will take the new plans under consideration. Facilities Technician Jared Heck was also present for the discussion.

Discussion was held on the needed changes to the drainage project around the Courthouse.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to recess the meeting until 1:00 PM.

The meeting reconvened at 1:00 PM. Commissioner Athey was absent.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire reported on the RFP for employee life insurance. Minnesota Life and Sun Life were the only companies to submit a proposal with Minnesota Life's quote being the lowest. The Board directed HR Director Gregoire to poll employees to see if there is interest in increasing the amount of coverage and report back.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to close the meeting at 1:05 PM for the purpose of discussing labor negotiation strategy as requested by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Wulff and carried to re-open the meeting at 1:22 PM.

HR Director Gregoire reported that due to changes in procedure at Family Services regarding case management and Countryside Public Health's (CSPH) decision not to replace their nursing position whose services the County used, a request has been made to hire a Nurse Case Manager. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize hiring a Nurse Case Manager. The position will be funded by what the County was paying CSPH to provide the services.

A work session was held to continue discussions on the 2015 budget.

A work session was held to begin meeting with individual elected officials as part of the salary setting process.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 2:09 PM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor