

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**September 16, 2014**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 16, 2014. Vice Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Berning and Wulff present. Chairman Olson was absent. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the minutes of the September 2<sup>nd</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Wulff – RLF; BSAG; Personnel; Pomme de Terre; PIC

Berning – CSPH

Sandberg – Museum; Property

Athey – Fair Board; SWCD; HRA; Personnel

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the purchase of six picnic tables for Toqua Park from Main Street Industries.

Facilities Technician Jared Heck and the Property Committee presented RFPs for the Courthouse and Government remodeling projects for the Board's approval.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize Heck to proceed with the advertising of the RFPs as presented.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire reported the results of the employee survey regarding life insurance. Motion by Athey, seconded by Wulff and carried to approve the recommended increase to the core life insurances provided by the County.

HR Director Gregoire provided a health insurance update.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to close the meeting at 8:54 AM 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 9:01 AM.

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

Bituminous Paving	\$ 2,807.36
Computer Professionals	4,164.00
Ortonville Independent	2,280.97
Pictometry Visual Intelligence	3,916.32
Rice Stromgren Architects	9,646.42
Dillon Schlimme	7,254.06
Seachange Printing	4,119.42
TrueNorth Steel	11,129.81
Ziegler	11,940.91
52 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>17,516.95</u>
Total	\$74,776.22

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize a payment of \$350 to LiftOff as an auditor warrant.

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

General to Highway		\$ 3,203.74
Family Services to Highway		\$ 60.26
Ditch to Highway		\$ 236.70
County Ditch 2	\$ 83.81	
County Ditch 13	\$ 83.79	
County Ditch 16	\$ 69.10	
JD 24 to JD 4 (Reclass)		\$ 2,549.96

Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the 2014 tobacco license application for C&E Short Stop effective September 29, 2014.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the new items for display in the rotunda by the Big Stone Arts Council. Featured artist is Sandy Hanson. A work session was held to finalize the 2015 budget.

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

**2014-21**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the proposed 2015 budget be approved and the gross levy be established at \$4,801,722.

The public meeting to take comments on the proposed budget and levy will be held on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Commissioner's Room.

IT Director Terry Ocaña updated the Board on the broadband initiative project. Updated figures received from Federated Telephone now put the estimated cost of the project at \$8,000,000. Ocaña reported on the option to bond for the needed grant match of \$4,000,000 and the need to establish a County EDA to loan the funds to Federated for the project. Discussion followed. Motion by Berning and seconded by Sandberg to proceed with establishing a county-wide EDA under the legal direction of County Attorney Watson. Following further discussion, motion carried.

Following a short break, motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the seal coat contract with Bituminous Paving for CP 006-600-014 as presented by County Engineer Anderson.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on the liquidated damages on SP 006-610-022.

Discussion was held on the upcoming auction in Stearns County for their wetland easement in Big Stone County. Consensus was to forego any possible purchase at this time.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on several county and joint ditches.

Discussion was held on the Toqua Park online reservation program. Consensus was to discontinue its use at this time.

BSAG representatives Vince Robinson and Vicki Oakes were present to provide an update on BSAG's activities and the 2015 budget request.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to approve a \$3,600 match to BSAG's revolving loan fund as requested by Robinson.

Vice Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM.

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Roger Sandberg, Vice Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor