

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
September 2, 2014

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 2, 2014. Chairman Olson called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Berning, Sandberg and Wulff present. Also present were County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the August 19th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Pioneerland; Insurance; RDC

Sandberg – MSI; Property

Athey – HRA; Prairie 5; Toqua Park

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

2014-19

WHEREAS, Big Stone County is a political subdivision of the State of Minnesota; and
WHEREAS, Big Stone County owns real property on which are located public buildings serving the general public; and

WHEREAS, all public buildings are mandated to be tobacco free; and

WHEREAS, smoking outside of the public buildings creates a hazard to people entering, leaving and occupying those public buildings; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County is desirous of protecting the health of the employees and the general public using said public buildings.

Pursuant to the provision of the Minnesota Clean Indoor Air Act, the County is empowered to pass rules which would include the use of public property.

NOW THEREFORE, THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS DOES HEREBY ADOPT THE FOLLOWING TOBACCO POLICY:

1. No smoking is permitted within public buildings owned, maintained and used by the County, including, but not limited to, smoking cigarettes and e-cigarettes, nor any tobacco use such as smokeless tobacco, nor shall any of the uses set forth herein be permitted on public grounds located within twenty (20) feet of a door, window and air intake of a County facility.
2. The prohibition shall not apply to areas within Toqua Park, except that no smoking is permitted within buildings in Toqua Park.
3. Compliance with this policy is expected and employees who violate this policy will be subject to current disciplinary procedures.
4. Visitors, consumers and guests, if found in violation of this policy, will be asked to discontinue use and if the individual refuses, will be asked to leave areas affected. Failure to leave will constitute trespass on the premises.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the quit claim deed to reconvey the gravel pit in section 20 of Odessa Township (parcel 10-0138-000) to Paul and Lori Schwendemann and Charles and Candice Henningson as presented by Attorney Watson.

Attorney Watson reported on various items relating to his office.

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

Commerford Gravel	\$18,851.08
Digital Ally	4,325.00
James Nitz Construction	4,230.00
Ridgeview Excavating	5,432.50
Traverse County Sheriff	2,049.00
William J Watson	4,370.42
West Con	15,650.00
Widseth, Smith & Nolting	2,111.00
37 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>9,498.65</u>
Total	\$66,517.65

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

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

2014-20

WHEREAS, the Ridge Runners Snowmobile Trail has links through Lac qui Parle County, Big Stone County and connects to surrounding counties; and
WHEREAS, Lac qui Parle County serves as the fiscal agent for state grant and aid funds for the Ridge Runners Snowmobile Trail; and
WHEREAS, the Ridge Runners organization, with approval from the Lac qui Parle County Board, have approached the Big Stone County Board for approval to maintain and operate the Ridge Runners Snowmobile Trail in Big Stone County.
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize Lac qui Parle County to utilize state appropriated funds for the Ridge Runners Snowmobile Trail located in Lac qui Parle and Big Stone Counties.
This resolution is adopted for a period of 5 years.

Motion by Wulff, seconded by Athey and carried to accept a \$2,500 donation from Leonardsville 4-H Club for Toqua Park to be used for the purchase of playground equipment.

Countryside Public Health Administrator Liz Auch presented a summary of their 2015 budget for the Board's review, which includes a 3% increase in the County's contribution.

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

Pomme de Terre River Association Project Coordinator Jared House was present to introduce himself to the Board and review the funding of the agency and some of the projects they do.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to execute the 2014 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) Agreement with the State of Minnesota as presented Emergency Management Director Jim Hasslen.

IT Director Terry Ocana updated the Board on a phone call with Ehlers Financial confirming that the County does not have the authority to directly lend money, whether levy or bonded, to a private business, even if it would assist in a Minnesota State DEED grant application for broadband expansion. Attorney Watson expressed concern over

using BSAG as an agency to filter bonded money through as it would require the Board to enter a long term commitment to BSAG, thus committing future boards to that same commitment which one board cannot commit future boards in that way. The best appropriate method seems to be to develop a County EDA for these purposes. IT Director Ocaña will keep the board informed of any progress made with broadband initiatives.

County Engineer Nick Anderson reported that the only bid received for the seal coat project (SAP 006-601-014) was from Bituminous Paving in the amount of \$536,099.08. Motion by Wulff, seconded by Sandberg and carried to award the bid to Bituminous Paving.

Engineer Anderson provided updates on CSAH 10 & 15 and various ditch projects.

Engineer Anderson reported on the status of the ongoing discussions with the US Corps of Engineers regarding the County's wetland bank. Anderson also reported that due to the delay with the Corps, the motion for the County to sell 2.88 acres to Strata on July 16, 2013, will not take place as Strata purchased the needed acres elsewhere.

A brief discussion was held on Rinke Noonan's comments to the EPA's Proposed Rule on Waters.

Following a short break, motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to close the meeting at 10:31 AM for the purpose of discussing labor negotiation strategy as requested by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Wulff and carried to re-open the meeting at 11:07 AM.

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

Another work session followed to continue discussion on the 2015 budget. Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 2:06 PM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor