

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
October 20, 2015

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 20, 2015. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Backer, Berning and Olson present. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the October 6th regular meeting.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the agenda.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Berning – Pomme de Terre; Countryside
Olson – Pioneerland
Sandberg – CBSL; Department Head; Safety
Athey – SWCD; HRA; Fair Board
Backer – Bois de Sioux

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

Bolton & Menk	\$ 2,200.00
Computer Professionals	4,584.00
Mid-Continental Restoration Co	3,215.00
Robert R Schroeder Construction	3,105.00
Serocki Excavating	23,197.28
58 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>17,432.16</u>
Total	\$53,733.44

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

Family Services to Highway	\$ 110.71
General to Highway	\$ 4,024.97
Ditch to Highway	\$ 3,986.77
County Ditch 2	\$1,219.12
Joint Ditch 24	\$2,767.65

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to execute the addendum to the agreement with Computer Professionals Unlimited extending the current agreement until December 31, 2018.

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

2015-23

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the State of Minnesota's prison population exceeds capacity; and
WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is housing 560 inmates in county jails where they cannot receive critical rehabilitation services available in State correctional facilities; and
WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections projects the State of Minnesota's prison population will grow by at least 500 inmates by the year 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is seeking \$141.5 million in general obligation bonds to finance the construction of a 500-bed expansion at Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City to accommodate projected prison population growth; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota would incur additional costs such as interest, debt service, maintenance, and annual operating costs associated with expanding Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City; and

WHEREAS, the City of Appleton is home to a vacant and well-maintained 1,600-bed prison; and

WHEREAS, 350 people from 24 surrounding counties worked at the Appleton prison when it was in use, generating an estimated \$15.2 million for the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, many ancillary businesses in the region and their workers benefitted when the Appleton prison was in use; and

WHEREAS, the region offers robust infrastructure to provide rehabilitation services for State of Minnesota inmates and a great quality of life for working families; and

WHEREAS, the cost to the State of Minnesota to lease the Appleton prison is estimated to be \$6-8 million per year, plus annual operating costs – substantially lower than constructing and maintaining new, permanent correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is practical that the State of Minnesota do its due diligence to fairly consider the costs associated with leasing and operating the Appleton prison before constructing new, permanent correctional facilities;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners declared its support for a proposal for the State of Minnesota to lease and operate the Appleton prison with State of Minnesota public employees to provide much-needed jobs and economic development for the people of West Central Minnesota and to provide effective rehabilitation services for inmates needed to reduce recidivism.

DNR Area Hydrologist Ryan Bjerke presented written testimony and documents regarding the request which the County received to exempt property in Almond and Malta Townships from the County's Shoreland Management Ordinance. The information provided is part of the official record of these minutes. Environmental Officer Darren Wilke, County Engineer Nick Anderson, Sheriff John Haukos, DNR Regional Manager Skip Wright and many landowners were present for the extensive discussion. Commissioner Olson left the meeting. Environmental Officer Wilke stated that the question for the Board is if the watercourse in question is a historical natural watercourse that has been altered. If it is an altered watercourse, it cannot be exempted from the Ordinance. The discussion revolved around a DNR permit issued to Haugen to clean out this protected watercourse. The permit is currently in the appeal process. Wilke stated that the DNR permit is not the County's concern. Mr. Wright stated that attorneys for both parties are working on the permit issues and thinks there can be a resolution.

Engineer Anderson reported that he has received two requests to purchase some of the County's wetland credits. He stated that he will be looking into recent sales and bring back a recommendation for an updated price.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to adopt the following resolution as presented by Engineer Anderson:

2015-24

WHEREAS, CP 006-601-015 has in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts said completed project for and on behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorize final payment to Bituminous Paving, Inc. in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on Combined Ditch 10/11. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize the Engineer to spend \$5,000 of the annual maintenance allowed to complete the inlet project approved in June.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Backer and carried to execute the new 2-year agreement with Kandiyohi County for E911 and additional dispatching services as presented by Sheriff Haukos.

Sheriff Haukos presented a request to adjust the overtime pay policy for deputies. Following discussion, the matter was tabled so board members would have the opportunity to review the information.

Sheriff Haukos presented the results of a recent fuel mileage study on department vehicles for the board's information.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire reported that she has submitted a grant application for OSHA funds to assist with funding the purchase of a new air handler and band saw at the Highway Department.

HR Director Gregoire requested feedback from the board regarding setting the salaries for the elected department heads. Consensus was to have the Personnel Committee meet and make the recommendations to the board.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 11:27 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor