

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
November 17, 2015

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, November 17, 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, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the November 3rd regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – PrimeWest; BSAG; Personnel

Sandberg – Department Head; Environmental; Property

Athey – Personnel; SWCD; Extension; District AMC; HRA

Backer – Extension; BSAG

Attorney Watson reported that Gary Haugen provided notice of withdrawal the shoreland exemption request so there is no longer a need for any findings to be drafted.

Countryside Public Health Administrator Liz Auch presented information on their 2016 budget request and provided an update on the agency.

4-H Program Coordinator Suzanne Souza presented the 4-H Aquatic Robotics plan to provide aquatic invasive species (AIS) education for the coming year along with the budget. This programming will be done in partnership with Bonanza and they plan to report quarterly to the Board. Environmental Officer Darren Wilke was present for the discussion.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to execute the 1-year Addendum to the Memorandum of Agreement with the U of MN to allow the increase in support for the 4-H Program Coordinator to provide the AIS education at Bonanza.

County Engineer Nick Anderson provided an update on County Ditch 12. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the Engineer to video the inside of the tile to determine its condition. Engineer Anderson will notify landowners with an update.

Discussion was held on LG Everist's request for purchasing County wetland credits. Consensus was to retain the credits in the wetland bank at this time.

Discussion was held on the CSAH 35 highway project. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize Attorney Watson to proceed as he sees fit regarding possible condemnation of property to complete the project.

County Recorder Elaine Martig provided an update on her office. Recorder Martig reported that her office now has online land records document searching capabilities with monthly contracts and single search options available. Martig also reported that they are ready to expend the budgeted funds to start the replication program with Fidlar which is their secure data disaster recovery solution. The office has also started taking electronic marriage license applications.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize the hiring of Kim Hasslen as the VSO Administrative Assistant at Grade 6 Step 1 effective November 18,

2015, as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

HR Director Gregoire reported that the County received an OSHA safety grant in the amount of \$6,649. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize HR Director Gregoire to execute the Agreement.

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

Berger's Welding	\$ 2,736.00
Commerford Gravel	59,935.28
Computer Professionals	5,693.00
Kandiyohi County Sheriff Department	2,134.58
Pro Auto	4,056.04
Ridgeview Excavating	2,367.50
Ronglien & Sons Excavating	11,187.99
Security Locksmiths	2,213.30
Traffic Marking Service	14,219.36
Traverse County Sheriff	2,750.00
Twin Valley Tire	2,112.00
West Con	8,175.84
57 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>17,070.61</u>
Total	\$134,651.50

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

Family Services to Highway	\$ 184.48
General to Highway	\$ 1,718.34
Ditch to Highway	\$ 15,873.72
County Ditch 2	\$7,673.18
Joint Ditch 4	\$ 547.32
Joint Ditch 7	\$ 78.49
Combined Ditch 10/11	\$4,384.60
Joint Ditch 24	\$3,190.13

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to adopt the following resolution affirming the County's endorsement of the revised County Program Aid formula developed by the Association of Minnesota Counties' County Program Aid Work Group:

2015-26

WHEREAS, Minnesota's counties are mandated by the state to provide essential services in many program areas including human services, public safety, and transportation; and

WHEREAS, counties depend on County Program Aid ("CPA") for the financial sustainability of these state-mandated, county-administered services; and

WHEREAS, the current structure of the CPA formula, pursuant MS Chapter 447A.0124, creates considerable volatility in the fund's distribution, interfering with counties' abilities to accurately budget for essential services; and

WHEREAS, the current formula's inadequacies have also resulted in the dramatic reduction of funding for one-third of counties, that have lost at least 50 percent of their funding since 2005; and

WHEREAS, despite fluctuations over the past ten years, the state appropriation to the 2015 CPA is equal to the 2005 appropriation making it greatly depressed in terms of inflation; and

WHEREAS, a revised CPA formula in conjunction with additional funding will enable counties to continue to provide quality services that may also translate into reductions in county levies, decreasing the tax burden of Minnesota residents; and

WHEREAS, in October 2014, the Association of Minnesota Counties assembled the CPA Work Group including leadership from twenty counties and representatives from the Metropolitan Inter-County Association and the Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus to analyze and develop a CPA formula that reflects the pressing needs of Minnesota's counties; and

WHEREAS, the CPA Work Group unanimously approved a revised CPA formula that benefits all Minnesota counties by reducing volatility and ensuring a fair distribution of CPA; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Association of Minnesota Counties that represents the diverse interests of Minnesota's 87 counties, voted to support the proposed CPA formula revisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Big Stone County endorses the following revisions to the Minnesota County Program Aid formula:

- A funding increase of \$40 million;
- The creation of a funding floor that guarantees each county \$350,000 in tax base equalization aid ("TBEA");
- Adjustments to the TBEA formula factors to slow down counties' loss of TBEA funding, including: an increase of the per capita factor to \$190 and a decrease of the county adjusted net tax capacity (ANTC) factor to 9 percent;
- The elimination of special funds and transition aid; and
- The creation of a 5% cap on annual CPA losses; ensuring no county will lose more than 5% of its funding each year.

Auditor Knutson provided an update on miscellaneous correspondence received including the Office of the State Auditor regarding the County's annual audit.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:01 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor