

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

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 17, 2015. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Backer and Olson present. Commissioner Berning was absent. 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 Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the minutes of the February 3rd regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Personnel; Broadband; PrimeWest; Pioneerland

Sandberg – Museum; CBSL; Property; Audit

Athey – Personnel; Extension; HRA; SWCD; Toqua Park

Backer – Extension; Toqua Park

Further discussion was held several items concerning Toqua Park. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to raise the seasonal pass at Toqua Park to \$600 as recommended by the Park Committee. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize up to \$5,000 to trim trees at the Park. Consensus was to proceed with the grant application for playground equipment and a dock for the Park.

IT Director Terry Ocaña arrived at the meeting during committee reports.

Attorney Watson reviewed the process for moving forward with a county-wide EDA. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to adopt the following enabling resolution establishing an Economic Development Authority:

2015-08

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 469.1082 authorizes Big Stone County to establish an economic development authority (Authority), pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 469.090 to 469.1081, with specified powers and obligations to promote and provide incentives for economic development within the boundaries of Big Stone County (County);

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners (County Board) has determined that it is in the best interest of the County to establish the Authority in order to preserve and create jobs, enhance its tax base, and to promote the general welfare of the people of the County; and

WHEREAS, a committee has been created pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 469.1082, and the committee has recommended that a Big Stone County Economic Development Authority be created; and

WHEREAS, the County has provided public notice and conducted a public hearing on the proposed adoption of this enabling resolution on February 3, 2015 and has fulfilled all other legal requirements for the establishment of the Authority.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 469.1082, an economic development authority (Authority) to be known as the “Big Stone County Economic Development Authority” is hereby established in and for the County.
2. The Authority shall have the power contained in Minnesota Statutes Section 469.090 through 469.1081, subject to the limitations contained in this enabling resolution.
3. The Authority shall not exercise any authority contained in Minnesota Statutes Section 469.001 to 469.047.
4. The County Board may, by resolution, require the Authority to transfer any portion of the reserves generated by activities of the Authority not pledged by the Authority that the County Board determines is not necessary for the successful operation of the Authority, to the debt service fund of the County to be used solely to reduce tax levies for bonded indebtedness of the County.
5. The sale of all bonds or obligations issued by the Authority must be approved by the County Board before issuance.
6. The Authority shall follow the budget process for county departments and agencies as provided by the County and as implemented by the County Board.
7. The Authority shall submit its administrative structure and management practice to the County Board for approval.
8. The Authority shall be governed by a county-wide board of seven (7) members, two (2) of which shall be members of the County Board. The remaining five (5) members shall be members at large. The members of the board of the Authority shall be appointed by the Chair of the Board of Commissioners and approved by a majority of the members of the Board of County Commissioners. The term of the members of the Board of the Authority shall be six (6) years. The initial board shall be appointed as follows: One each of the members of the board of the Authority shall be for a term of one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4) and five (5) years and two (2) each for a term of six (6) years.
9. Nothing shall prevent the County Board from modifying this enabling resolution to impose limits on the powers of the Authority or providing for other matters as authorized under Minnesota law.

Motion by Olson and seconded by Backer to appoint the following individuals to the EDA Board with the terms drawn by lot:

Mark Kleindl	1 year term
Harold Dimberg III	3 year term
Kent Morrill	5 year term
Kristin Taffe	6 year term
John Costello	6 year term
Commissioner Brent Olson	2 year term
Commissioner Jay Backer	4 year term

Following discussion and thanks to Attorney Watson and IT Director Ocaña for their work with this process, motion carried.

County Engineer Nick Anderson and Scott Gillespie arrived at the meeting.

As the County’s representative to the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, Mr. Gillespie provided a detailed report on the District’s activities during the past year.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to proceed with an engineering study for shop space by Widseth Smith and Nolting as presented by County Engineer Anderson.

IT Director Ocaña reported that he will be purchasing the SQL server software that was included in the budget.

IT Director Ocaña provided an update on a workgroup with the RDC that is proposing to do a feasibility study on the costs and benefits of establishing a private/government fiber ring. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize \$500 towards the RDC's writing of the RFP and to commit up to \$5,000 for the study.

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

Barr's/Conroy Electric	\$ 7,473.84
Computer Professionals	4,586.00
Grant County Highway Dept	4,196.83
Kandiyohi County Sheriff Dept	29,446.73
Kris Engineering	5,166.12
Marco	4,750.00
Office Peeps	11,881.91
Wilkin County Highway Dept	2,600.21
68 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>20,161.53</u>
Total	\$90,263.17

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

Family Services to Highway	\$ 166.01
General to Highway	\$ 2,059.10

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

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:24 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor