

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**March 17, 2015**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 17, 2015. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Backer, Berning and Olson present. Also present were Elsie Perrine, Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the March 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Planning Commission; Twp Mtgs; Personnel; PrimeWest

Sandberg – Food Shelf; CBSL

Athey – SWCD; Law Library; Planning Commission

Backer – Graceville City & Twp Mtgs; CEOB

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

Computer Professionals	\$ 14,293.00
GovConnection	5,628.76
Hosecraft USA	25,111.48
Kris Engineering	3,735.97
Midway Ford	28,424.00
Security Locksmiths	4,975.00
West Con	3,241.00
52 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>14,850.27</u>
Total	\$100,259.48

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

Family Services to Highway	\$ 199.97
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General to Highway	\$ 1,965.27
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Auditor Knutson reported that the County was not contacted by anyone other than Scott Gillespie for interest in serving as the County's rep to the Bois de Sioux Watershed. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to re-appoint Scott Gillespie to the Bois de Sioux Watershed Board Manager position.

County Engineer Nick Anderson presented a list of equipment to be sold. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize the Engineer to sell the equipment.

Engineer Anderson presented a copy of the 2014 Annual Report for the Highway Department.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Backer and carried to execute the contract with Hard Rock Screening for gravel crushing.

The County Highway Road Tour was set for March 24<sup>th</sup> from 7:30 – 10:30 AM.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke provided an update on the recent Planning Commission meeting for the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application of Doug

Diekmann. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the CUP application as recommended by the Planning Commission.

Discussion was held on the grant application for Toqua Park. Environmental Officer Wilke reported that the grant covers a 2-year budget cycle and he presented estimates for the planned projects. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to commit \$15,000 for 2 years for the projects. Wilke will send in the grant application.

Discussion was held on the buffer strip initiative. Consensus was to hold off for now as the initiative is being discussed statewide and the funds for this grant cycle are almost gone at this time. Motion by Backer, seconded by Berning and carried to rescind the County's previous motion passed on March 3<sup>rd</sup> to submit an application for BWSR's riparian buffer compliance grant funds.

Attorney Watson reported on the productive meeting with Kevin Beyer from Federated Telephone, Jacki Anderson from RDC, Attorney Jenny Boulton, and Ehlers. A call was placed to Attorney Boulton to update the Board on the abatement bond issuance process. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize hiring Kennedy & Graven to serve as bond counsel.

Auditor Knutson presented a pamphlet from PERA regarding the new reporting requirements of GASB 68 for the Board's information.

Commissioner Olson presented a copy of the proposed county flags for display at PrimeWest. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the design for Big Stone County's as presented.

Discussion was held on whether the Board wants to commit to an EDA since it has been confirmed it is not needed for the broadband project. Attorney Watson stated that he sees the value of a county-wide EDA, but that the Board needs to be committed and have goals and a purpose. Following further discussion, consensus was that BSAG would support and roll into the EDA by the end of the year. The County has already received several resolutions from the townships and cities willing to participate.

IT Director Terry Ocaña updated the Board on the security needs for the County Buildings. Ocaña reported that the existing software for the door locks will no longer be supported. The estimated cost to upgrade the software for all 3 buildings is \$13,000. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize upgrading the software. Further discussion was held on options to address the door security concerns at the Extension Office. Consensus was to try the plastic covering option first.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM.

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Roger Sandberg, Chairman

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