

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
April 7, 2015

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, April 7, 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 Backer, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the March 17th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Berning – Property

Olson – JD 4; EDA; RDC; PrimeWest

Sandberg – Audit; Co Road Tour; ESB; Safety; BTYR

Athey – Toqua Park; Prairie 5; Co Road Tour; JD 4

Backer – EDA (2); JD 4

Attorney Watson reported on a recent omnibus hearing and that there are issues relating to payment to a former Ortonville Police Officer who returned to testify. Motion by Berning, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize payment of the former officer's mileage at the State's reimbursement rates of \$.23/mile and \$20/day for witness fees. Following further discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried that if the former officer needs to come back and testify for the trial, the County will reimburse mileage at the State's rate and his current hourly rate for his time.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to hold a public hearing on May 5, 2015, at 10:00 AM to consider utilizing the proceeds of general obligation property tax abatement bonds to make a loan or grant to assist Federated Telephone in financing a portion of the cost of a fiber optic telecommunications network within the County. County staff is authorized and directed to cause notice of the public hearing to be published in accordance with Minnesota law.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

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

Paul Kalibabky from Waste Management was present to provide an update on issues with non-recycling items being dropped off at the Ortonville recycling drop site. The County will look into what can be done to address the problem. In addition, the Board asked Mr. Kalibabky Waste Management's plans to address improving the site as well.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke presented wildlife billboard marketing options that could be put up with Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) grant funds. Consensus was to use options #1 and #3. Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize up to \$5,000 of the AIS funds to be spent on the billboards.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the Water Plan Committee to serve as the AIS Committee and that they are authorized to spend the AIS funds per the grant requirements.

County Recorder Elaine Martig was present to request the Board's permission for out of state travel to Iowa for the Fidler Educational Symposium May 11-13, 2015. Motion by Berning, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize the travel and any related expenditures for Recorder Martig and Deputy Recorder Berger.

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

| | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| Barr's/Conroy Electric | \$ 5,463.50 |
| Braun Intertec Corporation | 8,198.00 |
| City of St. Cloud | 9,295.84 |
| John Cunningham | 2,540.80 |
| Liftoff | 9,936.00 |
| Office of the State Auditor | 9,920.30 |
| U of MN | 12,661.89 |
| William Watson | 4,413.00 |
| Westlaw Design | 2,910.00 |
| Widseth Smith & Nolting | 5,758.13 |
| 52 Payments Less Than \$2,000 | <u>19,325.40</u> |
| Total | <u>\$90,422.86</u> |

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried that the 2014 financial statements be approved and ordered published.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the Consumption and Display Permit and the On Sale Beer License for Graceville Golf Club.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the retainer agreement with Rinke Noonan for assistance and representation on drainage matters.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to approve a county credit card for Facilities Technician Jared Heck per the County credit card policy.

Discussion was held on the IT Director's written comments on the recent challenges with faxing and the options available. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize IT Director Ocaña to add a centralized fax server to the County's existing phone system contract with Marco. The current cost for the addition is \$105/month.

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

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to keep the farm leases at 3 years and to authorize the Auditor to advertise for the next lease term for the expiring leases.

Discussion was held on correspondence received from the Scenic Byway regarding projects in our area. County Engineer Nick Anderson was present and stated that he will submit the project for extending the bike trail to the pier and through the refuge as a possible project.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize hiring Franky Koval for the Sign Tech/Maintenance Worker position at Grade 9 Step 2 effective April 13, 2015, as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Discussion was held on filling the Maintenance Worker position vacated by Koval. Consensus was to table the decision until the next meeting.

HR Director Gregoire reported that the Safety Committee had met and that the County will be updating employees on tornados and severe weather procedures on April 16th.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Athey and carried to close the meeting at 10:22 AM for labor negotiations.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Backer and carried to re-open the meeting at 10:31 AM.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor