

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
July 21, 2015

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, July 21, 2015. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Berning and Olson present. Commissioner Backer was absent. Also present were Bill Powell, Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the July 7th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Personnel; Pioneerland

Sandberg – Safety; Department Head; CBSL

Athey – Personnel

Bill Powell was present to request that the two properties that are across the street from the Ortonville School that are up for tax forfeiture be torn down. As a member of the City of Ortonville's Planning & Zoning Committee, he stated that it would be a desirable property that already has the necessary infrastructure. The Board will take his comments under consideration.

4-H Program Coordinator Suzanne Souza presented information supporting a request for future programming hours. Kathy Schwantes, the Regional Director from U of MN Extension, then reviewed the new Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Board. Ms. Schwantes stated that the Extension Committee has recommended increasing Suzanne's hours from 75 to 80%. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the request and execute the MOA. Barb Maas was also present.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the updated Data Practices Policy as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Family Services Director Pam Rud presented the resignation of Social Worker Rebecca Larson effective September 10th. Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to accept the resignation and authorize Director Rud to fill the position.

Discussion was held on additional staffing for child protection and the available funding from the State under the Vulnerable Children and Adult Plan. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize Director Rud to hire another child protection worker.

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

City of Graceville	\$ 4,415.00
Computer Professionals	4,563.00
Emergency Automotive Technology	7,609.90
Haukos Electrical Service	3,250.00
Marihart Surveying	6,081.50
Office Peeps	3,275.83
Stattelman Lumber	4,594.63
Traverse County	21,321.08

62 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>19,817.94</u>
Total	\$74,928.88

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

Family Services to Highway	\$ 116.63
General to Highway	\$ 2,052.35
Ditch to Highway	\$ 593.56
CD 13	\$289.96
JD 4	\$303.60

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the On Sale Liquor License for Club 7-75.

Auditor Knutson reported that the County received a 3-year engagement letter from the State Auditor’s Office. She stated that she will be requesting information as to why it switched to a 3-year agreement versus an annual one as has been the procedure in the past.

Discussion was held on the recent legislation relating to coroners. Auditor Knutson reported that Dr. Robert Ross has reviewed the legislation and stated that we are in compliance.

Bonanza Education Center representatives Joel Stattelman, Don Sherman and Brent Jacobson were present for a discussion on the possible sharing of a position with the County. With the new Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) funding from the State and the need for a coordinator at Bonanza, the possibility of sharing a position to best utilize all funding options needs to be discussed. It was decided that Bonanza would proceed with advertising for a part-time position with the possibility of it becoming full-time. The County will meet with Environmental Officer Darren Wilke to further review the feasibility of sharing options.

The remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing the 2016 budget.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:35 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor