

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**July 7, 2015**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, July 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 Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the minutes of the June 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and the June 16<sup>th</sup> Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – PrimeWest; Pioneerland; RDC; BSAG  
Sandberg – Museum  
Athey – Prairie 5  
Backer – BSAG

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

Big Stone Area Growth	\$ 8,750.00
Big Stone SWCD	15,130.00
City of Graceville	5,000.00
City of Ortonville	5,000.00
Countryside Public Health	27,302.50
Ehlers & Associates	25,128.00
GovConnection	2,885.36
Kandiyohi County Recycling	2,650.08
Nick Larson	9,781.96
Northland Business Systems	2,816.00
Office Peeps	16,294.75
Pioneerland Library System	16,888.75
Regents of the U of MN	13,608.14
Security Locksmiths	18,248.80
Lawrence Shreffler	40,173.00
William Watson	4,413.00
West Con	21,568.56
56 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>16,617.83</u>
Total	<u>\$252,256.73</u>

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the farm leases with Kenneth Hendricks and Jim Stotesbery.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to reappoint Gary Haugen to the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers for a 3-year term effective August 11, 2015 through August 7, 2018.

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

Auditor Knutson reported that the Post-Employment Benefit Valuation Report for 2015 has been completed by Hildi, Inc.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Backer and carried to ratify a temporary increase for Family Services Director Pam Rud's credit card.

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

County Treasurer Cindy Nelson was present to request the Board set sale prices for this year's tax forfeited properties for the respective cities if they want to purchase them. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to set the price at \$100 each.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to adopt the following resolution for tax-forfeited land as requested by Treasurer Nelson:

#### **2015-17**

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners desires to offer for sale certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, said parcels of land have been viewed by the County Board of Commissioners and have been classified as non-conservation lands as provided for in Minnesota Statute 282.01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that all parcels of land on the attached list have been viewed and comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8 and 282.018 and other statutes that require the withholding of tax-forfeited lands from sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby requests approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the sale of said lands.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire reported that the Insurance Committee had unanimously voted to recommend the hybrid plan for health insurance. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to proceed with the recommendation and authorize hiring employee benefits attorney, Darcy Hitesman, to update the County's plan.

Following a break, Chairman Sandberg declared the public hearing to take comment on the County's Tobacco Ordinance and Electronic Delivery Device Use Ordinance open at 9:30 AM. Countryside Public Health representatives Liz Auch, Katrina Henry and Amber Amdahl reviewed the ordinances with those present. Erin Simmons from the American Lung Association was also present. There being no comments from the public, motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to close the hearing at 9:44 AM.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to adopt the Big Stone County Tobacco Ordinance 2015 Ordinance and Electronic Delivery Device Use Ordinance and to publish summaries of the ordinances in the official minutes:

#### **SUMMARY OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY TOBACCO ORDINANCE 2015**

This Ordinance is intended to regulate the sale, possession, and use of tobacco, tobacco related devices, electronic

delivery devices, and nicotine or lobelia delivery products for the purpose of enforcing and furthering existing laws, to protect minors against the serious effects associated with the illegal use of tobacco and related licensed products and to further the official public policy of the State of Minnesota in regard to preventing young people from starting to smoke as stated in Minnesota Statute 144.391.

**SUMMARY OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY  
ELECTRONIC DELIVERY DEVICE USE ORDINANCE**

This Ordinance is intended to prohibit the use of any electronic delivery device anywhere smoking is prohibited.

These summaries are being published in compliance with Minnesota law. A copy of the full text of each ordinance is available during regular office hours at the Big Stone County Auditor's Office, 20 2<sup>nd</sup> St SE, Ortonville, MN 56278.

County Engineer Nick Anderson presented the following two quotes he received for the work on County Ditch 13:

Ronglien Excavating	\$76,700
J&J Earthworks	\$44,000

Motion by Berning, seconded by Backer and carried to hire J & J Earthworks.

Engineer Anderson has received some calls wondering why the new weir that was agreed to last fall has not been installed on County Ditch 2. He reported that he has not received the DNR permit yet to do the work.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on construction projects and also stated that the crushing has been completed in Beardsley and that Odessa should be finished up by the end of the week.

Engineer Anderson reported that the County Highway Department is changing the permitting process for allowing road ditches to be hayed. A deadline in June for haying is being considered. Haying will need to be completed by the deadline or it will be mowed by the County.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the temporary partial closing of County Hwy 28 in the City of Odessa on July 18, 2015, from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM for water fights as requested by the Odessa Fire Department.

Commissioner Berning asked that the road be swept before then to remove the debris from the recent storm.

Discussion was held on repaving the courthouse parking lot. Consensus was to wait until 2017 and include with other highway projects to reduce the cost.

County Ditch 12 landowners and several interested parties were present to discuss needed repairs to the ditch. Engineer/Ditch Inspector Anderson reported that the current benefits do not provide enough funds for the needed repairs and is recommending that a redetermination of benefits be done. Following discussion, motion by Olson and seconded by Athey to proceed with a redetermination and a hydrology study on the ditch. Following further discussion, motion carried.

US Fish & Wildlife representative Danielle Kepford was present to request certification of acquisition of land for two habitat easements in Otrej and Odessa

Townships. Representatives Bruce Freske and Blake Knisley were also present. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to certify for acquisition the following described properties:

1. T122N, R45W, 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Section 19, Government Lots 2 and 7.
  2. T121N, R45W, 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Section 16, that part of the NW1/4 SW1/4 except Lot A, SW1/4 SW1/4 except Lots B & C to be determined by a survey.
- Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:45 AM.

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Roger Sandberg, Chairman

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