

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
August 4, 2015

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, August 4, 2015. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Backer and Berning present. Also present were Elsie Perrine, Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, IT Director Terry Ocaña, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Commissioner Olson arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the July 21st regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Berning – Supporting Hands

Olson – Personnel; Pioneerland; RDC

Sandberg – MSI; Food Shelf; Property

Athey – Personnel; Prairie 5; Toqua Park

Backer – SW EMS; Bois de Sioux; Toqua Park

Attorney Watson requested to meet with the Personnel Committee to begin planning for the transition of the office as he is anticipating this will be his last term as County Attorney. Watson is also requesting that the County purchase a computer for all of the County work. IT Director Ocaña was directed to work with Attorney Watson to get this done.

VSO Dan Meyer provided information on his office's activities during the past month for the Board's review. VSO Admin Assistant Liane Rausch was also present.

VSO Meyer reported that he has received the Operation Enhancement Grant information. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to adopt the following resolution and execute the grant agreement:

2015-18

BE IT RESOLVED that Big Stone County enter into a Grant Contract with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the County's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the County Veterans Service Office, as specified in Minnesota Laws 2013 Chapter 142 Article 4. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman and CVSO be authorized to execute the Grant Contract for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County.

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

Stacey Beyer	\$11,688.45
Dell Marketing	2,401.48
Hildi Inc	3,810.00
Milbank Communications	4,344.16

Neu Real Estate	5,200.00
Upper MN Valley RDC	5,500.00
William Watson	4,469.00
37 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>11,234.06</u>
Total	\$48,647.15

Vince Robinson from BSAG provided an update on BSAG's activities and the 2016 budget request.

Katie Adelman from the Big Stone Lake Area Chamber presented the 2016 budget request on behalf of the Southern MN Tourism Association.

Auditor Knutson provided an update on recent correspondence and discussions with the Office of the State Auditor.

Scott Bauer was present to request additional funding for the Graceville ambulance service for 2016. Discussion was held on its current financial status and the need for the increase in the current appropriation.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to adopt the following resolution as presented by County Engineer Nick Anderson:

2015-19

WHEREAS, County Project 06-1501 has in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts said completed project for and on behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorize final payment to Hard Rock Screening, LLC in the amount shown on final pay estimates.

Engineer Anderson provided a construction update.

Anderson also reported on various ditch projects: the JD 14 tile project will be started this fall; the DNR wants to change the design on the CD 2 weir; the viewing on CD 13 is done and just waiting for review; a meeting for CD 12 was set for September 15th at 1:00 PM to discuss the hydrology report.

The Highway 5-Year Plan Meeting was set for September 1st at 11:00 AM.

County Treasurer Cindy Nelson was present to request assessed values for the tax forfeited property that will be on the upcoming sale. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to set the basic sales prices at 10% of market value.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2015-20

BE IT RESOLVED, that all parcels of tax-forfeited land listed on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #15-1 be classified as nonconservation land; that the basic sale price of each parcel on List of Tax-Forfeited Land #15-1, that is on file with the Clerk of the County Board, be approved and authorization for a public sale of this land be granted, pursuant to M.S. 282.01; that the sale will be held at 9:00 AM, Friday, September 4, 2015, by the Big Stone County Treasurer at the Big Stone County Courthouse, for not less than the basic sale price; and that full payment is required at the time of the sale.

Discussion was held on dilapidated structures. Consensus was to talk to the cities to develop a plan to work together to resolve the issues with the structures and to budget funds to assist in tearing them down.

Attorney Watson reported that he had been contacted by other counties regarding the hybrid health insurance plan being looked into at the County. HR Director

Dawn Gregoire and IT Director Terry Ocaña from the Insurance Committee were also present. IT Director Ocaña commented that the Insurance Committee had not taken the matter lightly and shared the research that was done by the Insurance before the recommendation was made to the Board. Benefits attorney, Darcy Hitesman, will be in Stevens County for a meeting regarding the plan and Attorney Watson is planning to attend as well as HR Director Gregoire and Deputy Auditor Sharon Finke.

Auditor Knutson reported that the County's 2015 MCIT dividend will be \$43,885 and is allocated as follows: Workers' Compensation \$28,086 and Property/Casualty \$15,799.

Commissioner Athey and Mike Swenson left the meeting.

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

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 11:39 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor