

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**September 1, 2015**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 1, 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 August 18<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Pioneerland (2)

Sandberg – Property; Dept Head

Athey – Prairie 5

Backer – Bois de Sioux; Red River Basin

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke arrived during committee reports.

Discussion was held on the tax forfeited properties that were removed from the sale. Environmental Officer Wilke reported that it will cost \$4,000 to remove the asbestos before demolition. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to proceed with the asbestos removal.

Commissioner Athey reported on his conversations with Environmental, Extension and Joel Stattelmann regarding Bonanza. Bonanza will hire for their position. There has been some discussion on using Extension to assist with aquatic invasive species (AIS) education at Bonanza. Brian McNeill from Extension will be invited to come to a future meeting to further discuss such an opportunity.

Discussion was held on contracting Minnesota West to do computer training for employees. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize the training and require all employees who use computers for their positions to participate.

Attorney Watson reported that he has reviewed the PrimeWest Joint Powers Agreement. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to execute the Agreement.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to execute the agreement with Main Street Industries for cleaning services as drafted by Attorney Watson. Commissioner Olson abstained.

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

Andrew Gurbada from Nexben presented information on their company and how they can assist the County in administering the proposed hybrid health insurance plan. Nexben is a technical platform to support the plan and assist with ACA reporting requirements.

A conference call was placed to benefits attorney, Darcy Hitesman to review the proposed hybrid health insurance plan with the Board. Members of the insurance committee were also present.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to ratify the hiring of Marge Schmitz as a temporary eligibility worker at Family Services as requested by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the hiring of Stephanie McLain as a Social Worker at Grade 11 Step 1.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the hiring of Christine Andrews as a Social Worker at Grade 11 Step 1.

HR Director Gregoire reported that Assessor Vold would like to re-advertise for the part-time appraiser position. Following discussion, the decision was made to not fill the position.

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

Crop Production Services	\$ 6,662.53
GovConnection	3,228.84
Hancock Concrete Products	54,436.80
Kandiyohi County Sheriff Department	30,126.31
Ratwick Roszak & Maloney	4,405.52
Ronglien & Sons Excavating	2,234.00
William Watson	4,413.00
36 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>10,491.62</u>
Total	\$115,998.62

Auditor Knutson reported that a letter had been received from the Office of the State Auditor denying the County's request to be released for the next audit cycle. Auditor Knutson reported that she is still awaiting a response regarding the receipt of a one-year engagement letter and budget information.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the right-of-way plat for SAP 006-635-006, the CSAH 35 project in Big Stone Township.

County Engineer Nick Anderson, Maintenance Supervisor Darby Karsky, Technicians Derrick Loeschke and Mark Dietz, Shop Supervisor/Mechanic Toby Reiffenberger and Steve and Chris Emde were present for the 5-Year Plan Meeting.

Engineer Anderson reviewed the 5-year plan for road construction. Engineer Anderson provided realignment options being considered for CSAH 38/35. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the plan as presented.

The 5-year plan for major equipment expenditures was presented. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the plan as presented.

Discussion was held on County Ditch 2's weir project. Engineer Anderson reported that the new design has been sent off to the DNR for approval.

County Ditch 30 redetermination is completed and is being reviewed. It will be ready for public hearing within a month.

Engineer Anderson reported that he is still waiting for the hydraulics on County Ditch 12 from Duane Hansel.

Joint Ditch 24 tiling project will be completed this year.

Engineer Anderson reported that they are in the process of doing a cleanout on Joint Ditch 7.

Engineer Anderson reviewed the financial condition of the Highway Department to date.

Engineer Anderson presented the preliminary plan he is working for ADA transition planning.

A brief update was given on the Ortonville Shop and several issues that will need to be dealt with.

The remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing the 2016 budget.  
Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 12:56 PM.

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Roger Sandberg, Chairman

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