

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
September 15, 2015

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 15, 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 Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the September 1st regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Berning – Countryside
Olson – PrimeWest; BSAG
Sandberg – Museum
Athey – HRA
Backer – BSAG

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

Commissioner of Transportation	\$ 2,494.39
Computer Professionals	4,315.00
Edney Distributing	2,962.45
GovConnection	9,790.94
Traverse County Sheriff	3,520.00
West Con	3,393.00
41 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>12,566.97</u>
Total	<u>\$39,042.75</u>

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

Family Services to Highway	\$ 172.58
General to Highway	\$ 1,628.32
Ditch to Highway	\$ 1,170.83
County Ditch 2	\$307.48
County Ditch 13	\$863.35

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

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to accept the only bid received on the surplus Dell 2335 printer from Zion Lutheran Church in the amount of \$50.

Discussion was held on the information received from Southwest Initiative Foundation reporting their activity in Big Stone County.

A special meeting was set for September 24th at 10:00 AM to discuss a potential County Ditch 12 improvement project, the new buffer strip law and shoreland exemptions for man-made ditches.

Commissioner Olson reported that he has drafted a letter to township officials regarding crop infringement in road right-of-way for the Board's review. This will be discussed and finalized at the next board meeting.

Bill Powell was present to follow up on the tax forfeited properties that are across the street from the Ortonville School. He is requesting that the Board consider waiting to sell those parcels as an adjacent property may be up for forfeiture next year and then all three parcels could be looked at. He stressed the importance of managing land properly as “it is the County’s most valuable resource.”

Discussion was held to finalize the 2016 budget and levy.

Motion by Olson, seconded Berning and carried to adopt the following resolution with Commissioner Athey voting Nay:

2015-21

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the proposed 2016 budget be approved and the gross levy be established at \$4,931,041.

Gary Haugen was present to request an exemption from the Shoreland Management Rules for a public waters ditch in Section 13 of Almond Township. County Engineer Nick Anderson and Environmental Darren Wilke provided input. Following discussion, it was decided to add this discussion to the meeting on the 24th when ditch attorney, Kurt Deter, will be present. County Assessor Sandy Vold was also present for the discussion.

Engineer Anderson reported that only one bid was received for the seal coat project on CSAH 25 (CP 006-601-015). It was from Bituminous Paving in the amount of \$141,310.50. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to award the bid to Bituminous Paving and execute the contract upon Attorney Watson’s approval of the bonds.

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

2015-22

WHEREAS, Big Stone County has determined that the following bridge on the CSAH, County Road, Township, and Municipal Street systems is a high priority and requires construction, replacement or rehabilitation within the next five (5) years. The construction and replacement plan is as follows:

CONSTRUCTION AND REPLACEMENT PLAN

Old Bridge Number	Road Number	Estimated Project Cost	Federal Funds	Local Funds	Bond Funds Needed	Township Bridge Funds	Proposed Construction Year
N/A	T-20	\$210,000	\$0	\$10,000		\$200,000	2016

WHEREAS, local roads play an essential role in the overall state transportation network and local bridges are the critical component of the local road systems; and

WHEREAS, State support for the construction, replacement or rehabilitation of local bridges continues to be crucial to maintaining the integrity of the local road systems and is necessary for the County and the townships to proceed with the replacement or rehabilitation of the high priority bridge described above; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County intends to proceed with construction, replacement or rehabilitation of this bridge as soon as possible when State Transportation Bond Funds are available.

BE IT RESOLVED, Big Stone County commits that it will proceed with the design and contract documents for this bridge immediately after being notified that funds are available in order to permit construction to take place within one year of notification.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the personal leave request for Deputy Recorder Karol Scherer for January 25-February 29, 2016, as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire. Recorder Elaine Martig was also present.

HR Director Gregoire presented the resignation of VSO Administrative Assistant Liane Rausch effective September 24th. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to accept the resignation. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize HR Director Gregoire to proceed with filling the position.

HR Director Gregoire asked the Board if they wanted to meet with individual elected officials for salary setting purposes. No meetings will be scheduled at this time.

HR Director Gregoire reported that she has completed a new evaluation form for non-elected department heads and will be sending it out to Commissioners for their review and comments.

HR Director Gregoire reported that the OSHA inspection went well. There were only a few minor things that were noted and they have already been updated.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to close the meeting at 9:51 AM for labor negotiations strategy.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to re-open the meeting at 10:10 AM.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to set the public meeting to take comments on the proposed budget and levy for Tuesday, December 1st at 6:00 PM in the Commissioner's Room.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:14 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor