

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**October 18, 2016**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 18, 2016. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer, Berning, Olson and Sandberg 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 Backer, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the October 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – PrimeWest; RDC; Dream for Kids; Insurance

Sandberg – Insurance; Food Shelf

Athey – Personnel; SWCD; WACCO

Backer – Personnel

Berning – Countryside

Attorney Watson reported that the Legal Assistant position has been posted internally and he and the Property Committee met regarding office space.

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

Big Stone Ag Service	\$ 7,434.01
Computer Professionals Unlimited	4,456.00
Fridgen Excavating	3,350.00
Ortonville Independent	4,840.32
Regents of the U of MN	17,220.27
Seachange Printing	4,653.10
42 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>11,125.43</u>
Total	\$53,079.13

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

General to Highway	\$ 1,562.06
Family Services to Highway	\$ 34.84
Ditch to Highway – County Ditch 20	\$ 96.02
Forfeited Land to Hwy	\$ 110.00

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

Discussion was held on the membership request from MN Rural Counties Caucus. Commissioner Olson will contact Mr. Larson for discussion at the next meeting.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire and Deputy Auditor/Benefits Specialist Sharon Finke arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the hiring of Kelly Saylor as a Financial Worker at Grade 7 Step 1 effective October 28, 2016, as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

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

**2016-29**

WHEREAS M.S. 273.061 provides that the term of office for the County Assessor is four years; and

WHEREAS the current term ends on December 31, 2016.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby re-appoints Sandy Vold as the County Assessor for the new term beginning January 1, 2017.

HR Director Gregoire reported that Engineer Nick Anderson has requested to hire a full-time Highway Maintenance Worker. Motion by Berning, seconded by Backer and carried to proceed with the hiring process for the position.

HR Director Gregoire reviewed Emergency Management Director Dona Greiner's report with the Board.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to close the meeting at 9:03 AM for labor negotiations.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to reopen the meeting at 9:11 AM.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried approve the Insurance Committee's recommendation for a health insurance plan for the County.

The remainder of the meeting was spent on strategic planning discussions for the County.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 9:24 AM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

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