

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
November 1, 2016

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, November 1, 2016. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer, Berning, Olson and Sandberg present. Also present were Elsie Perrine, 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 Backer and carried to approve the minutes of the October 18th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Pioneerland; RDC

Sandberg – MSI; Safety; Beyond the Yellow Ribbon; Collaborative

Athey – Park; Personnel

Backer – Park; Personnel; SWEMS; Bois de Sioux

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to reappoint Mark Kleindl to the EDA Board for a 6-year term retroactive to February 2016.

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

City of Clinton	\$ 6,000.00
Johnson Jet-Line	4,517.68
Kandiyohi County Sheriff	5,202.36
Ridgeview Excavating	2,270.00
RtVision	3,000.00
TrueNorth Steel	3,176.27
William Watson	4,456.16
West Con	17,206.31
47 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>22,038.59</u>
Total	<u>\$67,867.37</u>

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to execute the agreement with Countryside Public Health for tobacco compliance checks.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to join Minnesota Rural Counties Caucus (MRCC) for 2017 with the request that periodic updates are provided.

Commissioner Berning will represent the County at the AMC District 6 meeting in Montevideo on November 4th.

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

Sheriff John Haukos arrived at the meeting.

Becky Parker, representing the Southwest Initiative Foundation (SWIF), was present to share SWIF's new strategic plan entitled 'Grow Our Own.' This plan is focused on supporting all southwest Minnesota kids and hopefully assist in closing the opportunity gap. Parker provided statistical data as to why SWIF is making this their priority. There will be a summit on December 15th at SMSU in Marshall. Commissioner Olson will attend on behalf of the County.

County Engineer Nick Anderson arrived at the meeting during Parker's presentation.

The Board brought up the possibility of using a drone to look at county ditches with Engineer Anderson. Following discussion, consensus was for Engineer Anderson to research the options and report back to the Board.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the Joint Powers Agreement for the Administration of Federal HSIP Safety Grant as presented by Engineer Anderson.

Discussion was held on the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the US Fish & Wildlife Service regarding the portion of the Minnesota River Headwaters Trail that will be constructed and maintained in the Big Stone Wildlife Refuge. Commissioners Berning and Sandberg will meet with Engineer Anderson, Refuge Manager Scott Simmons and a representative from the City of Ortonville to review and discuss the terms of the MOU.

Engineer Anderson reported that the video of County Ditch 12 has been completed. Approximately ½ mile of the tile is damaged and not working. Anderson will be talking to the landowners and a meeting will be scheduled this winter to discuss the needed repair and possible redetermination of benefits.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize up to \$2,500 to rip rap portions of County Ditch 30 as requested by the landowners.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the purchase of a trailer for hauling scrap at a cost of \$7,000 as requested by Engineer Anderson.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the Highway Department to advertise the following units for sale:

1986 Oshkosh Truck (Unit15)

1999 Sterling Truck (Unit 72)

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the hiring of Al Kleindl for the full-time Highway Maintenance Worker position at Grade 8 Step 1 effective November 1, 2016, as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize advertising for a part-time Deputy Sheriff as requested by Sheriff Haukos.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to ratify PEIP as the County's health insurance plan effective January 1, 2017.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to terminate the Hybrid Health Insurance Plan effective midnight on December 31, 2016.

The remainder of the meeting was spent continuing the County's strategic plan discussion and meeting with staff.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve Facilities Technician Jared Heck as the signing authority for his departments.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 10:08 AM.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor