

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**December 1, 2016**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 5:00 PM on Thursday, December 1, 2016. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM with Commissioners Backer, Berning, Olson and Sandberg present. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, County Engineer Nick Anderson, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the November 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Dream for Kids; Pioneerland; RDC; PrimeWest

Sandberg – Property

Athey – Prairie 5; Fair Board; Personnel

Backer – Personnel; RRB; EDA; Legislative Roundtable; Park

Berning – Property

HR Director Dawn Gregoire arrived at the meeting during committee reports.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize per diem to Commissioner Backer for attending the Legislative Roundtable on behalf of the Board.

IT Director Terry Ocaña arrived at the meeting.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the hiring of Andrew Albin for the IT Tech Support position at Grade 7 Step 1 effective January 16, 2017, as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire. Approval is contingent upon a successful background check.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to accept the resignation of VSO Administrative Assistant Kim Hasslen effective December 15, 2016, as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

HR Director Gregoire reported that she has received three responses to her request for proposals for a compensation study. Gregoire will review them and bring a recommendation back to the next meeting.

The Personnel Committee reported that they are recommending a 2% increase for elected official salaries. This will be discussed again at the next meeting.

IT Director Ocaña reported on the equipment needed to supply the County Attorney's Office after the first of the year. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the proposed equipment purchases up to \$20,000.

Attorney Watson reported that he will be polling other counties regarding staffing.

Engineer Anderson presented the following bid results on the trucks that were advertised for sale:

1986 Oshkosh	\$4,001 by Paul Maas
	\$3,640 by Gary Haugen
	\$3,100 by Greg Kellen
1999 Sterling	\$18,320 by Gary Haugen

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to award the bids to the respective high bidders.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the US Fish and Wildlife Service for the trail project through the refuge contingent on their approval as presented.

Engineer Anderson reported that he is still researching the possibility of purchasing a drone for the County.

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

Barr's-Conroy Electric	\$ 2,665.40
City of Graceville	9,630.00
Emergency Automotive Technology	8,328.32
Kris Engineering	5,259.15
Nelson Electric	3,679.34
Office Peeps	5,981.64
Ridgeview Excavating	5,452.34
Ronglien & Sons Excavating	5,850.00
Sanford Health	2,350.00
Twin Valley Tire	11,430.80
William Watson	4,456.16
West Con	2,561.00
Yellow Medicine County Jail	4,698.80
38 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>10,629.01</u>
Total	\$82,971.96

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

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the following tobacco license applications for 2017:

C & E Short Stop  
DG Retail, LLP dba Dollar General  
Headquarter's Bar, Inc.  
Holiday Stationstore  
One More, Inc.  
Tri-County Coop  
TD&C Inc dba S & D One Stop

Commissioner Sandberg thanked Commissioner Olson for his role in securing the \$300,000 grant from PrimeWest to open a mental health center in the County.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

At 6:00 PM, Chairman Athey asked for public comment on the County's 2017 budget and levy. No public comments on the budget were received. However, Gordon Lindquist was present and asked a question regarding his TNT statement. Auditor Knutson provided information on how property classifications affect his taxes. Mr. Lindquist was encouraged to contact the Assessor's Office for further explanation.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 6:09 PM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

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