

**BIG STONE AND TRAVERSE COUNTY BOARDS**  
**JOINT DITCH #4**  
**March 1, 2016**

The Joint Ditch Authority for Big Stone/Traverse Counties met at the Graceville Community Building on Tuesday, March 1, 2016. Big Stone County Commissioner Wade Athey called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM with Commissioner Dave Salberg from Traverse County and Commissioners Brent Olson and Jay Backer from Big Stone County present. Traverse County Commissioner Kevin Leininger was absent. Also present were Big Stone County Engineer Nick Anderson, Big Stone County Auditor Michelle Knutson and various landowners.

The meeting was turned over to County Engineer Anderson.

Engineer Anderson informed those present that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss needed maintenance and establishing a special assessment policy.

Engineer Anderson stated that they will be finishing up seeding of the buffers and will need to reseed some areas. The reseeding expense will be paid for by the landowner(s).

Engineer Anderson stated that he has been contacted to do some cleaning and tree removal along the ditch. Anderson reviewed a map showing the sections of the ditch where maintenance needs to be done. He presented an estimate from Fridgen Excavating for restoring the ditch grade line on the main branch from West Toqua Lake to 1.5-mile into Traverse County and for tree removal in the dump ground area. Discussion was held on how much tree removal work should be completed. Following discussion, the consensus of the landowners present was to do the clean out and grade line restoration and take out trees on the west side. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize \$60,000 for the proposed maintenance along with \$10,000 for contingency.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize the 2016 assessment at \$29,500 to cover the expenditures approved for 2015.

Discussion followed on establishing a policy for special assessments going forward. Motion by Salberg, seconded by Backer and carried to levy additional maintenance dollars each year so as to maintain a \$20,000 balance in the fund.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Salberg and carried to assess \$90,000 over 5 years beginning in 2017 at the statutorily allowed interest rate. The \$90,000 will cover the \$70,000 approved for maintenance and contingency plus \$20,000 to get the cash balance started.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Salberg and carried to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Athey declared the meeting adjourned at 2:41 PM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

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