

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**July 19, 2016**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, July 19, 2016. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Berning, Olson and Sandberg present. Commissioner Backer was absent. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, Elsie Perrine, 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 July 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the agenda. Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – Audit; Museum; CBSL; Department Head

Athey – Personnel; Prairie; 5

Berning – Pomme de Terre

Attorney Watson reported that he spoke with the Thompson's attorney and that they are concentrating on the appeal with the Department of Revenue.

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

Central Applicators	\$ 3,446.77
Computer Professionals Unlimited	14,456.00
Digital Ally	3,170.00
Hancock Concrete Products	2,879.28
M-R Sign Co	3,190.11
Ridgeview Excavating	3,875.00
Traverse County	21,694.30
West Con	8,521.64
46 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>13,005.73</u>
Total	\$74,238.83

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

General to Highway	\$ 924.98
Family Services to Highway	\$ 51.54
Ditch to Highway	\$14,339.27
County Ditch 2	\$ 400.92
Joint Ditch 4	\$ 630.22
Joint Ditch 7	\$ 31.17
County Ditch 8	\$ 259.75
County Ditch 13	\$ 207.79
County Ditch 20	\$ 84.02
County Ditch 30	\$12,725.40

Commissioner Sandberg and Auditor Knutson reported that the Audit Committee had met to discuss the 2015 legislation allowing counties to use private CPA firms for their audits and to review proposals received for a possible change of auditors.

Following discussion, motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution as recommended by the Audit Committee:

**2016-17**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes §6.481, subdivision 2 requires counties to have an annual financial audit; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes §6.481, subdivision 2 permits counties to “choose to have the audit performed by the state auditor, or may choose to have the audit performed by a CPA firm”.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, Big Stone County chooses to retain the services of a CPA firm, that meets the requirements established in Minnesota Statutes §326A.05, for its annual financial audit.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to accept the proposal from Abdo, Eick & Meyers to conduct the County’s annual financial audit for years 2017 and 2018.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the On Sale Liquor License for Club 7-75.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to ratify an increase to the fingerprint fee in the Sheriff’s Office to \$10 effective June 1, 2016.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve and execute the revised MnCCC Joint Powers Agreement.

Discussion was held on commissioner approval of invoices for payment. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize Commissioners Berning or Sandberg to sign those invoices needing commissioner approval.

Dawn Hegland and Melissa Streich from the Upper MN Valley RDC were present to provide updates on the RDC and Western MN Prairie Waters Tourism. Commissioners were encouraged to become members again, reminded that the Visitor’s Guide is being reprinted in September. Big Stone County’s contribution would be \$9,148.

Treasurer Cindy Nelson was present to request a resolution authorizing entry into a Joint Powers Agreement in the form of a Declaration of Trust establishing an entity known as “Minnesota Association of Governments Investing for Counties” (MAGIC) and authorizing participation in certain investment programs in connection therewith. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2016-18**

WHEREAS, M.S. §471.59 (the Joint Powers Act) provides among other things that governmental units, by agreement entered into through action of their governing bodies, may jointly or cooperatively exercise any power common to the contracting parties; and

WHEREAS, the MAGIC Fund was formed in October 1990 pursuant to the Joint Powers Act by the adoption of a joint powers agreement in the form of a Declaration of Trust by a group of Minnesota Counties acting as the Initial Participants thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Trust, as amended, has been presented to this board; and

WHEREAS, the Declaration of Trust authorizes municipalities of the State of Minnesota to adopt and enter into the Declaration of Trust and become Participants of the MAGIC Fund; and

WHEREAS, this board deems it to be advisable for this county to adopt and enter into the Declaration of Trust and become a Participant of the MAGIC Fund for the purpose

of the joint investment of this county's monies with those of other counties so as to enhance the investment earnings accruing to each; and WHEREAS, this board deems it to be advisable for this county to make use from time to time, in the discretion of the officials of the county identified in Section 2 of the following Resolution, of the Fixed-Rate Investment Program available to Participants of the MAGIC Fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

**Section 1.** This county shall join with other counties in accordance with the Joint Powers Act by becoming a Participant of the MAGIC Fund and adopting and entering into the Declaration of Trust, which is adopted by reference herein with the same effect as if it had been set out verbatim in this resolution, and a copy of the Declaration of Trust shall be filed in the minutes of the meeting at which this Resolution was adopted. The treasurer of this county is hereby authorized to take such actions and execute any and all such documents as they may deem necessary and appropriate to effectuate the entry of this county into the Declaration of Trust and the adoption thereof by this county.

**Section 2.** This county is hereby authorized to invest its available monies from time to time and to withdraw such monies from time to time in accordance with the provisions of the Declaration of Trust. The following officers and officials of the county and their respective successors in office each hereby are designated as "Authorized Officials" with full powers and authority to effectuate the investment and withdrawal of monies of this county from time to time in accordance with the Declaration of Trust and pursuant to the Fixed-Rate Investment Service available to Participants of the MAGIC Fund:

Cindy Nelson, County Treasurer

Sharon Finke, Deputy County Auditor/Treasurer

**Section 3.** The Trustees of the MAGIC Fund are hereby designated as having official custody of this County's monies, which are invested in accordance with the Declaration of Trust.

**Section 4.** State banks, national banks, and thrift institutions located either within or without the State of Minnesota which qualify as depositories under Minnesota law and are included on a list approved and maintained for such purpose by the Investment Advisor of the MAGIC Fund are hereby designated as depositories of this county pursuant to M.S. §118.005 and monies of this county may be deposited therein, from time to time in the discretion of the Authorized Officials, pursuant to the Fixed-Rate Investment Service available to participants of the MAGIC Fund.

Discussion was held on personal property found in one of the tax forfeited properties. The property will be moved to a more secure location until the time when it can be auctioned off.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the solid waste licenses for the City of Beardsley, City of Clinton, Mattheisen Disposal, Engbretsen & Sons Disposal Service, Wittrock & Sons and Waste Management as presented by Environmental Officer Darren Wilke.

Environmental Officer Wilke reported that Pioneer Public TV is inviting the County to sponsor an educational ad that will be included during *Prairie Sportsman* called "The Aquatic Invasive Species Minute" at a cost of \$5,000 per year. Motion by

Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the expenditure for 2 years to be paid by AIS funds.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire provided an update on the Emergency Management Director (EMD) and Deputy EMD positions. By default, Chairman Athey is the interim EMD. The County is still in discussions with Stevens County regarding sharing the EMD position. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to begin the search for a Deputy EMD.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to accept the resignation of Financial Worker Billie Jo Anderson effective September 2, 2016.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize HR Director Gregoire to proceed with filling the Financial Worker position.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the updated Data Practices Act Policy as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

HR Director Gregoire reported that the Insurance Committee will be meeting on Thursday to discuss the recent changes to BCBS and future insurance options.

The remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing the 2017 budget.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 10:17 AM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

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