

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
July 5, 2016

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, July 5, 2016. Vice Chairman Backer called the meeting to order with Commissioners Berning, Olson and Sandberg present. Chairman Athey was absent. Also present were Elsie Perrine, 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 June 21st regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Broadband; RDC

Sandberg – MSI; LEAN 101; Investment

Backer – Personnel (2)

Assessor Sandy Vold and Deputy Assessor Barb Amundson arrived at the meeting.

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

Big Stone Area Growth	\$ 10,000.00
Big Stone SWCD	15,000.00
Bond Trust Services Corporation	83,188.75
City of Graceville	10,000.00
City of Ortonville	5,000.00
Countryside Public Health	29,124.00
Hancock Concrete Products	5,862.56
Kandiyohi County Recycling	2,000.00
Ortonville Independent	4,157.95
Pioneerland Library	17,395.50
Regents of the U of MN	17,220.27
Ridgeview Excavating	2,027.50
Seachange Printing	3,186.84
William Watson	4,456.16
41 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>9,651.00</u>
Total	\$218,270.53

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to appoint Wanda Holker to the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers for a 3-year term effective August 9, 2016 through August 13, 2019.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to ratify the Software Program Agreement between Mid-State Computer Cooperative and Computer Professionals Unlimited for the re-write of the tax program.

Mike Jorgenson arrived at the meeting.

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

Auditor Knutson reported that the Audit Committee will be meeting next week to review quotes from private CPA firms and evaluate whether the County should provide notice of change in auditors. The Committee will bring back a recommendation to the Board.

SWCD Technician Blayne Johnson arrived at the meeting. Mark, Chuck and Greg Thompson also arrived at the meeting.

Mark Thompson, speaking for the Thompson family, informed the Board of an estate tax issue they have with the Department of Revenue. Due to their father's death in 2012 and subsequent sales of part of the property, a property tax reclassification occurred. They stated that they had done everything asked of them and will expect to be reimbursed for all of their damages. Assessor Vold explained the state law that requires the County to reclassify ag residential homestead property if no one is living in the house. Attorney Watson reviewed the assessment process that had taken place. He then requested that the Thompsons have their attorney contact him their concerns.

SWCD Technician Johnson reviewed the District's financial information with the Board and requested a \$10,000 per year increase to their current appropriation. Mike Jorgenson stated that there are matching funds available for any new money given to the District. The Board will take the request into consideration when working on the 2017 County budget.

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

County Engineer Nick Anderson provided an estimate for resurfacing the upper and lower Courthouse parking lots in 2017. Facilities Technician Jared Heck was also present. The Board authorized Engineer Anderson to proceed with getting quotes to do the project(s).

Engineer Anderson reported that he has met with US Fish & Wildlife Manager Scott Simmons regarding the trail. Anderson's recommendation is that the County shouldn't proceed with anything in 2016 as only 600' of the approximate 6,300' of the trail is in Big Stone County. The other 5,700' is in Lac qui Parle County. In addition, portions of the trail are below the flood plain. Commissioner Olson will send a letter to Lac qui Parle requesting some financial support for ongoing maintenance of the project. No further action was taken at this time.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the contract with Riley Bros Construction for SAP 006-599-010.

Commissioner Olson reported that he has received a call from a citizen regarding a property where they feel there is an attractive nuisance. Attorney Watson provided clarification on the legal definition of "attractive nuisance" relating to property. Consensus was that there was nothing the County can do regarding the property in question.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire reported on the meeting held with representatives from Stevens and Traverse Counties regarding possible sharing of an Emergency Management Director. Traverse County is no longer interested, but Steven County is still committed to a sharing arrangement. A conference call will be held later in the meeting with Joe Kelly from the Department of Homeland Security to discuss the sharing possibility.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve and execute the plan documents for the County's Hybrid Healthcare Plan and the Flexible Benefits Plan as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

County Treasurer Cindy Nelson was present to request the Board set sale prices for this year's tax forfeited properties for the respective cities if they want to purchase them. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to set the price at \$100 each.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to adopt the following resolution for tax-forfeited land as requested by Treasurer Nelson:

2016-16

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners desires to offer for sale certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, said parcels of land have been viewed by the County Board of Commissioners and have been classified as non-conservation lands as provided for in Minnesota Statute 282.01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that all parcels of land on the attached list have been viewed and comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8 and 282.018 and other statutes that require the withholding of tax-forfeited lands from sale.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby requests approval from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for the sale of said lands.

Treasurer Nelson gave an Investment Committee update on their recent meeting regarding the use of the MAGIC Fund for investment of County funds.

Mrs. Perrine left the meeting.

A telephone call was held with Becky Young from Stevens County and Joe Kelly from Homeland Security to discuss the possible sharing of an Emergency Management Director. Various options on structure were discussed.

Attorney Watson left the meeting.

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

Vice Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 11:35 AM.

Jay Backer, Vice Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor