

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**August 2, 2016**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, August 2, 2016. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer, Berning, Olson and Sandberg present. Also present were Greg Basta, 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 Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the July 19<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Insurance; RDC

Sandberg – Food Shelf; MSI; ESB; Collaborative; Safety

Athey – Prairie 5; Personnel; Park

Backer – Park; BSAG; RLF

Berning – Supporting Hands

During Commissioner Sandberg's report on Main Street Industries (MSI), discussion was held on the quotes received for building a connection between the two buildings. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the quote from Nitz Construction in the amount of \$19,637. Commissioner Olson abstained.

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

Fridgen Excavating	\$ 74,990.00
Northland Business Systems	2,957.00
Ronglien & Sons Excavating	2,120.00
TrueNorth Steel	5,446.36
William Watson	4,456.16
West Con	4,248.97
49 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>12,870.17</u>
Total	\$107,088.66

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to re-appoint Alice Stielow to the Local Social Services Agency Board for a 2-year term.

Auditor Knutson reported that the County's 2016 MCIT dividend will be \$49,829 and is allocated as follows: Workers' Compensation \$24,831 and Property/Casualty \$24,998.

VSO Admin Assistant Kim Hasslen provided information on the office's recent activities for the Board's review.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the hiring of Jeremy O'Hara for a Social Worker position at Grade 11 Step 1 as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire. Jeremy will start part-time effective today and full-time effective August 8, 2016.

HR Director Gregoire reviewed the draft contract with Stevens County for sharing their Emergency Management Director. Following discussion, motion by Backer, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the contract as presented.

HR Director Gregoire provided an update on options for health coverage as a result of BCBS leaving the individual insurance market in Minnesota.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the purchase of standup workstations for employees.

HR Director Gregoire reported that Family Services Director Pam Rud met with the Personnel Committee regarding the hiring of an additional Financial Worker due to the caseloads. Following discussion, motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the additional position.

Gary Haugen and Dave Botker were present to request a letter of support from the County on the proposed reclassification of public waters inventory located in Section 13, Almond Township after the DNR had rejected the original request for reclassification. The landowners submitted to the Board information that the specific findings of the DNR were not supported by the evidence, that a remodeling was done by their engineering firm and that the landowners had acknowledged deletion from their original request a certain area located in the southeast corner of Section 13. Based on the foregoing and following discussion, motion made by Olson, seconded by Backer, and carried to send a letter of support to the DNR of the landowners request for the reclassification.

County Engineer Nick Anderson provided an update on the work that has been done on Joint Ditch 4. Anderson informed the Board that a joint meeting will need to be held this winter to discuss additional work requests that have been received. Mark Kleindl commented that the removal of the box culvert was included in the project that was approved in March. Kleindl also requested that once the water is gone from the ditch that it be looked at to smooth out the grade since it was dug when it had water in it. Anderson reported that there have been some cave-ins from the flow lines and is requesting permission to fix them. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to spend up to \$2,000 to clean 1000 feet to fix the cave-ins up.

Engineer Anderson reported on the status of various construction projects.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the completion of the County Highway 22 project as far as the cemetery at an approximate cost of \$30,000.

The Highway 5-Year Plan Meeting was set for September 6<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 PM at the Highway Department.

Discussion was held on the budget for the courthouse parking lot. Motion by Olson and seconded by Berning to budget \$60,000 for the project. This would include the required work, along with option 3 on the north retaining wall only, as presented by Engineer Anderson. Following discussion, motion carried.

Discussion was held on finishing the trail through the refuge. Consensus was for Engineer Anderson to set up a meeting with Big Stone and Lac qui Parle Counties to discuss the benefits. Commissioners Sandberg and Berning will attend for Big Stone.

Representatives from the various cities in the County were present for a discussion on dilapidated structures in their respective jurisdictions. Following the discussion it was decided that the EDA would meet and come back with a recommendation on the process to be used.

BSAG representatives Vince Robinson and Vicki Oakes were present to provide an update and submit their 2017 budget request. Robinson provided an update on

BSAG and Oakes provided an update on the MNbump website. They both feel that membership in Western MN Prairie Waters would be beneficial for regional recruitment. Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to approve BSAG's 2017 budget request with the understanding that the Prairie Waters membership will be paid out of there.

Following a short break, the remainder of the meeting was spent reviewing the County's 2017 budget.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 11:40 AM.

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Wade Athey, Chairman

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