

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
Highway Department Five-Year Plan Meeting
September 6, 2016

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the conference room at the Highway Department at 1:00 PM on Tuesday, September 6, 2016. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer, Berning, Olson and Sandberg present. Also present were Darby Karsky, Toby Reiffenberger, Derrick Loeschke, Mark Dietz, Jon Kirchberg, HR Director Dawn Gregoire, County Engineer Nick Anderson, and County Auditor Michelle Knutson.

Engineer Anderson reviewed the 5-year plan for road construction. Anderson stated that the plan includes the cost of concrete for the 2017 projects, but does not include paving shoulders on the County Road 35 project. Following discussion, motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the use of bituminous instead of concrete for 2017 projects and to include paving the shoulders on the County Highway 35 project. Following further discussion on the plan, motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the 5-year plan in its entirety as amended above.

The 5-year plan for major equipment expenditures was presented. Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the plan as presented.

Discussion was held on the trail paving project through the Refuge to the auto tour route. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to proceed with the trail project with Commissioners Berning and Athey voting Nay. Engineer Anderson will submit the grant application by the December deadline.

Discussion was held on the courthouse parking lot project. Engineer Anderson was directed to move forward with the project.

Engineer Anderson distributed a draft copy of the Big Stone County ADA Transition Plan for the Board's review and asked for the appointment of a Title II Coordinator as required by the Plan. Following discussion, motion by Backer, seconded by Berning and carried to appoint Commissioner Olson as the County's Title II Coordinator. The final version of the Plan will be brought for approval at the next meeting.

Engineer Anderson reported that Lac qui Parle County has not been able to hire a technician and has asked if they can contract hours for Highway Technician Jon Kirchberg to assist them through construction season. Consensus was to allow the hours at the County's cost for salaries and benefits.

Engineer Anderson reported that the Highway Department is planning to get estimates to spray weeds along County Ditches 2 and 13 and Joint Ditches 4 and 7.

County Ditches 4, 20, 20A and 28 will need to be re-determined in 2017 to meet the requirements of the buffer law. Landowners will be invited to a County Board meeting this fall to discuss this.

A Joint Ditch 4 meeting will need to be held after the first of the year to discuss and get approval for additional expenses.

Engineer Anderson reviewed the financial condition of the Highway Department to date.

Discussion was held on issues with missing right-of-way signs and cropping inside the right-of-way. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to bill landowners for all costs associated with sign replacements, including installation.

Discussion was held on needed updates to the Ortonville Shop.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on State highway projects scheduled for 2017. Mill and overlay will be done on State Highway 28 in 2017 from Beardsley to Graceville. This will be followed by Graceville to Chokio section in 2019. Also, a mill and overlay project on US Highway 12 from Ortonville to Highway 59 is scheduled for 2020. This will include paved shoulders.

Chairman Athey declared the meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor