

RE-ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
January 3, 2017

Commissioners Wade Athey, Brent Olson and Joe Berning were sworn in by County Attorney Bill Watson prior to the meeting.

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, January 3, 2017. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer, Berning, Olson and Sandberg present. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Upon call for nominations for Board Chairman, Commissioner Olson nominated Commissioner Backer. Following 3 calls for further nominations, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Backer for Chairman. Outgoing Chairman Athey turned the meeting over to newly-elected Chairman Backer.

Chairman Backer called for nominations for Vice Chairman. Commissioner Athey nominated Commissioner Berning. Following 3 calls for further nominations, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to cast a unanimous ballot for Commissioner Berning for Vice Chairman.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the December 20th regular meeting.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the agenda.

The bids received from the Ortonville Independent and the Northern Star for publishing those notices as legally required were reviewed. Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to accept the bid and surety bond of the Ortonville Independent as the official newspaper of the County for 2017. Included in the motion was to also designate the County's website for the publication of transportation projects as allowed by MS §331A.12. The Northern Star will publish second notices as required by law.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to establish the following committee appointments:

Commissioner List

AMC Voting Delegates	All Commissioners
AMC Environment & Natural Resources Policy Committee	Commissioner Athey
AMC General Government Policy Committee	Commissioner Olson
AMC Health & Human Services Policy Committee	Commissioner Backer
AMC Public Safety Policy Committee	Commissioner Berning
AMC Transportation & Infrastructure Policy Committee	Commissioner Sandberg
Appeals Committee (relating to the Ag Inspector)	Commissioners Athey & Olson Backer the alternate
Audit Committee	Commissioner Sandberg
Big Stone Area Growth	Commissioners Olson & Backer
Bois de Sioux Watershed District	Commissioner Backer
Central MN Emergency Services Board	Commissioner Sandberg Berning the alternate
Citizens for Big Stone Lake	Commissioner Sandberg
Communications	Commissioner Olson Sandberg the alternate

Countryside Public Health	Commissioner Berning
Ditches & Roads	All Commissioners
Joint Ditch 7/24 Authority	Commissioners Olson, Sandberg & Berning
Joint Ditch 4 Authority	Commissioners Backer, Athey & Olson
Joint Ditch 10/11 Authority	Commissioners Sandberg, Athey & Olson
Environmental Committee	Commissioners Sandberg & Olson
Extension Committee	Commissioners Backer & Athey
Fair Board	Commissioner Athey
Food Shelf	Commissioner Sandberg
Historical Society	Commissioner Sandberg
HRA	Commissioner Athey
Insurance Committee	Commissioners Olson
Investment Committee	Commissioner Sandberg
Law Library Committee	Commissioner Athey
Land Records Committee	Commissioner Sandberg
Legislative Committee	All Commissioners
Local Collaborative	Commissioner Sandberg
Main Street Industries Board	Commissioner Sandberg
MCIT	Chair
	Vice Chair the alternate
MRCC	Commissioner Athey
	Other Commissioners the alternates
Personnel & Labor Relations Committee	Chair & Vice Chair
	Olson the alternate
Pioneerland Library Board	Commissioner Olson
Planning & Zoning	Commissioners Athey & Olson
Pomme de Terre River Association	Commissioner Berning
Prairie Country RC&D Council	Commissioner Backer
	Sandberg the alternate
Prairie Five Community Action Council	Commissioner Athey
Prime West Health Systems	Commissioner Olson
	Sandberg the alternate
Private Industry Council Chief Elected Officials Board	Commissioner Backer
	Olson the alternate
Public Safety Committee	Commissioners Berning & Sandberg
Purchasing & Property Management	Commissioner Berning
	Sandberg the alternate
Red River Basin Commission	Commissioner Backer
Regional Development Commission (RDC)	Commissioner Olson
	Sandberg the alternate
Safety Committee	Commissioner Sandberg & Berning
Soil & Water Conservation District	Commissioner Athey
	Olson the alternate
Southwest MN EMS	Commissioner Backer
	Berning the alternate
Supporting Hands Nurse Family Partnership	Commissioner Berning
	Olson the alternate
Toqua Park Committee	Commissioners Athey & Backer
WACCO	Commissioner Athey
	Sandberg the alternate
WesMN Revolving Loan Fund	Commissioner Backer

Woodland Centers Commissioner Backer
911 Advisory Board Commissioner Berning

Other Committee Members

AMC Voting Delegates Auditor, Engineer & HR Director
Appeals Committee (relating to the Ag Inspector) John Cunningham
Audit Committee State Auditor Rep, County Auditor, HR Director,
 Sharron Bystol, Verden Gerber & Sandy Helgeson
Bois de Sioux Watershed District Engineer
Central MN Emergency Services Board – RAC Sheriff
Central MN Emergency Services Board – EMAC Emergency Management Director (EMD)
 Deputy EMD the alternate
Environmental Committee Environmental Officer
Extension Committee Lay members as appointed
Insurance Committee Representatives from
 General, Family Services & Highway
Investment Committee Treasurer, Family Services Director & Engineer
Law Library Committee County Attorney
Land Records Committee Terry Ocaña, Cindy Nelson, Darren Wilke, Elaine Martig,
 Sandy Vold, Nick Anderson & John Haukos
Personnel & Labor Relations Committee HR Director
Planning & Zoning Lay members as appointed
Prairie Waters Regional Tourism Vicki Oakes
Private Industry Council Workforce Council Hillary Henrich
Safety Committee Safety Director, Engineer, Sheriff
Woodland Centers Family Services Director Pam Rud
911 Advisory Board Sheriff, Chief Deputy Sheriff, EMD & Auditor

Consensus was to have Commissioner Athey fill in for Commissioner Berning on the Personnel Committee through March 1st.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to re-appoint the following for 3-year terms: Planning Commission – Pat Dwyer, Don Lundell and Lori Riley; Board of Adjustment – Marlton DeNeui and Charles Lindquist.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to appoint Leo Zepeda as the 4-H youth representative on the Extension Committee for a 2-year term.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

- Sandberg – ESB
- Athey – Personnel
- Backer – Personnel

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the county attorney service agreements with the Cities of Beardsley, Clinton and Graceville as presented by Attorney Watson contingent upon approval by the respective cities.

Attorney Watson announced that his last day as County Attorney will be March 31st.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the list of depositories for the County as presented by County Treasurer Cindy Nelson.

Treasurer Nelson presented investment information and fund balances for 2015 and 2016 for the Board’s review.

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

Association of MN Counties	\$ 5,173.00
Big Stone Area Growth	18,562.50
Big Stone Co Ag Society	24,000.00
Big Stone Co Historical Society	25,000.00
Big Stone SWCD	17,500.00
Bonanza Education Center	5,000.00
City of Graceville	10,000.00
City of Ortonville	10,000.00
MCCC	8,751.22
MN Sheriff's Assn	3,337.00
Pioneerland Library System	17,743.50
William Watson	2,922.16
17 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>7,892.28</u>
Total	\$155,881.66

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to authorize the following internal transactions effective 12/31/16:

Family Services to Highway	\$ 85.97
General to Highway	\$ 1,237.51
Ditch to Highway – JD 4	\$ 107.22

Auditor Knutson reviewed the 2016 ditch loan activity with the Board. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the following internal transactions effective 12/31/16:

General to Ditch		\$ 70,000.00
CD 30	\$ 3,500.00	
JD 4	\$65,000.00	
JD 7	\$ 1,500.00	
Ditch to General		\$ 80,700.50
CD 10/11	\$15,485.00	
CD 13	\$44,935.00	
CD 30	\$ 2,515.50	
JD 4	\$ 1,305.00	
JD 24	\$16,460.00	

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the 2017 aggregate gravel tax budget with revenues estimated to be \$120,000.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Berning and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2017-01

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2017 County Ditch Assessments be established as follows:

<u>Ditch</u>	<u>Assessment</u>
<u>Number</u>	
2	\$ 5,000
12	\$ 7,500
13	\$ 10,000
14	\$ 500
16	\$ 6,000
17	\$ 500

18	\$ 500
19	\$ 1,000
30	\$ 10,000

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to update the Accounting Policies and Procedures Manual as presented by Auditor Knutson.

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

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolutions:

2017-02

BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners that the County Highway Engineer is hereby instructed to hire such miscellaneous and semi-skilled labor and such machinery and equipment as may from time to time be required at the prevailing rates in the community.

2017-03

BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners that the County Highway Engineer is hereby authorized to purchase gravel material from various pits at the prevailing rates for graveling and re-graveling the Big Stone County roads.

2017-04

WHEREAS the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need to be helpful to cities and townships during an emergency situation or natural disaster. THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners that the County Highway Engineer is hereby authorized and instructed to pay by regular payroll and equipment rental rates up to the amount of \$10,000 for approved labor and equipment assisting cities and townships off of the regular County Road System.

2017-05

BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners that the County Highway Engineer is hereby authorized and instructed to impose weight and load restrictions as he deems necessary on any or all County Roads and County State Aid Highways pursuant to Chapter 500, Article 4, Section 1, Subdivision 3 of Laws of 1959.

2017-06

BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners that the County Highway Engineer is hereby authorized to spray weeds and objectionable vegetation in all of the County Ditch Systems without further approval of the County Board of Commissioners so long as expenditures do not exceed \$2,500 for any single County Ditch. This resolution excludes Joint Ditches.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to adopt the following resolution supporting the Department of Corrections lease and operation of the Prairie Correctional Facility in Appleton:

2017-07

WHEREAS, according to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the State of Minnesota's prison population exceeds capacity; and
 WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is housing over 500 inmates in county jails where they cannot receive critical rehabilitation services available in State correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Corrections projects the State of Minnesota's prison population will grow by at least an additional 500 inmates by the year 2020; and WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota will continue to face financial challenges such as interest, debt service, maintenance, and annual operating costs associated with any new facility construction and/or maintenance of existing, aging facilities; and WHEREAS, the City of Appleton is home to a vacant and well-maintained prison facility with adequate space to meet the Department of Corrections' current and future needs; and

WHEREAS, up to 350 people from 24 surrounding counties worked at the Appleton prison when it was in use, generating an estimated \$15.2 million for the regional economy; and

WHEREAS, many ancillary businesses in the region and their workers benefitted when the Appleton prison was in use; and

WHEREAS, the region offers robust infrastructure to provide rehabilitation services for State of Minnesota inmates and a great quality of life for working families; and

WHEREAS, the cost to the State of Minnesota to lease the Appleton prison is estimated to be \$6-8 million per year, plus annual operating costs – substantially lower than constructing and maintaining new, permanent correctional facilities; and

WHEREAS, it is practical that the State of Minnesota do its due diligence to fairly consider the costs associated with leasing and operating the Appleton prison before constructing new, permanent correctional facilities.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners declares its support for a proposal for the State of Minnesota to lease and operate the Appleton prison with State of Minnesota public employees to provide much-needed jobs and economic development for the people of West Central Minnesota and to provide effective rehabilitation services for inmates needed to reduce recidivism.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the hiring of John Maatz and Rick Halvorson for the part-time intermittent Deputy Sheriff positions at Grade 11 Step 3 effective January 9, 2017.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the hiring of Amber Haugen for the Legal Assistant position at Grade 9 Step 1 effective January 11, 2017.

Due to the 4th of July holiday, the first board meeting in July will be rescheduled to Wednesday, July 5th.

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

Discussion was held during Commissioner Sandberg's ESB committee report on their proposed policy to limit access to grant funding based on attendance at the committee meetings. Sheriff Haukos and Commissioner Sandberg are requesting the Board send a resolution in support of the County being served by the Kandiyohi County representative for several of the committees. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2017-08

WHEREAS, Big Stone County and Kandiyohi County have entered into an agreement where Kandiyohi County provides emergency communications and 911 services to Big Stone County; and

WHEREAS, Kandiyohi County is intimately familiar with the communications needs for Big Stone County as it relates to the ARMER System; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County and Kandiyohi County are members of the Central Minnesota Emergency Services Board; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County has delegated individuals to the Regional Advisory Committee, the Owners and Operators Committee, and the Users Committee.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that in the absence of the Big Stone County Delegate to the Regional Advisory Committee, the Owners and Operators Committee, and the Users Committee, the Kandiyohi County Delegate or Alternate can serve in the capacity of Alternate for Big Stone County for purposes of attendance and voting at these three sub-committees under the Central Minnesota Emergency Services Board.

The remainder of the meeting was spent on strategic planning discussions for the County.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 9:54 AM.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor