

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
February 21, 2017

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 21, 2017. Chairman Backer called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Olson and Sandberg present. Commissioner Berning was absent. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, HR Director Dawn Gregoire, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the minutes of the February 7th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – Audit; Public Safety

Athey – HRA; SWCD

Backer – Woodland; Dept Head; Bois de Sioux

Olson – Pioneerland

Attorney Watson discussed the letter that was received from Stevens County Attorney Aaron Jordan confirming that his office will provide county attorney services for Big Stone County upon the retirement of Attorney Watson. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the agreement. Attorney Watson also reported that he has appointed Mr. Jordan, Attorneys Elisabeth Kirchner and Matt Franzese as Special Assistants through March 31st. The County will need to officially appoint Mr. Jordan as the interim County Attorney at their March 21st board meeting.

Attorney Watson submitted a bill from Midco for phone/fax lines. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the bill be paid as an auditor warrant due to the upcoming due date.

Attorney Watson distributed copies of the two proposals he received for online legal research subscriptions. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize Attorney Watson to negotiate with WestLaw and sign the agreement.

Sheriff John Haukos arrived at the meeting.

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

Computer Professionals	\$ 5,301.00
GovConnection	24,037.98
Progressive Collision & Glass	4,883.92
Team Laboratory Chemical Corp	16,652.00
62 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>14,828.24</u>
Total	\$65,703.14

The Board heard presentations made in support of the Veterans Service Officer (VSO), Dan Meyer. Mary Meyer presented information supporting the efforts made by VSO Meyer, while he has served for Big Stone County. She stated her appreciation for support of the office, but also expressed concerns with members present.

Janet Spalinger also appeared before the Board and presented information that one of the commissioners had misrepresented to her information about the VSO, which

was not accurate and she demanded an apology. She praised the efforts of Mr. Meyer in providing services to the County's veterans.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution and execute the Annual County Boat and Water Safety Grant Agreement as presented by Sheriff Haukos:

2017-11

WHEREAS under the provisions of M.S. § 86B.105, the Sheriff of each county is required to carry out the provision of Chapter 86B and the Boat and Water Safety Rules, hereinafter referred to as the "Minn. Rules", including patrol, enforcement search and rescue, watercraft inspection, waterway marking and accident investigation, all hereinafter referred to as the "Sheriff's Duties"; and

WHEREAS in connection with the Sheriff's Duties, M.S. § 86B.701 provides that the County submit to the Commissioner of Natural Resources a budget to carry out the Sheriff's Duties; and

WHEREAS M.S. § 86B.701 and the Minn. Rules provide for the allocation of funds by the Commissioner to the County based on certain criteria and conclusions to assist the funding of the Sheriff's Duties; and

WHEREAS the County has submitted a proposed budget to the State.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the State shall reimburse the County up to \$1,762.00 for the activities stated in Chapter 86B.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to appoint Deputy Mark Brown as the County's delegate and Deputy John Maatz as the alternate to the Owners & Operators Committee and the Users Committee under the Regional Advisory Committee of the Central MN Emergency Services Board as recommended by Sheriff Haukos.

Sheriff Haukos stated that his office plans to dispose of the Dodge Charger. Following discussion, board consensus was to transfer the vehicle for courthouse use.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to adopt the Flexible Benefits Plan document as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

Discussion was held on the proposals received for the comp study. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to award the proposal to David Drown & Associates and authorize HR Director Gregoire to proceed with coordination of the study.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 9:22 AM.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor