

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
February 7, 2017

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 7, 2017. Chairman Backer called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Olson and Sandberg present. Commissioner Berning was absent. Also present were Elsie Perrine, Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Bill Watson and Deputy Auditor Sharon Finke. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the January 17th regular meeting.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the agenda. Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – MSI; Safety; Food Shelf; Public Safety; ESB; Property
Athey – TAC; Prairie 5; Fair Board; Extension; Planning Commission
Backer – SW EMS; Bois de Sioux; Extension; Public Safety
Olson – Pioneerland; RDC; DREAM for Kids; PrimeWest

Attorney Watson presented an agreement for attorney services which the County will be providing to the City of Ortonville. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the Purchase of Services Agreement as presented by Attorney Watson.

Attorney Watson reviewed the information he had gathered regarding the cost of various legal research subscriptions. He will provide more information at the next meeting.

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

4-H Program Coordinator Suzanne Souza and 4-H members Mary Larson and Zak Angelo were present to provide information on their recent trip to Washington DC to attend the Presidential Inauguration.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire was present and placed a phone call to David Drown Associates to allow the Board to interview them regarding their submitted proposal for a compensation study.

County Engineer Nick Anderson presented information regarding the paving of the upper parking lot at the Courthouse. Upon recommendation of Engineer Anderson, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to hire Bituminous Paving at a cost of \$18,600 for this part of the project.

Facilities Technician Jared Heck was also present to discuss the need to pave the parking area behind the Government Building. Engineer Anderson stated that the cost to complete that project, using concrete, at the same time as the Courthouse parking lot would be about \$20,500. Heck stated that \$17,500 had been budgeted. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson to proceed with the project. Commissioner Athey asked Engineer Anderson if that parking area could be bituminous rather than concrete. Engineer Anderson stated that he would verify the cost of using bituminous and report back to the Board before the end of the meeting. Commissioners Sandberg and Olson agreed to suspend their motion.

Engineer Anderson reported that County Ditches 4, 20 and 28 should be redetermined in order to establish the required buffer zones. The Board instructed Anderson to send notice to the current landowners who benefit from the ditches inviting them to a public meeting in March.

Engineer Anderson presented a list of items that the Highway Department no longer needs. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the Engineer to offer the surplus items for bid on the County's website.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize payment of the following claims as presented by Deputy Auditor Finke:

Bauer Countryside Ag Service	\$ 4,873.50
Big Stone SWCD	4,388.50
GovConnection	15,062.46
KDIO Radio	2,500.00
Midstate Supplies	12,168.22
Office Peeps	2,412.09
Stattelman Lumber	3,666.44
Stattelman, Charles	4,443.25
Stevens Community Medical Center	2,577.95
Stevens County	2,205.61
West Con	11,904.10
54 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>15,007.13</u>
Total	\$81,209.25

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the following internal transactions:

General to Highway	\$ 1,477.44
Family Services to Highway	\$ 84.15

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to ratify the following additional ditch loan payments for 2016:

Joint Ditch 4	\$8,200.00
Joint Ditch 24	\$2,200.00
County Ditch 30	\$ 400.00

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to re-appoint Commissioner Olson to a six-year term on the EDA Board.

Per notice having been received from Federated Telephone, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to terminate the lease with Federated Telephone Cooperative for use of the power shed and power source at the State of Minnesota's tower effective March 31, 2017.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire returned to the meeting and a call was placed to Fox Lawson & Associates to allow the Board to interview them regarding their submitted proposal for a compensation study. Following this call, the Board discussed the various highlights of each of the interviews and gave Gregoire questions to ask each of the firms. A decision will be made at the next board meeting.

HR Director Gregoire reported that she has not received a response back from Employment Attorney Darcy Hitesman regarding an issue with the flex plan document and so she will bring it to the next board meeting for adoption.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the ad for the County Attorney position.

Commissioner Olson reported that he had received an email from Engineer Anderson stating that the total cost for completing the parking area behind the Sheriff's Office will be under \$9,000 if bituminous is used. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve completing the Government Building's parking area at the time that the Courthouse parking lot is replaced.

Family Services Director Pam Rud provided an update on Woodland Centers. She stated that the Director from Woodland Centers had visited Ortonville and explored possible locations. The Board will wait until after the Woodland Centers board meeting later this week before taking any action regarding a building.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 10:57 AM.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Sharon Finke, Deputy Auditor