

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**March 7, 2017**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 7, 2017. Chairman Backer called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey and Sandberg present. Commissioner Olson arrived during committee reports and Commissioner Berning was absent. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, 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 21<sup>st</sup> regular meeting with a revision.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

- Sandberg – MSI; Collaborative
- Athey – Fair Board; Prairie 5; SWCD; Personnel
- Backer – Personnel
- Olson – RDC; PrimeWest; DREAM for Kids

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

State Auditor	\$ 6,558.73
42 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>13,688.40</u>
Total	\$20,247.13

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

General to Highway	\$ 1,259.48
Family Services to Highway	\$ 105.53

Commissioner Olson reported that he would like to submit an application for Big Stone County for an Innovative Communities Grant through the Bush Foundation. The Board gave their blessing for Commissioner Olson to proceed with the application.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to hire Gary Dinnel for the intermittent Bailiff position at Grade 1 Step 12 as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept the resignation of County Engineer Nick Anderson effective April 30<sup>th</sup>. With his resignation, the County will not be renewing his appointment in May as required by statute. The Board expressed their appreciation for Engineer Anderson's 17 years of service to the County.

HR Director Gregoire provided an update on the County Attorney position. Interviews will begin next week. A tour of the area will be available for any candidates who are interested.

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

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the following high bids for the surplus equipment as presented by Engineer Anderson:

1997 J-Craft Pup Trailer	\$2,250	Mark Mueller
1997 5'x8' Trailer w/Loading Ramp	\$1,000	Brandon Swigerd
Modine 145,000 BTU Furnace	\$ 207	Mark Mueller

2005 Bobtach Grapple Fork	\$1,007	Mark Mueller
Sebring Pressure Washer	\$ 351	Jim Schmeichel
1996 Honda 8 HP 3" Water Pump	\$ 382	Ron Schumacher
1997 Polaris Xplorer 500 4-Wheeler	\$1,500	Craig Danielson

Engineer Anderson reported that State Aid has offered to fill in until a county engineer is hired.

Verden Gerber, Erick Klepel, Terry Nemitz, Scott Maas, Marlowe Klepel, Rich Huebner, John Boots and Maintenance Supervisor Darby Karsky were present for the discussion of the redetermination of County Ditch 4 (CD 4). Engineer Anderson reported that buffers need to be established for the ditch. CD 4 doesn't need seeding or planting to establish the buffers as the area is already grassland. Discussion was held regarding concerns with water leaving the City of Odessa through the culvert under the railroad tracks by County Highway 21. Discussion was also held on the need to fence off the ditch in the pasture area north of town and on what funds the County receives for PILT from the federal and state government owned land. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the redetermination of CD 4 and begin the process. Viewers will be appointed at the next meeting.

Chairman Backer called the public hearing to order at 10:00 AM to take comment on the proposed amendment to the County's Shoreland Management Ordinance 2004. Environmental Officer Darren Wilke reviewed the amendment with those present. There being no comments from the public, the hearing was closed at 10:05 AM.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to adopt the Amendment to the Big Stone County Shoreland Management Ordinance 2004 and to publish a summary of the amendments in the official minutes:

**SUMMARY OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE BIG STONE COUNTY  
SHORELAND MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE 2004**

The amendment to the Ordinance is intended to decrease sidelot setbacks for small storage structures to 10 feet or 10% of lot width, whichever is least (addition of Section 5.2.1.2.6.) and to clarify language dealing with agricultural use standards (change Soil Conservation Service to Soil and Water Conservation District in Section 5.6.2.1.).

A summary is being published in compliance with Minnesota law. A copy of the full text of the Amendment and Ordinance is available to view or to purchase at the Environmental Office, located at 20 2<sup>nd</sup> St SE, Ortonville, MN. A copy of the ordinance is also available at [www.bigstonecounty.org](http://www.bigstonecounty.org)

Chairman Backer called the public hearing to order to take comment on the proposed amendment to the County's Land and Related Resource Management Ordinance 2011. Environmental Officer Darren Wilke reviewed the amendment with those present. There being no comments from the public, the hearing was closed at 10:10 AM.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to adopt the Amendment to the Big Stone County Land and Related Resource Management Ordinance 2011 and to publish a summary of the amendment in the official minutes:

**SUMMARY OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE BIG STONE COUNTY  
LAND AND RELATED RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE 2011**

The amendment to the Ordinance addresses minimum lot size requirements in the Agricultural Preservation, Residential, and Open Space Districts in Section 8 of the Ordinance. The following is a summary of the amendment:

- 8.1.4. Reduces minimum lot size to 2 ½ acres in A-1 Districts
- 8.2.4. Reduces minimum lot size to 2 ½ acres in A-2 Districts
- 8.3.2.4. Reduces minimum lot size to 1 acre in Residential Districts
- 8.4.4. Reduces minimum lot size to 2 ½ acres in Open Space Districts

A summary is being published in compliance with Minnesota law. A copy of the full text of the Amendment and Ordinance is available to view or to purchase at the Environmental Office, located at 20 2<sup>nd</sup> St SE, Ortonville, MN. A copy of the ordinance is also available at [www.bigstonecounty.org](http://www.bigstonecounty.org)

Chairman Backer called the public hearing to order to take comment on the proposed amendment to the County's Subdivision Controls Ordinance 2002. Environmental Officer Darren Wilke reviewed the amendment with those present. There being no comments from the public, the hearing was closed at 10:12 AM.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the Amendment to the Big Stone County Subdivisions Control Ordinance 2002 and to publish a summary of the amendment in the official minutes:

**SUMMARY OF THE AMENDMENT TO THE  
BIG STONE COUNTY SUBDIVISIONS CONTROL ORDINANCE 2002**

The amendment to the Ordinance is intended to clarify when Preliminary Plats are not required and to follow MN statutes, rules, policies and local regulations. The following is a summary of the amendments to Section VI of the Ordinance:

- Added "obtaining loans" as a purpose
- A plan is not required to separate an agricultural or rural residential homestead from the attached tillable land
- Added new conditions to the division of agricultural land including:
  - VI.2. Consult the County Recorder on the need to have a plat prepared and the procedures to follow if the plat is necessary
  - VI.3. Parties who shall approve the plat in writing and the filing thereof

A summary is being published in compliance with Minnesota law. A copy of the full text of the Amendment and Ordinance is available to view or to purchase at the Environmental Office, located at 20 2<sup>nd</sup> St SE, Ortonville, MN. A copy of the ordinance is also available at [www.bigstonecounty.org](http://www.bigstonecounty.org)

Following a break, Dennis Larson, Greg Kellen, Maintenance Supervisor Karsky and Engineer Anderson were present for the discussion on the redetermination of County Ditch 20 (CD 20). Engineer Anderson presented an overview of the redetermination of benefits process and the need to establish buffers. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the redetermination of CD 20 and begin the process. Viewers will be appointed at the next meeting.

Trevor Cronen, Greg Kellen, Maintenance Supervisor Karsky and Engineer Anderson were present for the discussion on County Ditch 28. Engineer Anderson reported that the map that was sent out with the meeting notice was incorrect. After researching the files, it was discovered that the route of the ditch is actually further east and runs through US Fish & Wildlife land and is basically nonexistent. The County has been the only listed benefited landowner on this ditch. Consensus was to ask James Reynolds and a representative from US Fish to attend the next meeting to discuss the possible abandonment of this ditch.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 11:25 AM.

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Jay Backer, Chairman

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