

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
April 4, 2017

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, April 4, 2017. Chairman Backer called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Berning, Olson and Sandberg present. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent and County Auditor Michelle Knutson.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the March 21st regular meeting and the March 28th special meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – ESB; Property

Athey – Law Library; Prairie 5; Annual Township Meeting

Backer – Personnel; Annual Township Meeting

Berning – Property; Personnel

Olson – RDC

Discussion was held on re-establishing the IT Committee. Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to appoint Commissioner Olson as the Board representative with Commissioners Sandberg and Backer as alternates. There will also be one representative from IT, the Courthouse, Sheriff, Family Services and Highway.

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

Big Stone Area Growth	\$ 11,062.50
Big Stone SWCD	21,500.00
GovConnection	3,849.21
LG Everist	9,081.98
Nuss Truck & Equipment	126,680.97
Pioneerland Public Library	17,743.50
State Auditor	6,621.00
Stevens County	2,111.20
TrueNorth Steel	8,194.12
Twin Valley Tire	5,127.76
Wildlife Forever	3,500.00
36 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>10,930.78</u>
Total	\$226,403.02

Auditor Knutson updated the Board on recent discussions with State Auditor Otto regarding her office's report on county audits by private CPA firms.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire reported that there was a counter offer from Mr. Glasrud. Following discussion of the counter offer, motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to respond with a final offer of an annual salary of \$80,000. If not accepted, the position will be readvertised.

HR Director Gregoire reported that a draft agreement has been received regarding the sharing of a County Engineer with Stevens County. The Personnel Committee will review the agreement and report back to the Board.

County Recorder Elaine Martig provided an update regarding her office staff. Deputy Recorder Karol Scherer will work until the end of April.

Recorder Martig requested the Board's permission for out of state travel to Iowa for the Fidler Educational Symposium May 21-23, 2017. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the travel and any related expenditures.

EMD Dona Greiner and Deputy EMD Krista Hartman were present to provide an update on the office's activities for first quarter. GETS (Government Emergency Telecommunications Service) cards were distributed to the Commissioners. EMD Greiner also provided the top goals for second quarter.

Tessia Melvin from David Drown Associates reviewed the classification and compensation study project plan and provided an overview of the process they will be following.

Blair Mace from US Fish & Wildlife was present to request certification of acquisition of land for habitat easements in Ortonville Township. Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to certify for acquisition the following described properties:

1. T121N, R46W, 5th P.M., Section 12, Lot B of the SE1/4, Lot 1, Lot 2 and Lot 3 of Lot C of the S1/2SE1/4, to be determined by a survey.
2. T121N, R46W, 5th P.M., Section 1, that part of GL 8 and Section 12, that part of NE1/4NE1/4NE1/4NW1/4, to be determined by a survey.
3. T121N, R46W, 5th P.M., Section 1, that part of GL 9 and Section 12, that part of W1/2W1/2W1/2NW1/4, to be determined by a survey.

County Engineer Nick Anderson presented contracts for the Board's approval. Maintenance Supervisor Darby Karsky was also present.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to execute the gravel crushing contract with Scepaniak for CP 1701-SP contingent upon county attorney approval.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to execute the contract with Bituminous Paving for CP 006-003-017, CP 006-004-017, CP 006-005-017 and CP 006-006-017.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to execute the contract with Bituminous Paving for SAP 006-634-006, SAP 006-635-007, Ridge View Road and Willers Drive.

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

2017-18

IT IS RESOLVED that Big Stone County enter into MnDOT Agreement No. 1027576 with the State of Minnesota, Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for payment by the State to the County of the State's share of the costs of the intersection safety lighting construction and other associated construction to be performed in Big Stone County and in the counties of Douglas, Grant, Pope, Stevens, Swift, and Traverse under State Project Nos. 006-072-002, 021-072-002, 026-072-002, 061-072-002, 075-072-002, 076-072-002, 078-072-002 and 8824-145.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board Chair and the County Auditor are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

Discussion was held on CSAH 15. Motion by Olson to authorize \$40,000 to be spent for a 1½" lift of bituminous pavement on a 0.65 mile area of deteriorating pavement. Motion died for the lack of a second.

Following a break, motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the spraying of weed on the following ditches:

County Ditch 2	\$4,500
County Ditch 13	\$3,000
County Ditch 30	\$4,500

Landowners Gloria Danielson, Glen Danielson, Ryan Danielson, Russ Swenson and Bruce Wellendorf were present for a discussion on County Ditch 12. Engineer Anderson discussed redetermination and reviewed the options available for repair project and an improvement project of the ditch. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to proceed with a redetermination of County Ditch 12. A decision on whether to do a repair or improvement project will be discussed after the redetermination process is complete.

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

2017-19

WHEREAS, it appears that the original benefits or damages determined in Big Stone County Ditch 12 do not reflect reasonable present day land values; and

WHEREAS, it appears that the present day lands benefitted or damaged have changed. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the drainage authority hereby ordains that a Redetermination of Benefits and Damages pursuant to M.S. §103E.351 is appropriate and that the same shall be carried out.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that John Cunningham, Eldon Knutson and Mark Dietz are appointed as viewers to redetermine and report the benefits and damages and the benefitted and damaged areas to the drainage authority as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the redetermined benefits and damages and benefitted and damaged areas shall hereafter be used in place of the original benefits and damages and benefitted and damaged areas in all subsequent proceedings relating to the aforementioned drainage system.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 11:05 AM.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor