

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
May 16, 2017

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 16, 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, Michelle Swenson, Attorney Matt Franzese and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the May 2nd regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – Audit; Museum; MSI
Backer – BSAG; RLF; Dept Head
Berning – Pomme de Terre
Olson – BASG; PrimeWest

Motion by Olson, seconded by Berning and carried to re-appoint Becky Parker (District 4) and Mark Kleindl (At Large) to the BSAG Board for additional 3-year terms.

Discussion was held on the Dilapidated Structure Program Policy. Environmental Officer Darren Wilke was also present for the discussion. Attorney Franzese will draft the discussed changes to the policy for adoption at the next meeting. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize Auditor Knutson to pay the City of Barry their allocation as approved at the last meeting.

County Engineer Todd Larson and Upper MN River Watershed District Administrator Dianne Radermacher arrived at the meeting.

Bois de Sioux Watershed District Administrator Michelle Swenson provided background information on the District as well as an update on current projects. District Chair Linda Vavra was also present and thanked the Board and the County's representative, Scott Gillespie, for his work on the Watershed Board.

SWCD Manager Beau Peterson presented a draft resolution and maps of "other waters" for inclusion in the local water management plan that the SWCD Board will be considering for adoption. They are seeking input from the County Board prior to adoption. The inclusion of "other waters" allows access to additional funding for programs.

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

Bituminous Paving	\$ 30,887.10
Brian's Glass & Door	13,300.00
Computer Professionals	4,626.00
Fridgen Excavating	16,830.00
Jerome Jennen	4,020.00
Nelson Electric	3,831.32
Ortonville Independent	8,218.50
TowMaster	34,733.00
57 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>20,593.70</u>
Total	\$137,039.62

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

General to Highway	\$1,362.24
Family Services to Highway	\$ 88.83
Ditch to Highway – Joint Ditch 4	\$3,085.39

Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize payment to the Ortonville Independent in the amount of \$250 as an auditor warrant.

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

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to amend the 2017 budget to account for all county attorney expenses in the general fund. This will include a reclassification of \$104,700 in levy dollars from the Family Services Fund to the General Fund and the corresponding expense accounts.

Discussion was held on updating the hourly rates paid to ditch viewers. The current rate is \$25/hour with the lead viewer receiving \$32.50/hour. Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to raise the rate to \$30/hour with the lead viewer rate increased to \$40/hour. These rates will be effective for all hours worked on the three approved redeterminations in progress. Auditor Knutson was authorized to pay John Cunningham's submitted claim at the new rate as an auditor warrant.

Sheriff Haukos provided an update on the status of the current software used for civil process reporting and the decision made to convert to an M-Files application. However, the quote for the one-time cost and the first year of licensing is \$19,306.25, which is \$3,306.25 over the amount budgeted for the project. IT Director Terry Ocaña was also present for the discussion and provided input regarding the technical side. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the expenditure.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the temporary partial closure of CSAH 30 in the City of Ortonville on June 17, 2017, from 4:00 PM to 2:00 AM for Lake Days as requested by the Big Stone Lake Area Chamber and presented by Engineer Larson.

Engineer Larson provided an update on various highway projects.

Engineer Larson requested that the stop sign in the right-of-way on County Road 68 by the Ben Hein Landing be removed as it causes a problem during snow plowing. Sheriff Haukos commented that he agreed that it could be removed. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to remove the sign.

Engineer Larson reviewed his planned in-county schedule with the Board.

Discussion was held on the planned lighting project with Sheriff Haukos expressing his concerns with the project.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire reported that Safe Assure has reviewed the County's Safety Manual with only minor updates being made. Motion by Berning, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the updated manual.

HR Director Gregoire reported that the strategic planning work session with Heather Bandeen from AMC will be held on August 1st following the board meeting. Department Heads will be included in the work session.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 10:00 AM.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor