

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
July 5, 2017

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Wednesday, July 5, 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, County Attorney Joe Glasrud and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the minutes of the June 20th regular meeting and board of appeal and equalization meeting.

Traverse County Attorney Matt Franzese arrived at the meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – MSI; Safety; Property

Athey – Prairie 5

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the County Attorney to purchase a stand-up desk for his office as recommended by the Purchasing Committee.

Attorney Franzese asked if there were any comments or questions on the revised dilapidated structure policy. Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the revised policy as presented.

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

Big Stone Area Growth	\$ 8,562.50
Big Stone SWCD	17,500.00
Bond Trust Services	82,213.75
City of Graceville	10,000.00
City of Ortonville	10,000.00
John Cunningham	2,372.86
General Corrosion Corp	3,875.50
GovConnection	2,978.61
Pioneerland Library System	17,743.50
Regents of U of MN	17,704.75
Ridgeview Excavating	2,600.00
West Con	6,491.34
41 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>13,840.80</u>
Total	\$195,883.61

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

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to reappoint Terry Gillespie to the Upper Minnesota River Watershed Board of Managers for a 3-year term effective August 8, 2017 to August 11, 2020.

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

2017-25

WHEREAS John Cunningham, Eldon Knutson and Mark Dietz were appointed as viewers on April 4, 2017, to redetermine County Ditch 12 and report the benefits and damages and the benefitted and damaged areas to the drainage authority as provided by law.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that Gary Haugen is appointed as an alternate viewer to redetermine County Ditch 12.

Discussion was held on funding for the ambulance services in the County. More information will be gathered and the topic will be discussed during the upcoming budget work sessions.

IT Director Terry Ocaña provided an update on GIS software and presented a quote for additional GIS services from Pro West & Associates as recommended by the Land Records Committee. Department Heads Darren Wilke, Sandy Vold, Cindy Nelson and Elaine Martig were also present. The Committee will meet again and review their respective budgets to see if there would be current funding available to meet the expenditure during 2017.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the following 3-year assessment agreements as presented by County Assessor Sandy Vold: Townships of Akron, Almond, Artichoke, Foster, Graceville, Malta, Moonshine, Odessa, Otrej, Prior and Toqua and the City of Johnson.

Assessor Vold submitted an abatement request from Barb Basta as a result of a fire on June 2nd for the Board's approval. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the adjustment to the 2017 value for a reduction of Pay 2018 taxes.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Berning and carried to approve the hiring of Laura Laub as a Social Services Supervisor at Grade 14 Step 1 effective July 15th as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Motion by Berning, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the hiring of Amy Haas as a Financial Worker at Grade 7 Step 1 effective July 24th as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

Chairman Backer presented the new legislation regarding wheelage tax. Consensus was to again pass on implementation of the tax in Big Stone County.

Becky Parker from the Big Stone Arts Council was present to provide an update on the Creative MN Project and request \$500 towards an Arts Economic Impact Study. The monetary request was referred to BSAG.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 9:32 AM.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor