

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
March 20, 2018

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 20, 2018. Chairman Olson called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Backer and Sandberg present. Commissioner Berning was absent. Also present were Mary Meyer, Mary Gustafson, Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Joe Glasrud and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the minutes of the March 6th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Backer – BSAG; Pomme de Terre; Bois de Sioux; PIC; Personnel

Olson – BSAG; PrimeWest; LAC; Countryside; Personnel

Sandberg – Property; Pioneerland

Athey – Prairie 5; HRA; SWCD

Attorney Glasrud informed the Board about upcoming trainings he will be attending and reported on recent activities in his office.

Brent Hasslen from Hasslen Construction was present to review various delivery methods for the construction of a new Highway building. County Engineer Todd Larson and Highway Maintenance Supervisor Darby Karsky were also present for the discussion. Consensus was for the Property Committee, Highway personnel and Hasslen Construction to come up with a timeline and report back to the Board.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to set the bid opening for projects SP 006-623-004 and SAP 006-610-024 for 11:00 AM on April 13, 2018, as requested by Engineer Larson. Opening will be advertised on the County's website.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the purchase of a CAT 308 Excavator.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the purchase of two 2,000 gallon tanks, poly pumps and infusing cones for the mixing of calcium chloride. The cost will be recouped from the application fees this spring.

US Fish & Wildlife representatives Blake Knisley, Lynn Sebeck and Bruce Freske were present to request certification on two easements and a fee title purchase. Mr. Knisley requested certification of acquisition of land on a wetland easement in Artichoke Township. Jacob Danielson was also present. Ms. Sebeck requested certification of acquisition of land on a habitat easement and a fee title purchase in Otrej Township. Discussion was held on the Watershed's request to review easements prior to certification for any adjacent land owner's possible concerns. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to certify for acquisition the following described properties:

1. T122N, R44W, 5th P.M., Section 11 – GL 3 & GL 4, excepting therefrom Parcels 1, 2, and 3; together with Parcel 5 AND SW1/4 NW1/4 NW1/4 except OL.
2. T122N, R45W, 5th P.M., Section 4, part of Lot A of the W1/2SW1/4 and Section 5, part of the SE1/4

3. T122N, R45W, 5th P.M., Section 13, part of the NW1/4.

Environmental Officer Darren Wilke and Environmental Technician Danny Tuckett arrived at the meeting.

Gary Haugen presented an update on the court case he and his neighbors have had with land in Section 13 of Almond Township. Haugen reported that evidence found after they filed the case was disallowed. He requested that the Board send a letter to the DNR requesting removal from the Public Waters Inventory in light of the additional information. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried for the requested letter to be sent.

Environmental Officer Wilke reviewed a draft of the Buffer Ordinance. Discussion was held on the draft. Commissioner Backer asked for further review of some language. Wilke will review and reported that another public hearing will be scheduled at a later date with the County Board.

Environmental Officer Wilke introduced Environmental Technician Tuckett.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the AIS agreement with the DNR for inspections, pending approval of the County Attorney and Sheriff, and authorized Environmental Officer Wilke to sign the agreement.

County Recorder Elaine Martig presented the proposal for a 5-year extension of Fidar's Software License Agreement. Martig reported on her conversation with the rep regarding her concern with changing to an annual increase. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to execute the 5-year agreement and authorize Recorder Martig to re-negotiate, if possible, and sign it pending County Attorney approval.

Recorder Martig requested the Board's permission for out of state travel to Iowa for the Fidar Educational Symposium May 21-23, 2018. Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the travel and any related expenditures.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire reported that the Personnel Committee had met to discuss the inclement weather closure policy. Following discussion, motion by Backer, seconded by Athey and carried to change Section 804.2 of the Handbook to include that employees would be allowed to use sick time, but only after all other leave is exhausted.

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

Computer Professionals	\$ 4,960.00
L&O Acres Transport	3,577.20
State of MN	5,914.58
West Con	3,406.50
46 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>13,518.81</u>
Total	\$31,377.09

Auditor Knutson reported that a petition from James Becker and Keith Anderson has been received for the partial abandonment County Ditch #20 described as follows: Lateral A located with the E1/2SW1/4 of 36-123N-46W. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to set the public hearing for 10:00 AM on April 17th during the regularly scheduled board meeting.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to send a letter of support for the Appleton Ambulance Service's application to be certified to provide part-time Advanced Life Support (ALS) services.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the cost of obtaining additional actuarial information for the County's 2017 audit.

Engineer Larson reported that the following bids had been received for the gravel crushing project:

Brown Excavating	\$ 90,450
Wm D Scepaniak	\$ 90,900
Hard Rock Screening	\$ 94,500
CT Sibson Gravel & Crushing	\$109,800
Commerford Construction	\$113,850
Ferguson Brothers Excavating	\$141,300
Central Specialties	\$172,350

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to award the bid to Brown Excavating.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 10:50 AM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor