

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
November 3, 2020

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer, Klepel, Olson and Sandberg present. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, Jeff Klages, EMD Dona Greiner, Maintenance Supervisor Darby Karsky, Deputy EMD Val Seifert, Vince Robinson, County Attorney Joe Glasrud and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. HR Director Dawn Gregoire, Coordinator Pam Rud, County Recorder Elaine Martig, County Assessor Sandy Vold and several staff were participating via TEAMS. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The work session included a discussion on the reduced US Fish & Wildlife revenue sharing payments. 2020's payment alone was only funded at 23.2%, which equates to a loss of over \$160,000 in revenue.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the October 20th regular board meeting.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the agenda with the addition of a letter of support for the Local Government Taxpayer Fairness Act that would require US Fish & Wildlife to pay local property taxes like a private landowner.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – MSI

Olson – PrimeWest (2); Supporting Hands

Backer – CPT (2); SW EMS; RDC; COVID Call

Athey – Prairie 5; COVID Call

EMD Greiner acknowledged Deputy EMD Seifert and reviewed what she has been working on. Greiner also provided a general emergency management update.

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

Hart Intercivic	\$ 2,267.00
Meeker County Sheriff Office	2,371.29
Pro West	2,520.04
Ronglien & Sons Excavating	4,835.00
Royal Tire Inc	7,242.28
Schmidt Spray Foam Insulation	6,800.00
SHI International Corp	11,136.00
Streichers	2,771.99
West Central Communications	25,641.20
34 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>15,942.38</u>
Total	\$81,527.18

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

Auditor Knutson presented dilapidated structure applications from the City of Ortonville for assistance to demo parcels 22-0125-010 and 22-0240-000. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to approve \$3,000 per project plus \$1,000 for asbestos removal towards the water treatment building project.

Discussion was held on sending a letter of support of H.R. 8618, the Local Government Taxpayer Fairness Act. This was tabled until the next meeting.

BSAG representative Vince Robinson was present to submit the list of businesses that met the qualification for the CARES grant funds. Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Backer to approve funding and execute grant agreements for the following grantees upon receipt of all required documentation:

2nd Street Café, Coffeehouse and Bar	Jamer's 1 Stop
Adams Off the Green	Kiddie Corral Daycare
Ally Cat Bowling	Larry's Refrigeration & Heating
Amanda's Shear Impressions	Main Street Industries
Artie's Bait & Tackle	Monarch Heights
Big G's Pub & Grub	One More Time
Big Stone Fitness	One Woman's Junk
Bluestem Dental	Ortonville Family Eye Care
Bonanza Education Center	Ortonville Lodge 407 Loyal Order of
Club 7-75	Moose
Cutting Edge Engraving	Pleasant Valley Kennels
Dawn's Hair Designs	Pro Image Partners
Dick's Auto Repair	Sharon Athey
Don's Alleys	Shear Grace Salon
Gabe's Auto Service	Sioux Historic Pavillion
Graceville Bar & Lounge	Strongheart Martial Arts Academy
Graceville Gun Club	The Refuge Bar
Graceville Senior Citizens Club	U of MN Extension/Big Stone County 4-H
Headquarters Bar	Federation
Heritage Printing	Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3964
J&R Headhunters	Wolf House

Motion carried with Commissioners Athey and Olson abstaining due to conflicts of interest.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept the resignation of Part-time Appraiser Eric Banken as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

HR Director Gregoire reported that they are reviewing staffing so no request for hiring at this time.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried to adopt the following resolution as presented by Maintenance Supervisor Karsky:

2020-34

WHEREAS, SAP 006-605-001, SAP 006-610-025, SAP 006-621-029, SAP 006-612-013, SAP 006-628-004 and SAP 006-635-008, have in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts said completed projects for and on behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorizes final payment to Central Specialties, Inc. in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

Attorney Glasrud provided a litigation update including opioid company bankruptcies and a Petition for Review filed by the DNR with the Minnesota Court of Appeals regarding County Ditch 21. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried

to authorize the hiring of Rinke Noonan to assist with the ditch petition. Attorney Glasrud reported that MCIT coverage does not extend to ditch authorities.

Discussion was held on the scenarios provided by Coordinator Rud on the process for setting elected officials' salaries. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to go with option 1.

Following a short break, the following individuals arrived for the County Ditch 5/21 informational meeting on the Highway 12 project: Warren Wiese, Richard Guse, Pete Holme, Randy Shelstad and Darin Ehrenberg. Drainage Inspector Karsky began the meeting with a review of MnDOT's survey and the plans that may affect the ditches. Discussion was held on the possible abandonment of the County Ditch 5 tile located in Section 7 of Akron Township. Consensus from those present was that if the State put in a culvert in Section 7, they would be willing to abandon that part of the County Ditch and be assessed into County Ditch 21. Karsky will continue to keep working with the State on the project.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 9:46 AM.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor