

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
March 15, 2022

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Chairman Klages called the meeting to order with Commissioners Sandberg, Olson, Backer and Athey present. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent and Coordinator Pam Rud. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the February 25th special board meeting and the March 1st regular board meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – AMC Legislative Conference, Countryside, PrimeWest/DHS

Backer – Personnel

Athey – SWCD, Fair Board, UMRWD, HRA

Klages – RLF, Personnel, PdTRA,

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

Abdo	\$19,000.00
CDW Government	3,511.06
CPT	5,837.00
Matthew P Franzese Atty at Law	7,585.00
SHI International	2,700.00
49 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>21,804.58</u>
Total	\$60,437.64

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

General to Highway	\$ 1,777.04
Ditch to Highway – County Ditch 16	\$ 161.91

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 Backer and carried to execute the 2022 Election Security Grant Agreement.

Countryside Public Health Nurse Ashlie Wubben was present to discuss the Tobacco Ordinance. She summarized the changes in the new ordinance which are raising minimum legal sales age to 21, have retailers display signage regarding the minimum legal sales age, increasing the penalties for retailer non-compliance. Update ages for compliance check decoys, providing alternative penalties for anyone under the age of 21 that attempts to purchase with a fake ID. Additionally, the Ordinance goes further to protect youth by prohibiting the sale of flavored E-cigarettes, establishes a 1,000 ft setback between schools and retailers and requires all retailers to participate in instructional programs. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the Tobacco Ordinance. The effective date of the ordinance will be July 1, 2022.

Countryside Public Health Director Liz Auch was present to provide an update to the Board on public health activities. She provided local and regional data on

Covid-19.

County Engineer Todd Larson provided an update on highway activities, safe routes to school grant, TEDI Grant and FLAP grant.

Motion by Olson seconded by Backer and carried to advertise the mill and overlay projects for 2022.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the advertising of CP 2022-1 aggregate crushing and stockpiling in the Odessa pit.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire brought staffing updates to the Board. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the resignation of Account Technician Nikki Larson effective March 15th. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the resignation of IT Systems Administrator Andrew Albin and to approve filling the vacancy. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the hiring of Maggie Kluver as a half-time assistant County Attorney until on or around April 28th when she will be sworn in as the full time County Attorney. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to fill the summer Extension helper.

Facilities Manager Jared Heck requested approval for necessary upgrades to the courthouse elevator. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to accept the quote of \$59,500 from Otis Elevator to make necessary upgrades. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize the expenditure to update ADA door entrances at Mainstreet Industries.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the Family Service warrants as presented by Director Laura Laub. Laub provided an update on childcare grants, procurement and detox costs.

HRA Director Amber Huebner provided information on the repairs needed at Lakeside Apartments and has requested a loan from the County for \$143,628.00 to repair the railings and roof. Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution with Commissioner Klages voting nay:

2022-14

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) is requesting a loan in the amount of \$143,628.00 from Big Stone County to be applied towards the necessary repairs to the railings and roof at Lakeside Apartments; and WHEREAS, funds will be dispersed to HRA when copies of contractor invoices are submitted to the County.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Big Stone County approves the loan request at 1% interest to be paid back with 2023 levy dollars with the option to pay off early as other funds become available.

Coordinator Rud shared information about the shared engineer agreement and the meeting with Stevens County to discuss the process of ending the agreement. With anticipated turnover and succession planning, Big Stone County feels that a full-time Engineer would best meet the upcoming needs. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to formally send a letter to Stevens County to begin the process of ending the agreement and start posting for a full-time engineer. Commissioner Athey voted nay.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to support legislation for SWCD funding.

Discussion was held regarding pocket gophers and a request for consistency

within the County for payment. This item will be brought to the upcoming township officers meeting.

There were no items discussed at the work session.

Commissioner Klages adjourned the meeting at 9:33 AM.

Jeff Klages, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Pam Rud, Coordinator