

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
March 16, 2021

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 16, 2021. Chairman Backer called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Klages, Olson and Sandberg present. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, Coordinator Pam Rud, County Attorney Joe Glasrud and Auditor-Treasurer Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The work session included a discussion on drainage and water quality. Consensus was that the County should be more proactive and take an inventory of waters that could possibly affect our ditches and roads and install structures to control water flow. Commissioner Olson will assemble a committee to do this and will also be tasked with prioritizing the list.

There were no public comments received.

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

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the agenda with the addition of Flexible Spending Plan Change.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – PrimeWest; Countryside

Sandberg – LELS; Food Shelf

Athey – LELS; Park

Klages – Personnel; Property

Backer – BdSWD; Personnel; Park; PIC

Sheriff Mark Brown reported that under M.S. 626.19, the public needs to be allowed to the opportunity at a public meeting to provide comments on the County's use of a drone. He has received no written comments and no comments were made at the meeting.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to accept the retirement of part-time deputy Curt Hormann effective March 26th.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize County Engineer Todd Larson to advertise for bids for the 2021 paving projects with a bid letting date of April 15th.

Engineer Larson provided an update on DNR's request for information on Joint Ditch 4. Larson also provided an update on the DNR's appeal to the County Ditch 21 reestablishment of records. A settlement has been proposed, but no decision was made and there will be an upcoming meeting to discuss the County's position.

Engineer Larson provided a brief building update.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire explained changes to the Nationwide 457 plan. As part of the CARES and SECURE Acts, some updates and clarifications to the Nationwide Deferred Compensation plan are suggested, including participation requirements and in-service distributions. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept the updates and authorize Gregoire or Coordinator Rud to sign the documents. In addition, Gregoire reported that Nationwide is offering a Collective Investment Fund option for participants in the Deferred Compensation plan.

Motion by Olson and seconded by Sandberg to authorize adding a part-time custodial position (20 hrs/week) at Grade 5. Following discussion, motion carried.

Coordinator Rud provided an update on COVID and recommended that the County offices open fully to the public and the Board agreed.

2nd Harvest would be holding another food distribution on April 29th from 11-1 at the Ortonville airport.

Coordinator Rud provided an update on the temporary staffing in the Veteran's Service Office.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to accept Recorder Elaine Martig's retirement effective January 4, 2022. The Board expressed their gratitude to Martig for her service to the County. Martig was present for the announcement.

As part of the American Rescue Plan Act, the amount participants can contribute to their dependent care flexible spending accounts can be increased to \$10,500 for 2021 only. Motion by Klages, seconded by Olson and carried to amend the dependent care flexible spending plan to add the allowed increase.

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

CPT	\$ 5,687.00
L&O Acres Transport	2,369.06
Lac qui Parle Sheriff	2,645.00
Nelson Electric	39,591.35
Prairie Lakes Youth Programs	3,072.00
Traverse County Sheriff	2,580.50
43 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>13,835.30</u>
Total	\$69,780.21

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

General to Highway	\$197.66
Ditch to Highway	\$218.58
Joint Ditch 4	\$174.86
County Ditch 21	\$ 43.72

Auditor-Treasurer 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 Klages and carried with Commissioner Athey abstaining to execute the following business relief fund grant agreements:

2nd Street, LLC	Don's Alleys LLC
7-75 Club, Inc	Greg & Mary Sykora
Adams Off the Green, LLC	Headquarters Bar, Inc
Ally Cat Bowling, Inc	Heather Rise
Berkner Pizza Inc.	Joanie and Dustin Hills
Big G's Pub & Grub, LLC	John Hynnek
Big Stone County Agricultural Society	John Oakes
Brent Peterson	Julie Lindeman
Brittany Heck	Justin Athey
Conroy Eye Care	KW Thoroughbreds LLC
Deven Patterson	Main Street Industries

One More Time, Inc
Ortonville Ambulance Service
Ortonville Lodge 407 Loyal Order of
Moose
Peter Vangsness

Pounders LLC
Spors Inc.
Thompson's Sioux Historic, Inc.
Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 3964
Ward Construction Inc.

Shelly Eldridge from Ehlers was present via TEAMS and reviewed the Pre-Sale Report for the sale of \$3,075,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021A. These bonds will refinance the current Abatement Bonds. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution providing for the sale of general obligation bonds:

2021-13

WHEREAS, the County Board of the Big Stone County, Minnesota has heretofore determined that it is necessary and expedient to issue the County's \$3,075,000 Taxable General Obligation Refunding Bonds, Series 2021A (the "Bonds"), to finance a partial net cash advanced refunding of the Taxable General Obligation Abatement Bonds, Series 2015A for interest cost savings; and

WHEREAS, the County has retained Ehlers & Associates, Inc., in Roseville, Minnesota ("Ehlers"), as its independent municipal advisor for the Bonds in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 475.60, Subdivision 2(9).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of the Big Stone County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. Authorization; Findings. The Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes Ehlers to assist the County for the sale of the Bonds.
2. Meeting; Proposal Opening. The Board of Commissioners shall meet at 9:00 a.m. on April 20, 2021, for the purpose of considering proposals for and awarding the sale of the Bonds.
3. Official Statement. In connection with said sale, the officers or employees of the County are hereby authorized to cooperate with Ehlers and participate in the preparation of an official statement for the Bonds and to execute and deliver it on behalf of the County upon its completion.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 9:47 AM.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor-Treasurer