

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
May 19, 2020

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 19, 2020. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Klepel, Olson and Sandberg present. Commissioner Backer called into the meeting. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, HR Director Dawn Gregoire, County Engineer Todd Larson, Highway Maintenance Supervisor/Drainage Inspector Darby Karsky, Deputy Auditor Heather Henrich, Family Services Director Pam Rud, County Attorney Joe Glasrud and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. Other department heads and staff were participating via Teams or phone. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The work session began with Attorney Glasrud presenting his position on hiring an interim Coordinator, stating that he is very supportive of this and would like the Board to consider it. Commissioner Olson stated that he will need time to think about the concept and talk to others. Chairman Athey encouraged reaching out to Attorney Glasrud if more information is needed.

Commissioner Olson brought up for discussion the consideration of appropriating additional loan funds to BSAG similar to what Little Falls is doing. More information will be gathered so further discussion can happen at the next work session.

Commissioner Sandberg requested that "miscellaneous" not be used for agenda items going forward.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the April 21st and May 5th regular board meetings.

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

EMD Dona Greiner provided an update on COVID-19 via phone. Greiner also stated that the Emergency Management Performance Grant for 2020 is slated to be increased.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – PrimeWest; Countryside

Sandberg – MSI; Negotiations; Food Shelf; Property

Athey – SWCD; EM Mtgs; Personnel; Dept Head; Negotiations; Property

Backer – EM Mtgs; Personnel; Woodland

Commissioner Athey also reported on other meetings/calls he participated in.

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

Abner Sales	\$ 3,927.55
Contech Engineered Solutions	14,521.69
CPT	5,777.00
Ortonville Independent	4,933.85
Twin Valley Tire	3,312.00
West Con	6,115.62
56 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>16,384.16</u>
Total	\$54,971.87

Auditor Knutson reported that she has received a petition for a cleanout on County Ditch 13 in Prior Township from the NW1/4 of Section 23 to the end of the ditch

in the NE1/4 of Section 14. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the request and authorize the cleanout.

Discussion was held on Fitzner's Slough and their request to drain it down using County Ditch 13 as the outlet. Drainage Inspector Karsky and Engineer Larson reported that the slough is not currently included in the County Ditch 13 benefit listing, although land next to it is. Engineer Larson stated that the easiest resolution would be for Fitzners to petition it into the ditch and appoint a viewer to assign benefits. Karsky will talk with Fitzners.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried to execute the updated Southwest Minnesota Joint Powers Agreement for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA).

Engineer Larson provided an update on highway department activities. Larson reported that the County's FLAP grant was not approved for the trail.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to charge landowners for replacement right-of-way markers and the expense of mowing crops in the right-of-way as requested by Maintenance Supervisor Karsky.

Ben Gere from Hasslen Construction and Bob Sworski from CBS Squared provided an update on the construction of the new highway building. Engineer Larson reported that there has been a delay due to needed changes to the size of the footings and that the increase in cost would be paid out of the contingency funds.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept the resignation of Child Support Officer Melanie Wiegman with sincere thanks for her 36 years of service to the County. Her last day will be by June 30th.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize hiring for the Child Support Officer position at Grade 8 as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to hire Ward Odom as Assistant CVSO at Grade 7 Step 1 for 20 hours a week as recommended by HR Director Gregoire.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 9:57 AM.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor