

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**May 4, 2021**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, May 4, 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, Attorney Joe Glasrud and Auditor-Treasurer Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The work session included the following items:

1. Bill Fischer requesting that the Board pass a resolution designating the County as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Amendment Sanctuary County. Steve Roscoe stated he was in support of the resolution and Karen Burdick, Lila Salls and Paul Huselid spoke against it. Commissioners Olson, Sandberg and Backer also provided their viewpoints on the resolution. All were thanked for coming to the session.
2. Coordinator Rud provided an update on last week's work session. Items discussed included: (1) moving forward with a fulltime Coordinator and (2) elected vs appointed status of the Auditor-Treasurer and Recorder.
3. Commissioner Sandberg stated he wanted to clear up some misinformation out in the public about the cost of the new highway building. To date the county has spent just over \$5 million on the construction.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the minutes of the April 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – PrimeWest; Supporting Hands  
Sandberg – MSI; Food Shelf; LELS; Museum  
Athey – Prairie 5; LELS; Extension; Fair Board  
Klages – Personnel; ESB; BSAG; Extension  
Backer – SW EMS; RDC; Personnel; CPT

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize a 1-hour minimum at the overtime rate for dispatchers who are called back and to authorize all dispatchers at 40 hours per week as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried to execute the Fiscal Agent Agreement with Bois de Sioux Watershed District for their services as the fiscal agent for the Bois de Sioux – Mustinka Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

Highway Maintenance Supervisor Darby Karsky reported that Foster, Odessa and Akron Townships are not interested at this time in purchasing services from the Highway Department.

Karsky and UMRWD Administrator Amber Doschadis reviewed the proposed watershed alignment changes that would affect Joint Ditch 7 and a possible improvement project. Consensus was to schedule a joint ditch meeting early June to discuss the items with the benefited landowners.

Coordinator Rud requested approval for the hiring of a part-time Deputy Auditor-Treasurer. This position could also assist other departments with projects if feasible. Following discussion, motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the hiring as requested with Commissioner Athey voting Nay.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution approving the sale of real property to the City of Ortonville as presented by Attorney Glasrud:

**2021-16**

WHEREAS, on or about April 14, 2021, Big Stone County received written notice from the City of Ortonville (“City”) that the City intended to exercise its option (which was previously executed by the parties) to purchase real property from Big Stone County; WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 465.035, any county may convey real property to a city for such consideration as may be agreed upon; and WHEREAS, the City has requested a copy of a resolution authorizing the sale and containing a legal description of the property.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. For consideration in the amount of Two Hundred Thousand dollars (\$200,000.00), Big Stone County authorizes sale to the City of Ortonville of real property in Big Stone County, Minnesota, legally described as follows:

The Westerly Two Hundred feet (W 200’) of the North Half (N 1/2) or Lot Four (4), Block One (1), Schoen’s Addition to the City of Ortonville

AND

Lots Five and Six (5 & 6) of Block One (1), Schoen’s Addition to the City of Ortonville

together with all hereditaments and appurtenances belonging thereto, and any personal property described within the previously executed option to purchase.

2. Jay Backer, the Chair of the Big Stone County Board of County Commissioners, and Auditor-Treasurer Michelle R. Knutson, the clerk for the County Board, are authorized to sign a limited warranty deed conveying the above-described property. The Deed will convey after-acquired title. Big Stone County will warrant in the Deed that it has not done or suffered anything to encumber the property, EXCEPT: The Deed will not convey and quitclaim rights that Big Stone County is required to retain under Minn. Stat. § 373.01, subd. 1(h).

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

Chamberlain Oil	\$ 5,255.89
Hasslen Construction	7,214.06
Hildi Inc	5,260.00
McTavish Steelworks	15,092.00
Pro West & Associates	3,955.00
Rinke-Noonan	5,427.00
Trueman-Welters	7,443.14
West-Con	9,447.08
32 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>7,998.15</u>
Total	\$67,092.32

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2021-17**

BE IT RESOLVED that Big Stone County act as the legal sponsor for an application for funding to the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources for Maintenance of snowmobile trails managed by Big Stone Lake Sno Riders.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that upon approval of its application by the state, Big Stone County may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project and that it will comply with all applicable laws and regulations as stated in the agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chair of the Big Stone County Commissioners is authorized to sign such an agreement with the Department of Natural Resources.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Auditor is authorized to serve as the fiscal agent for the above-mentioned project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Big Stone County act as legal sponsor for 32 miles of snowmobile trails in Traverse County beginning north of Graceville and extending north through Wheaton to the White Rock Dam.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Big Stone County act as legal sponsor for 2 miles of snowmobile trails in Traverse County beginning west of Beardsley and extending west to Browns Valley.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Backer and carried to execute the contract with Central Specialties for SAP 006-620-009, SAP 006-625-011 and CP 006-001-021.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the Off Sale Beer License for Lakeshore RV Park.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 10:08 AM.

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Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor-Treasurer