

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**June 18, 2024**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, June 18, 2024. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Olson, Zimmel, Klages, and Athey present. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Rebecca Trapp and Coordinator Pam Rud. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the June 4<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Zimmel – BdSWD, AMC, RDC, PIC

Athey – SWCD, Extension

Klages – Extension, PW, UMRDC, CMESB, Property

Olson – PW, Countryside, SW18 Consortium,

Sandberg – AMC, Property, MSI

Sarah Aftergood and Nina Budde with Nova Clean Energy presented information about their wind farm project started in Big Stone County which is named Valhalla Energy Center.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to authorize payment of claims as prepared by Auditor-Treasurer Michelle Knutson. Vendors, excluding Family Services, receiving payments in excess of \$2,000 are as follows:

Anoka County	\$ 2,000.00
Brian's Glass & Door	4,465.79
CPT	6,698.00
Erickson Engineering	3,345.00
Kandiyohi County Recycling	2,279.00
Midwest Machinery	29,000.00
MMB Treasury Division	2,035.00
Ortonville Independent	2,006.88
Stevens County	2,227.62
Sturdevants	4,263.56
Titan Machinery	220,000.00
31 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>18,645.70</u>
Total	\$296,966.55

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

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to approve the 2024 tobacco license for Family Dollar.

Artie Arndt with the Ortonville Chamber of Commerce presented information on the RFP for the 2025 Governor Pheasant Opener. Arndt informed the Board that the Ortonville City Council has pledged their support for the initiative, and he is asking the Board for their commitment and \$5,000.00 for the project. Arndt will work with both the Ortonville EDA and Big Stone Area Growth on this project so it is a countywide initiative.

Questions were raised on how to use public funds for these projects. Motion by Olson, seconded by Zimmel and carried unanimously to support the RFP for the Chamber, BSAG and the Ortonville EDA and to commit \$5,000.00 towards the project.

Sheriff Mark Brown presented information about ARMER funding and requested approval of a resolution. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried with Commissioner Klages abstaining from the vote to adopt the following resolution to support ARMER grant submission and acceptance:

**2024-12**

WHEREAS, it is a basic responsibility of the County to provide for health and welfare of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Safety Emergency Communication Networks division, in consultation with the Statewide Emergency Communications Board, must administer this grant program; and

WHEREAS, the grant funding must be used to purchase or upgrade portable radios, mobile radios, and related equipment that is interoperable with the ARMER system; and

WHEREAS, each local government unit may receive only one grant and the grant is contingent upon a match of at least five percent from nonstate funds; and

WHEREAS, upon award, the County will purchase new radios or radio accessories adding capabilities that are not currently available, replace existing radios or radio accessories to maintain current operations of the applicant and replace radios or radio accessories that are failing or that have failed, and

WHEREAS, through the support from the County, the emergency services departments will maintain the requirements of the existing ARMER system that are no longer being met due to limited budgetary resources; and

WHEREAS, with ARMER radios that are failing or have failed, the interoperability between the emergency responders creates deployment capability gaps identified in response times, response capabilities, which affects the quality of emergency service for residents or visitors within the County; and

WHEREAS, THE County fully supports the emergency services departments in submitting the ARMER funding application in order to ensure countywide interoperability; and

WHEREAS, THE County is in support of accepting the ARMER grant funding upon award; and

WHEREAS, each applicant is obligated to a 5% match in awarded funds; and

WHEREAS, upon award, the Emergency Management Director will complete all documentation and reporting requirements within the DPS E-grants system.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby approves the submission of the ARMER grant application by supporting the collaboration of the emergency services departments located in Big Stone County and will provide the 5% match to meet the county's obligation and upon award announcement will implement an agreement with each city to reimburse the county the 5% match dollar amount for equipment assigned to each department.

Rud informed the Board that Highway Maintenance Supervisor Darwin Karsky has submitted his retirement notice. He will be done on August 29<sup>th</sup>. The Board thanked him for his 27 years of service to the County. Motion by Klages, seconded by

Zimmel and carried unanimously to accept the resignation and approve hiring to fill the position.

Rud informed the Board that current Eligibility Worker Heather Rise has accepted the Child Support Officer position at Family Services. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to fill the Eligibility Worker vacancy.

Rud informed the Board that Aiden Quintanilla has been hired as the Cyber Security Intern.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 6:55 PM.

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Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Rud, Coordinator