

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
June 2, 2020

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, June 2, 2020. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Klepel, Olson and Sandberg present. Commissioner Backer was absent. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, HR Director Dawn Gregoire, Family Services Director Pam Rud, IT Director Matt Anderson, Drainage Inspector Darby Karsky, Deputy Auditor Heather Henrich, County Attorney Joe Glasrud and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. Other department heads, staff and public were participating via Teams or phone. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The work session began with Chairman Athey and Commissioner Olson providing an overview of the Department Head meeting discussing an interim County Coordinator position. Consensus was for Rud to schedule a meeting of the original committee with the additions of HR and IT to draft a part-time position description and bring it to the next board meeting.

Commissioner Olson asked Commissioner Klepel, as the County's BSAG representative, to provide the survey results from MNbump's recent business impact survey for the next meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried to approve the minutes of the May 19th regular board meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Pioneerland; Dept Head

Sandberg – MSI; Museum

Athey – COVID Mtgs; Prairie 5; Dept Head; Fair Board

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize \$500 towards supplies to safely reopen the libraries in the County as requested by Head Librarian Vicki Bartz.

Attorney Glasrud provided an update on the sale of the current highway building. Glasrud reported that he will have a draft purchase agreement ready next week. Glasrud also reported that he is looking at updating the mutual aid agreement.

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

CDW Government	\$ 7,115.94
Lac qui Parle Sheriff	4,731.89
Northland Business Systems	3,392.52
Riley Bros Construction	6,965.00
West Con	23,169.47
26 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>7,864.59</u>
Total	\$53,239.41

4-H Program Coordinator Suzanne Souza provided an update on 4-H and Extension via phone. Souza reported that all educational programming is being done virtually. Kayla Moberg has been hired as the Summer Assistant. Due to the cancellation of the fair, judging experiences will still be held this summer for both static and livestock projects.

HR Director Gregoire reported that Ochs, Inc. informed her that the County's current carriers for the core benefits were the low bidders on the RFPs. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried to award the bids to Minnesota Life for the life insurance and to Madison National Life for the short and long term disability. The results of the RFPs are available in the HR office.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the hiring Kelsie Ehrenberg at Grade 1 Step 1 for the Summer Extension Helper as recommended by HR Director Gregoire. Start date is yet to be determined.

Drainage Inspector Karsky reported that a written request has been received to remove coon tail on County Ditch 2. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the removal. Karsky reported that the approximate cost is \$3,000 for 1½ miles.

US Fish & Wildlife representatives Blake Knisley and Bruce Freske were present via phone to request certification of acquisition of land for a habitat easement in Otrey Township. Knisley reported that this easement is being funded with duck stamp funds. Commissioner Olson stated that with some tiling projects in the works nearby, he would like something in writing that this acquisition would not interfere with these projects. County Engineer Todd Larson also called in to the meeting for the discussion. Consensus was for Larson to meet with US Fish. Knisley will bring the easement back for approval at the June 16th meeting.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 9:42 AM.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor