

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
August 17, 2021

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, August 17, 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 and Auditor-Treasurer Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

There were no items for the work session.

Chairman Backer asked for public comment on the intent to appoint the County Recorder. No comments were received.

There were no public comments received.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the minutes of the August 3rd regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Supporting Hands; Countryside

Klages – Personnel; Extension; Property

Backer – Personnel; RRB

Athey – SWCD; UMRWD; HRA

Sandberg – Trail; Museum; HRA; Property

Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Olson to support an application to the State for funding to pave the rest of the trail and provide for ongoing maintenance. Following discussion, motion carried. Commissioner Olson will draft a letter of support on behalf of the Board.

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

Conroy Electric	\$ 3,653.17
CPT	5,687.00
KDO Radio	2,100.00
Lac qui Parle Sheriff	4,124.24
Lenovo	2,217.70
Main Street Industries	2,303.42
Marco	7,327.67
MAXIMUS	3,350.00
Ortonville Independent	3,953.19
Regents of the U of MN	2,157.98
Rinke-Noonan	2,966.50
Sitter Excavating	6,000.00
32 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>10,334.77</u>
Total	\$56,175.64

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

General to Highway	\$ 2,751.31
Ditch to Highway	\$ 2,438.10
County Ditch 2	\$ 777.50

County Ditch 5	\$ 603.95
County Ditch 21	\$1,056.65

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

Auditor-Treasurer Knutson reported that the County's 2021 MCIT dividend will be \$40,674 and is allocated as follows: Workers' Compensation \$36,737 and Property/Casualty \$3,937.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to execute the Master Agreement for Arbitrage Monitoring Services with Ehlers and authorize Auditor-Treasurer Knutson to sign the agreement.

HRA representatives Amber Huebner and Jami Stallman were present to request a \$250,000 levy to do repairs at Lakeside Apartments. The Board will consider the request during budget discussions.

Highway Maintenance Supervisor Darby Karsky reported that Akron and Foster Townships have expressed interest in hiring the County to do their road maintenance. To add them would be a \$500,000 commitment in equipment and personnel. Consensus was that the County would need their firm commitment before a decision could be made. County Engineer Todd Larson was also present.

UMRWD Administrator Amber Doschadis was present to provide an update on Swenson Lake. The DNR is in the process of gathering information and a feasibility study will be done to improve water quality.

County Recorder Elaine Martig presented the plats for the Whetstone Restoration project. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the plats and authorize the Chairman and Auditor-Treasurer to sign them.

Sheriff Mark Brown was present to request permission to donate the used AEDs that were replaced to the First Responders or Fire Departments. They have been updated with new batteries and pads. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the request to donate them.

Family Services Director Pam Rud reported that the alternate work schedule will be ending and staff will be returning to the office on September 7th.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize payment of the Family Services claims.

Rud reported that the County passed their audit until 2023 for the Rule 13 Family Child Care Licensing Certification and that the Children's Mental Health Respite Grant has been extended to June of 2022 so we will be receiving an additional \$5,900.

The AMC Fall Policy Conference is September 16-17 in Alexandria. Rud cannot attend so is hoping someone from the Board can attend.

Rud reported that the County is hosting the AMC District 6 Fall Meeting. It will be held on October 27th in Graceville.

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

2021-29

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. §375A.1205 allows a County Board to appoint certain offices including the County Recorder; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners recognizes the benefit to having appointed persons in the positions of County Recorder because it promotes efficiency

and consistency of County business with individuals qualified to oversee a broad spectrum of complex issues within Recorders' Offices; and WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §375A.1205, Subd. 1, the County Board will appoint a County Recorder under the following circumstance: There is a signed contract with the County Board and incumbent Recorder that the incumbent officer will be appointed to the position and retain tenure, pay and benefits equal to or greater than length of service.

WHEREAS, in accordance with Minn. Stat. §375A.1205, Subd. 6, a proposed resolution notifying the public of its intent to appoint the Recorder as described above was published for two consecutive weeks in its official publication, and no public comments were received at the August 3, 2021 Board of Commissioner meeting.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts this resolution, and that the office of the County Recorder shall be filled by appointment by signed contract with the incumbent Recorder and in accordance with the Personnel Rules; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution takes effect on September 20, 2021.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Olson and carried to appoint Drew Dohman, CenBank Loan Officer, as the County's lay representative to the Upper MN River Valley Regional Development Commission's Revolving Loan Fund.

Attorney Joe Glasrud provided updates from the Judicial Branch and noted that Big Stone County has had a high volume of jury trials over the past year.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to close the meeting at 9:49 AM per M.S. 13D.05, Subd. 3(b) under attorney-client privilege to discuss litigation in Office of Administrative Hearings Case No. 9913625-CP-16545 upon the advice of Attorney Glasrud, who first noted the legal basis for asking the Board to close the meeting, the limited scope of the privilege, and the factors in support of closure. The Commissioners and Attorney Glasrud were present during the closed session.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to reopen the meeting at 10:06 AM.

The remainder of the meeting was a work session to start discussing the County's 2022 budget.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 10:57 AM.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor-Treasurer