

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**August 3, 2021**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, August 3, 2021. Chairman Backer called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey and Klages present. Commissioners Olson and Sandberg were absent. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, Coordinator Pam Rud and Auditor-Treasurer Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

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

No other public comments were received.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the minutes of the July 20<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and the July 28<sup>th</sup> emergency meeting.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the agenda.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Klages – ESB; Personnel

Backer – SWEMS; RDC; Personnel

Athey – Prairie 5; LELS; Fair Board

Sandberg via Rud – MSI; Food Shelf; LELS; Collaborative

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

Commissioner of Transportation	\$ 2,292.81
Guardian Fleet Safety	16,657.32
Kandiyohi County Sheriff Dept	35,774.77
Liftoff	19,775.00
Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney	2,051.50
Traverse County	24,159.87
TrueNorth Steel	14,280.10
West Con	4,618.90
38 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>14,276.86</u>
Total	\$133,887.13

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried to adopt the following resolution for tax-forfeited land as requested by Auditor-Treasurer Knutson:

**2021-27**

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners desires to offer for sale certain parcels of land that have forfeited to the State of Minnesota for non-payment of taxes; and

WHEREAS, said parcels of land have been viewed by the County Board of Commissioners and have been classified as non-conservation lands as provided for in Minnesota Statute 282.01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that all parcels of land on the attached list have been viewed and comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 85.012, 92.461, 282.01, Subd. 8 and 282.018 and other statutes that require the withholding of tax-forfeited lands from sale.

Auditor-Treasurer Knutson requested that the Board set sale prices for this year's tax forfeited properties for the respective cities if they want to purchase them. Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried to set the price at \$100 each.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Athey and carried to formally accept receipt of the Petition to Vacate County Road Right of Way for the Whetstone Project as presented at the last meeting.

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

**2021-28**

BE IT RESOLVED that Big Stone County enter into a Grant Contract with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the County's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the County Veterans Service Office, as specified in Minnesota Statute 197.608 and Minnesota Laws 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Chapter 12, Article 1, Section 37, Subdivision 2. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by Big Stone County that the County Veterans Service Officer be authorized to execute the Grant Contract for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Athey and carried to execute the Purchase of Service Agreement for the Transportation of Children and Youth in Foster Care Placement with Ortonville Public Schools as presented by Coordinator Pam Rud.

Coordinator Rud presented the new County logo for approval. Rud stated that this allows for standardizing letterhead, business cards, envelopes, email signatures etc. Motion by Backer, seconded by Klages and carried to adopt it as the official logo for the County.

Coordinator Rud presented the new Deputy Auditor-Treasurer job description for the Elections Coordinator and Delinquent Tax/Tax Forfeiture for approval. Following discussion, motion by Backer and seconded by Klages to approve the position at Grade 8. Motion carried with Commissioner Athey voting Nay due to his concerns with the grading and the title.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Athey and carried to accept the reclassification of the Deputy Auditor-Treasurer job description for the Finance Officer to Grade 9 due to the increase in responsibilities as a result of the retirement of the County Treasurer and reassignment of duties in the office.

Environmental Director Darren Wilke presented the Joint Powers Agreement with Red River Watershed for the LiDAR data acquisition. Motion by Klages, seconded by Athey and carried to execute the agreement and authorize County Engineer Todd Larson to sign on behalf of the County. The cost of the project will be paid for by riparian aid.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Athey and carried to close the meeting at 9:00 AM for consideration of labor negotiation strategy pursuant to M.S. §13D.03. The

Commissioners, HR Director Gregoire and Coordinator Rud were present during the closed session.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried to reopen the meeting at 9:17 AM.

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

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 10:18 AM.

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Jay Backer, Chairman

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