

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**September 17, 2019**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 17, 2019. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Backer, Klepel and Olson present. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, Mary Meyer, Mary Gustafson, Janet Spalinger, Vince Robinson, HR Director Dawn Gregoire and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the September 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting and September 4<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – PrimeWest; LAC

Sandberg – Museum; Property

Athey – SWCD; Planning Commission; Park; Property

Backer – BSAG; Park; CareerForce

County Attorney Joe Glasrud and Becky Parker arrived at the meeting during committee reports.

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

4 Bar G Farms	\$ 3,600.00
Big Stone Ag Service	23,941.81
Bituminous Paving	4,021.76
Contech Engineered Solutions	4,052.69
CPT	4,922.00
Lac qui Parle Sheriff	3,587.66
James Mulder	2,298.92
Nelson Electric	10,019.80
Quinnpro Quality Painting	3,230.00
Twin Valley Tire	2,520.00
Waste Management	11,148.99
West Con	12,246.44
54 payments less than \$2,000	<u>14,015.24</u>
Total	<u>\$99,605.31</u>

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

General to Highway	\$ 2,294.55
Family Services to Highway	\$ 105.81
Ditch to Highway	\$ 360.82
County Ditch 2	\$126.15
Joint Ditch 4	\$234.67

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

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to adopt the policy for Post Issuance Compliance for Tax-Exempt Government Bonds as presented by Auditor Knutson.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to change the start time of the December 3<sup>rd</sup> board meeting to 5:00 PM to accommodate the public comment period for the 2020 budget and levy.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to execute the Emergency Management Director Services Agreement with Stevens County as presented by HR Director Gregoire. The agreement will auto renew each year through December of 2022.

County Engineer Todd Larson provided an update on Highway Department activities. Larson reported that FEMA was out and reviewed the files. The FEMA representative was very impressed with the organization of the documentation and Engineer Larson commended Highway Accountant Shannon Millerbernd for her work with organizing the information.

Discussion was held on the options for the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant application for the trail. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2019-23**

WHEREAS, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is providing grants to local units of government through the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) to improve transportation facilities that provide access to Federal Lands; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County includes a portion of the Big Stone Wildlife Refuge which is considered land within Federal jurisdiction and qualifies the Refuge for this grant program; and

WHEREAS, the County is proposing to continue paving the current pedestrian and bicycle trail through part of the Refuge and include an overlay on the existing trail and is seeking supplemental funding to complete the project; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County is seeking approval to submit a FLAP grant application requesting \$284,320 through this program to provide for the completion of the trail; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County, in partnership with the City of Ortonville and the Ortonville EDA, has secured the twenty (20) percent match requirements for the FLAP Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Engineer to apply for the grant, and if awarded to accept the grant award and execute such agreements as may be required.

Chairman Sandberg opened the public hearing at 9:04 AM to consider utilizing the proceeds of general obligation bonds to finance a portion of a new highway maintenance facility in Ortonville that is included in the proposed capital improvement plan. Shelly Eldridge from Ehlers was present to provide information on the plan and bonding requirements. No public comments were received. Chairman Sandberg closed the hearing at 9:12 AM.

Following Ms. Eldridge's review of the Pre-Sale Report, motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2019-24**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners (the "Board") of Big Stone County, Minnesota (the "County") as follows:

Section 1. Background.

- 1.01. The County is authorized under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 475, as amended, and Minnesota Statutes, Section 373.40 (the "Act") to prepare a capital improvement plan and carry out programs for financing certain capital improvements. The County may issue general obligation bonds pursuant to the Act to finance the cost of capital improvements described in the plan.
- 1.02. Before the approval of the Plan and issuance of any general obligation bonds under the Act, the County is required to hold a public hearing on the plan and issuance of the bonds.
- 1.03. Pursuant to the Act, the County has caused to be prepared a five-year capital improvement plan (the "Plan"), which describes certain capital improvements in the County for the years 2019 through 2023.
- 1.04. The County has determined that it is in its best interests to give preliminary approval to the issuance and sale of capital improvement bonds pursuant to the Act in the maximum principal amount of \$2,845,000 (the "Bonds"), to finance a portion of the costs described in the Plan.
- 1.05. On this date, the Board held a public hearing on the Plan and the issuance of the Bonds, after publication in the County's official newspaper of a notice of public hearing at least 14 days but no more than 28 days before the date of the public hearing.

Section 2. Plan Approved.

- 2.01. The Board finds that the Plan will provide for certain capital improvements which serve the interests of the County as a whole.
- 2.02. The Plan is approved in the form on file in County Courthouse.

Section 3. Bonds Authorized.

- 3.01. The County hereby gives preliminary approval to the issuance of Bonds in the maximum principal amount of \$2,845,000, in order to finance certain capital improvements described in the Plan, including costs of issuance of the Bonds, subject to further details regarding the sale of the Bonds to be set forth in a resolution to be considered by the Board of Commissioners at a subsequent meeting.
- 3.02. If a petition requesting a vote on the issuance of the Bonds, signed by voters equal to 5% of the votes cast in the last municipal general election, is filed with the County Auditor within 30 days after the date of the public hearing, the County may issue the Bonds only after obtaining approval of a majority of voters voting on the question at an election.
- 3.03. County staff are authorized and directed to take all other actions necessary to carry out the intent of this resolution.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution providing for the sale of general obligation bonds:

**2019-25**

WHEREAS, the County Board of the Big Stone County, Minnesota has heretofore determined that it is necessary and expedient to issue the County's \$5,840,000 Capital

Improvement Plan and State Aid Bonds, Series 2019A (the "Bonds"), to finance the construction of the Big Stone County Highway Maintenance Facility in Ortonville; and WHEREAS, the County has retained Ehlers & Associates, Inc., in Roseville, Minnesota ("Ehlers"), as its independent municipal advisor for the Bonds in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, Section 475.60, Subdivision 2(9).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Board of the Big Stone County, Minnesota, as follows:

1. Authorization; Findings. The County Board hereby authorizes Ehlers to assist the County for the sale of the Bonds.
2. Meeting; Proposal Opening. The County Board appointed pricing committee shall meet at noon on October 22, 2019, for the purpose of considering proposals for and accepting the offer of the Bonds according to the parameters set by the County Board.
3. Official Statement. In connection with said sale, the officers or employees of the County are hereby authorized to cooperate with Ehlers and participate in the preparation of an official statement for the Bonds and to execute and deliver it on behalf of the County upon its completion.

Rick Adams, a consultant for Verizon was present to answer any questions relating to the proposed Conditional Use Permits (CUPs) for two communications towers in the County. CUPs were originally approved for the same locations in 2016, but had expired due to funding issues. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the CUP application on the Botker property as recommended by the Planning Commission and authorize the Environmental Director to sign the permit. Motion by Athey, seconded by Klepel and carried to approve the CUP on the Maher property as recommended by the Planning Commission and authorize the Environmental Director to sign the permit. Deputy Environmental Director Ronda Maas was also present during the discussion.

The 2020 budget was reviewed. Vince Robinson and Becky Parker were present to provide additional information for the BSAG budget request and stated that after review, they are reducing their request.

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

**2019-26**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the proposed 2020 budget be approved and the net levy be established at \$5,340,878.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to set the public meeting to take comments on the proposed budget and levy for Tuesday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:26 AM.

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Roger Sandberg, Chairman

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