

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**October 19, 2021**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 19, 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.

The work session began with a discussion on the request from the Upper MN Valley Regional Development Commission (RDC) for an additional capital contribution for the revolving loan fund. Board consensus was to support the request if the allocation is based on population. Board members were reminded of the AMC District 6 meeting on October 27<sup>th</sup> that is in Graceville. A brief discussion was held on possible items to report on at the meeting.

Commissioner Athey reported that the new renter for the landfill property is requesting permission to remove volunteer trees along the west fence line. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to allow the removal at his expense. If the current renter agrees, the removal may take place before December 1<sup>st</sup>.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the minutes of the October 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Pioneerland; PrimeWest (2)  
Klages – Property (2); ESB; Pomme de Terre  
Backer – CPT; Woodland  
Athey – CJI; SWCD  
Sandberg – Museum

County Attorney Joe Glasrud provided reports from city council public meetings.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the Grant Funding Subcontract with Bois de Sioux Watershed District as fiscal agent for the Bois de Sioux-Mustinka River Watersheds Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as presented by Environmental Technician Danny Tuckett and Environmental Director Darren Wilke.

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

CPT	\$ 5,757.13
Hancock Concrete Products	6,906.40
Kandiyohi County Sheriff Department	36,478.02
Lac qui Parle Sheriff	5,755.62
Marco	4,074.34
Regents of the U of MN	18,814.00
Ronglien & Sons Excavating	2,500.00
West Con	4,905.46
Widseth Smith & Nolting Assoc	3,500.00
42 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>18,668.36</u>
Total	\$107,359.33

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

General to Highway	\$	2,551.26
Ditch to Highway	\$	3,283.01
County Ditch 2	\$	374.70
Joint Ditch 4	\$	1,853.16
County Ditch 5	\$	191.52
Joint Ditch 7	\$	507.50
County Ditch 8	\$	116.50
County Ditch 30	\$	239.63

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

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to accept the resignation of Financial Worker Heather Hoxtell effective October 22, 2021, as presented by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the hiring of Violet Baerwaldt and Chelsea Hauschild as Financial Workers at Grade 7 Step 1 effective October 28, 2021, as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize the hiring of Mackenzie Spaulding and Jennifer Warnock as Social Workers at Grade 10 Step 1 effective November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup> respectively, as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to execute the Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Ortonville and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service for the portion of the Minnesota River Headwaters Trail that will be constructed and maintained within the Big Stone National Wildlife Refuge as presented by County Engineer Todd Larson.

Engineer Larson recommended that the Board wait on passing the resolution to transfer State Aid funds until the screening board meets again.

Engineer Larson provided an update on highway department activities.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Klages and carried to adopt the following resolution for the FLAP Grant Application for the Federal Lands Access Program:

**2021-37**

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.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the Family Services claims as presented by Director Rud.

Family Services Director Rud asked for comments on the 2021 department budget and provided program updates.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried to appoint Ward Odom as the County Veterans Service Office effective November 10, 2021, for a 4-year term as presented by Coordinator Rud.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM.

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Jay Backer, Chairman

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