

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD  
November 19, 2019**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, November 19, 2019. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Backer and Klepel present. Commissioner Olson was absent. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, HR Director Dawn Gregoire, Treasurer Cindy Nelson, Mary Gustafson, Mary Meyer, Janet Spalinger and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Klepel, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the minutes of the November 5<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

- Klepel – BSAG
- Sandberg – Investment; Personnel
- Athey – SWCD; Personnel
- Backer – CPT; Probation; Woodland

County Attorney Joe Glasrud 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:

Ammerman Plumbing & Heating	\$ 7,494.00
Anoka County	3,300.00
Bituminous Paving	23,361.27
CBS Squared	46,067.42
CPT	19,320.00
Kris Engineering	5,712.00
Lac qui Parle Sheriff	4,194.80
Office Depot	3,959.30
SafeAssure Consultants	4,875.56
Traverse County Sheriff	2,200.00
West Central Communications	10,290.18
West Central MN Education	2,500.00
West Con	13,357.10
36 payments less than \$2,000	<u>10,382.63</u>
Total	<u>\$157,014.26</u>

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

General to Highway	\$ 2,145.52
Family Services to Highway	\$ 83.29
Ditch to Highway	\$ 621.57
Joint Ditch 4	\$149.93
Combined Ditch 10/11	\$190.00
County Ditch 21	\$281.64

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

Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to execute the agreement with Countryside Public Health for tobacco compliance checks.

Chairman Sandberg and Auditor Knutson provided an update on the meeting with Ryan Miles, Investment Advisor from Ehlers, to assist with investment and arbitrage services. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to hire Ehlers to assist Treasurer Nelson with the investing of the bond funds for the construction of the new highway building and authorize Auditor Knutson to sign any needed documents.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klepel and carried to update the County's investment policy to include using Ehlers as an investment advisor and update the list of authorized investments, if needed, as a result of this change.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to accept the following high bids for the surplus vehicles as presented by Auditor Knutson:

2009 Dodge Charger	Craig Danielson	\$1,505
2004 Jeep Grand Cherokee	Todd Larson	\$1,625
2008 Dodge Durango	Eric Clark	\$2,750

Auditor Knutson provided an update on the City of Ortonville's dilapidated structure applications for assistance to demo tax forfeited parcels 22-0361-000 and 22-0810-000. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to approve funds for 50% of the project, up to a maximum of \$3,000 per parcel. Disbursement will not be made until after proper receipts have been submitted.

County Engineer Todd Larson and Highway Maintenance Supervisor Darby Karsky arrived at the meeting.

Emergency Management Director (EMD) Dona Greiner provided an update on the office's activities and introduced Deputy EMD Val Seifert. Motion by Backer, seconded by Athey and carried to adopt the updated Emergency Operations Plan as presented. A brief discussion was held on possible radios available from Highway that could be used if needed.

DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor Curt Vacek was present to request board approval allowing the DNR to purchase property from the OC Moen Revocable Trust in Otrej Township (Parcels 12-0154-000, 12-0141-000 and 12-0101-000). Carl Moen was also present. Discussion was held on the Board's concern regarding future clean out of the ditch that runs through the property and affects county roads. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to table approval to allow time to look into getting an easement to allow any needed future maintenance.

Engineer Larson provided an update on Highway Department activities.

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

### **2019-29**

WHEREAS, SAP 006-621-028 has in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts said completed projects for and on behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorizes final payment to Ronglien Excavating, Inc. in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

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

## 2019-30

WHEREAS, SAP 006-633-005 has in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts said completed projects for and on behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorizes final payment to Mark Sand & Gravel Co. in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to execute the FY 2020-2021 Natural Resource Block Grant (NRBG) as presented by Environmental Director Darren Wilke.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to approve amended grant agreement for FY 2017 NRBG to extend the expiration date to allow work to be done on a shoreline restoration project as presented by Environmental Director Wilke.

Environmental Technician Danny Tuckett provided an update on the Pomme de Terre Comprehensive Water Plan. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to recommend to the Pomme de Terre Watershed Policy Committee that the plan be submitted for the formal 60-day review.

After discussion on how the Board would like to proceed with the setting of elected officials' salaries, it was decided that they would meet with each official prior to the next board meeting beginning at 3:30 PM.

HR Director Gregoire reported that Stevens County added a couple of changes to the EMD Services Agreement that was approved on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to execute the amended agreement as presented by Gregoire.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the updated Flexible Benefits Plan document that includes the changes previously discussed at the September 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to accept the resignation of Social Worker Heather Prisinger effective November 27, 2019.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to authorize HR Director Gregoire to proceed with filling the vacated Social Worker position.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Athey and carried to ratify the letter of support sent in by HR Director Gregoire signing on the County to ask the US Senate to repeal the Affordable Care Act's a 40% tax on employer-provided health care coverage, also known as the "Cadillac Tax".

Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to close the meeting at 9:58 AM for LELS labor negotiations.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to open the meeting at 10:22 AM.

The meeting was recessed until 11:15 AM.

Curtis Olafson, from Olafson Consulting, presented information on behalf of the Motley Rice consortium, which represents some plaintiffs in multidistrict federal litigation by county and city governments related to claims of fraudulent sale and marketing of addictive opiate-derived painkillers and other opioid-related causes of action. Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to sign on as a litigant with the Motley Rice consortium for the multidistrict opioid litigation and to authorize the Attorney Glasrud to approve the appropriate retainer agreement upon his review of the agreement.

Attorney Glasrud presented information regarding a November 22, 2019 opt-out deadline from the multidistrict opioid litigation settlement class and noted the County does not need to take action to remain opted into this group and will have the opportunity to vote on any proposed class-wide settlement with opioid companies if such a settlement is reached.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 12:10 PM.

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Roger Sandberg, Chairman

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