

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
November 7, 2023

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, November 7, 2023. Chairman Olson called the meeting to order with Commissioners Klages, Zimmel, Athey and Sandberg present. Also present was Coordinator Pam Rud. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

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

Motion by Zimmel, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the October 17th regular meeting.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Athey – 1W1P, Extension

Sandberg – MSI, EMS, Woodland, Insurance, Food Shelf, Collaborative

Zimmel – AMC

Klages – Woodland, PW

Olson – PW compliance, Pioneerland, Insurance, AMC, PW, Supporting Hands

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried to authorize payment of claims as presented by Auditor-Treasurer Michelle Knutson. Vendors, excluding Family Services, receiving payments in excess of \$2,000 are as follows:

Civilgeo Inc	\$ 2,796.00
Comm of Transportation	3,866.43
CPT	5,891.00
Development Services Inc	10,000.00
Hart Intercivic	2,550.00
Kandiyohi County Sheriff Dept	37,588.71
Ortonville Independent	3,603.89
Pope County Hwy Dept	15,923.20
Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney	2,625.00
Ronglien & Sons Excavating	28,766.27
Stevens County	3,231.31
Traverse County Sheriff	3,585.50
Tri County Co-Op Oil Assn	2,195.00
TrueNorth Steel	21,313.36
West Central Communications	5,616.38
West Con	3,311.50
45 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>18,707.16</u>
Total	\$171,570.71

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

County Engineer Jorden Roggenbuck presented a Haul Road Agreement for consideration. Motion by Klages, seconded by Zimmel and carried to approve the agreement.

Roggenbuck shared bridge replacement and improvement management data with the Board. Motion by Klages, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the following resolution for bridge replacement priority:

2023-18

WHEREAS, Big Stone County has reviewed the pertinent data on bridges requiring replacement, rehabilitation, or removal and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County has identified those bridges that are high priority and that require replacement, rehabilitation, or removal within the next five years;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following bridges are high priorities for replacement, major rehabilitation, or removal, and Big Stone County intends to replace, rehabilitate, or remove these bridges as soon as possible when funds are available; and

Old Bridge Number	Road Number and Name	Crossing	LPI	Total Project Cost	Township or State Bridge Funds Requested	Federal Funds	Local or State Aid Funds	Proposed Construction Year
L8877	480 th Street	FIVE MILE CREEK	48	\$361,000	\$341,000		\$20,000	2025

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Big Stone County does hereby request authorization to replace, rehabilitate, or remove such bridges; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Big Stone County does hereby request financial assistance with eligible approach grading and engineering costs on township bridges, as provided by law.

Roggenbuck requested to make the necessary changes to the Highway 5-year plan with the budge replacement. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to amend the 5-year Highway Plan.

Roggenbuck provided an update on various Highway Department activities.

Family Service Director Laura Laub presented the 2024 Purchase of Service Agreement with Someplace Safe. Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the agreement.

Laub presented the 2024 Countryside Public Health contract for Family Service services. Motion by Klages, seconded by Zimmel and carried to approve the contract.

Coordinator Rud presented the 2024 Tobacco Compliance Agreement with Countryside Public Health. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the agreement.

Rud presented the Opioid Educator Agreement with Countryside Public Health. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the agreement.

Rud presented the Small Cities Development Grant Agreement with the State of Minnesota. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Klages to approve the agreement.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson to rescind the previous motion due to conflict of interest with the SCGD project. Motion by Olson, seconded by Zimmel and carried to approve the agreement with the State of Minnesota for the SCDG. Commissioners Sandberg and Klages abstained.

Rud shared information on Operation Green Light to support our Veterans. Motion by Athey, seconded by Zimmel and carried to approve the following resolution:

2023-19

WHEREAS, the residents of Big Stone County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore be it RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Big Stone County hereby declares from November 6th through Veterans Day, November 11th 2023 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Big Stone County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 6th through the 12th, 2023.

Rud shared information regarding 2024 health insurance for the County. The County was notified that the previous provider, Gravie, would not be renewing Big Stone County for 2024 so the insurance committee has been actively working on options for 2024. Due to the County's cash-in-lieu cafeteria plan, they were not able to get quotes from other providers. One option that would work with the cash-in-lieu would be an ICHRA. Medsurety was identified as a provider to administer the County ICHRA plan. With an ICHRA, the County needs to fund the plan and cannot use current cafeteria dollars, so Rud recommended funding the ICHRA at \$100 per month for staff age 50 and over and \$50 per month for staff age 49 and under. Rud requested a motion to ratify the agreement with Medsurety for our 2024 health insurance and to approve the additional contributions. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to ratify Medsurety agreement and approve ICHRA contributions.

Work session included a reminder for the work session for November 16th from 8-12. Commissioner Klages shared that a representative from Nova Clean Energy had contacted him about wind energy development in the County. Commissioner Klages invited the representative to come to a future Board meeting to discuss.

Chairman Olson adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM.

Brent Olson, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Pam Rud, Coordinator