

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

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, December 17, 2019. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Klepel and Olson present. Commissioner Backer was absent. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, HR Director Dawn Gregoire, IT Director Matt Anderson, County Attorney Joe Glasrud and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Olson, second by Klepel and carried to approve the minutes of the December 3rd regular meeting.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the agenda with noted additions from Commissioner Athey.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – PrimeWest; AMC Conference; Countryside; Pioneerland

Athey – Property; Personnel

Commissioner Athey reported on the meeting he and Commissioner Sandberg attended with DNR representatives.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to execute the to execute the City Attorney contracts for Beardsley, Graceville and Ortonville as presented by Attorney Glasrud.

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

Big Stone Ag Service	\$15,629.17
City of Graceville	9,430.00
CPT	5,468.96
Lac qui Parle Sheriff	7,564.70
Reserve Account	2,000.00
Stevens County	15,254.48
West Con	17,801.67
44 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>19,694.06</u>
Total	<u>\$92,843.04</u>

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried to authorize the Auditor to pay any claims received by December 31st so as to account for them in the current year's business.

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

2019-31

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED THAT the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners commits the following portions of its fund balance per GASB 54 as follows:

General Fund:	\$ 325,018	For future Capital Project expenditures plus any future amounts received for the MCIT Workers Comp Dividend
	\$ 648,036	For future Building Maintenance expenditures plus any future amounts received for the MCIT Property Casualty Dividend
Highway Fund:	\$ 591,547	For County Road Projects plus any future amounts received from Gravel Tax
	\$ 5,813	For Fuel Pump replacement plus any future amounts allocated by departmental fuel use
Family Services Fund:	\$ 150,000	For Out of Home Placements

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klepel and carried to appoint James Conrad as the 4-H youth representative on the Extension Committee for a 2-year term.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the updated Elections Emergency Plan as presented by Auditor Knutson.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the Western Probation Services Joint Powers Agreement.

Surveyor Desmond Jibbon presented a preliminary plat for the Sunset View Area. Mr. Jibbon, County Recorder Elaine Martig and Environmental Director Darren Wilke provided an overview of how the revised plan came about. Motion by Athey, seconded by Klepel and carried to approve the preliminary plat as presented.

County Engineer Todd Larson shared a Year in Review power point presentation on the activities of the Highway Department during 2019.

The meeting was moved up to the courtroom to accommodate the number of landowners in attendance for the DNR's request for approval of a proposed acquisition in Otrej Township. Commissioner Backer also arrived at the meeting.

DNR representatives Curt Vacek and Joe Stangel were present to readdress their request for approval for the acquisition of property in Sections 15,22 and 23 of Otrej Township. Carl and Mark Moen were also present. Mr. Vacek provided an overview of what has transpired since the November 19th meeting when the request was tabled to allow time to review possible drainage issues. Following a lengthy discussion, a motion was made by Athey and seconded by Backer, based upon the need for DNR permission for drainage at Fitzner's Slough and Otrej Lake, to approve the acquisition with the following conditions:

1. DNR Waters grants a permit for Fitzner's Slough for a 15' draw down; and
2. DNR Waters grants a permit for Otrej Lake for a 5' draw down.

Motion carried with Commissioners Olson and Sandberg voting Nay for the reason that citizens have the right to sell their property to whoever they choose. Further discussion was held. Mr. Vacek expressed his disappointment with the Board's decision noting that the conditions included are a separate issue and not related to this particular property.

The meeting was moved back down to the Commissioners room.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried to execute the 2020-2021 MPCA County Feedlot Program Delegation Agreement Work Plan as presented by Environmental Director Wilke.

Discussion was held on assisting the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Administrator with operation of the dam. Consensus of the Board was to support the District with assistance from the Environmental Office when needed.

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

2019-32

WHEREAS, M.S. 375.055 provides that county commissioners shall receive annual salaries for services rendered while serving as a county commissioner and may receive per diem payments and reimbursement for necessary expenses.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2020 salary of the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners shall be \$15,000 and the per diem rate for service on any board, committee or commission or for the performance of services by individual commissioners when required by law shall be \$50 for in-county and \$75 for out-of-county.

Discussion was held on setting the elected officials' salaries. Chairman Sandberg asked each commissioner to share their thoughts on what they would recommend. A motion was made by Backer and seconded by Athey to give a 2½% increase to all except the Auditor who would receive a 2% increase. Following some discussion, the motion was amended to be 3% to the Sheriff and Attorney, 2½% to the Recorder and Treasurer and 2% to the Auditor. Motion failed with Commissioners Sandberg, Olson and Klepel voting Nay. A motion was made by Olson and seconded by Sandberg to increase the Sheriff and Attorney by 3% and the Recorder, Treasurer and Auditor by 2½%. Following further discussion, motion carried with Commissioners Athey and Backer voting Nay.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept the resignation of intermittent part-time Deputy Sheriff Craig Miska effective immediately. The Board expressed their thanks to Mr. Miska for his service to the County over the years.

Commissioner Athey reported on the phone conference that was held with Ron Quade and Jim Miller from the MN Department of Veterans Affairs regarding assistance for the VSO. Commissioner Athey stated that there may be funds available to help fund a position. Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize hiring a VSO assistant for 20 hours per week, scheduled from noon to 4:00 five days a week.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried to approve increasing the Deputy Emergency Manager's hours to 16 hours per week effective January 1st.

Commissioner Athey stated that he would like to start the process to hire a County Coordinator immediately. Motion by Athey, seconded by Klepel and carried to start the hiring process.

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

2019-33

BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County 2020 budget and levy be established as follows:

	GENERAL	HIGHWAY	FAMILY SERVICES	DEBT SERVICE	DITCH	2020 TOTAL
REVENUES						
Tax Levy & Aids	\$3,606,109	\$950,000	\$1,129,322	\$156,138		\$5,841,569
Other Taxes	\$8,000	\$155,000				\$163,000
Special Assessments					\$113,900	\$113,900
Licenses & Permits	\$19,500	\$2,000				\$21,500
Intergovernmental	\$668,094	\$3,905,500	\$1,385,103			\$5,958,697
Charges for Services	\$293,090	\$207,500	\$429,000			\$929,590
Investment Earnings	\$100,000	\$18,000				\$118,000
Miscellaneous	\$270,582	\$26,550	\$35,450			\$332,582
Other Financing Sources	\$5,500	\$5,925,000		\$115,466		\$6,045,966
TOTAL REVENUES	\$4,970,875	\$11,189,550	\$2,978,875	\$271,604	\$113,900	\$19,524,804
EXPENDITURES						
General Government	\$2,471,048					\$2,471,048
Public Safety	\$1,297,459					\$1,297,459
Highway		\$11,189,550				\$11,189,550
Sanitation	\$234,103					\$234,103
Family Services			\$2,978,875			\$2,978,875
Health	\$146,360					\$146,360
Culture & Recreation	\$180,447					\$180,447
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$494,504				\$62,419	\$556,923
Economic Development	\$416,142					\$416,142
Debt Service				\$194,179		\$194,179
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$5,240,063	\$11,189,550	\$2,978,875	\$194,179	\$62,419	\$19,665,086

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the scheduled debt service levy in the amount of \$325,965 for the 2015A GO Abatement Bonds is hereby canceled due to sufficient funds on hand as a result of loan payments received from Federated Telephone Cooperative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that \$60,000 of the scheduled debt service levy in the amount of \$120,981 for the 2019A GO CIP Bonds is hereby canceled due to sufficient funds on hand as a result of wheelage tax.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:46 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor