

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**February 15, 2022**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Chairman Klages called the meeting to order with Commissioners Sandberg, Olson, Backer and Athey present. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent and Coordinator Pam Rud. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the February 1<sup>st</sup> regular board meeting.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the agenda with the noted removal of Emergency Management annual report.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – HRA

Olson – Prime West, SHNFP

Backer – Personnel

Athey – SWCD, MRC, 1W1P, UMRWD, HRA

Klages – UMRDC, 1W1P, Personnel

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer to adopt the following resolution supporting HF2821/SF2670 and public safety initiative as presented by Coordinator Rud:

**2022-11**

WHEREAS, the County of Big Stone is writing in support of this important public safety initiative, HF 2821/SF 2670.

WHEREAS, effective radios are the backbone of public safety in the State of Minnesota. Our first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel depend upon this ARMER system to effectively perform their jobs. Radios save lives and serve every constituent of the State of Minnesota.

WHEREAS, radios that serve the ARMER system are outdated in many jurisdictions. They are costly to maintain and replace. In local government units, where budgets are tight, it is very difficult to plan for the costly process of replacing this critical infrastructure. Local government units would urge the state to fund a grant program that allows for the critical upgrade of radios. We would also encourage sustainable funding to support ongoing replacement costs.

WHEREAS, the cost to replace the aging radios is a direct impact of our local taxpayers. ARMER radios are critical to deploying resources, protecting property and life, and protecting our workers. However, they often get overlooked for replacement because there is no existing funding source.

WHEREAS, in Big Stone County, there are 253 radios on the statewide ARMER system, most of these radios are used by our small rural emergency departments. There are thirteen emergency services departments who serve Big Stone County who rely on this interoperability. The radios allow for communication between all emergency services departments

WHEREAS, Big Stone County has aging radios on the ARMER system that are no longer supported by Motorola, it is extremely difficult to find radio parts or used parts to fix or maintain the subscriber units. Our emergency services departments rely on the

ARMER radio system to provide the interoperability between the departments at the local, regional, State, and Federal levels. The replacement cost for the radios that are at the end of their life expectancy, range from \$2,500 to \$4,800 each, this expense does not include the radio programming or additional equipment, or supplies required to add the radio onto the Statewide radio system. The additional cost will be approximately \$400 per radio.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Big Stone County supports the HF 2821/SF 2670 and urges the importance of public safety initiative.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to authorize payment of the following claims as presented by Coordinator Rud:

|                               |                  |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Abdo                          | \$ 9,000.00      |
| CDW Government                | 5,346.59         |
| CPT                           | 5,837.00         |
| L&O Acres Transport           | 2,423.25         |
| Lac qui Parle Sheriff         | 8,270.29         |
| Little Falls Machine          | 3,073.97         |
| Marco                         | 3,078.00         |
| Pro West                      | 5,740.43         |
| 52 Payments Less Than \$2,000 | <u>29,392.74</u> |
| Total                         | \$72,162.27      |

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

|                                    |             |
|------------------------------------|-------------|
| General to Highway                 | \$ 2,119.56 |
| Ditch to Highway – County Ditch 16 | \$ 154.12   |

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

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the following resolution providing for the redemption of the 2009A General Obligation Capital Improvement Bonds:

**2022-12**

BE IT RESOLVED By the Board of Commissioners of Big Stone County, Minnesota (the “County”), as follows:

1. The County has issued its General Obligation Capital Improvement Bonds, Series 2009A dated September 15, 2009 (the “2009A Bonds”). The 2009A Bonds maturing on February 1 in the years 2023 through and including 2025 in the principal amount of \$250,000 (the “2009A Callable Bonds”), are subject to redemption and prepayment on any date at a price of par plus accrued interest.
2. It is determined that it is in the sound financial management of the County that the 2009A Callable Bonds be prepaid and redeemed on March 23, 2022, or such later date for which proper notice of call may be given, and such bonds are hereby called for redemption on such date.
3. The County Auditor-Treasurer is authorized and directed to request that Bond Trust Services Corporation, the paying agent and bond registrar (the “Registrar”) mail the Notice of the Call for Redemption in substantially the form attached hereto as **EXHIBIT A** to the registered owners of the 2009A Callable Bonds to be redeemed at the addresses shown on the registration books kept by the Registrar.

Coordinator Rud presented 2021 Vital Statistics information for Big Stone County provided by the Big Stone County Recorder. In 2021 the Recorder's Office brought in \$435,920.94 and they were 100% complaint in processing records in under 11 days.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to increase the County Recorder hours from 37.5 to 40 hours per week starting 2/19/22 through the end of 2022.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Athey and carried to increase VSO hours starting 2/19/22 from 30 hours to 37.5 hours per week.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to appoint Kim Danielson to the HRA Board. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to appoint Commissioner Sandberg as the alternate liaison to the HRA Board.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried to accept the Safe and Secure Courthouse Grant award of \$32,700.00 as presented by Sheriff Mark Brown.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the hiring of Alex Goergen as a Deputy Sheriff starting 2/23/22 on Grade 10, Step 2.

Human Resource Director Dawn Gregoire presented the Pay Equity Report. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the report as presented.

Engineer Larson provided updates on CSAH 16, CSAH 1, Otre Lake Outlet, roof and sealant building issues and presented a visitor access policy to the highway building. After discussion with the Board, it was requested that the visitor access policy be brought to the Safety Committee to review and recommend a policy for all County buildings.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the Family Service warrants as presented by Family Services Director Laura Laub.

Laub provided updates on Merit System EEO/AA plan, PrimeWest Case. Management Delegation Agreement, procurement, and childcare grant activities.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the Cooperative Child Support Agreement as presented by Laub.

A work session was held, and a Special Board meeting was set for Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 AM for the purpose of interviewing county attorney candidates. Also discussed was HRA loan request to assist individuals with repairs to their homes as well as upkeep needs at the HRA Highrise apartment building. The housing committee will continue to work on grant opportunities and a formal request for a loan from HRA will be presented at a future meeting.

Commissioner Klages adjourned the meeting at 9:42 AM.

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Jeff Klages, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Rud, Coordinator