

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
February 16, 2021

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, February 16, 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, IT Director Matt Anderson, Coordinator Pam Rud and Auditor-Treasurer Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

There were no items brought forward for the work session or any public comments received.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the February 2nd regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – PrimeWest; Countryside

Sandberg – Bond Call; HRA; Property/Safety; Audit

Athey – SWCD; HRA; Property

Klages – RLF; Pomme de Terre

Backer – CPT (2); BSAG

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

Anoka County	\$ 2,300.00
CPT	5,767.00
CXtec	2,175.00
Kandiyohi County Sheriff Dept	45,089.39
Lac qui Parle Sheriff	2,748.00
Marco	20,874.36
Rinke-Noonan	7,065.50
Stevens County	3,571.32
The Shop	3,751.89
33 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>12,367.39</u>
Total	\$105,709.85

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

General to Highway	\$1,136.72
Ditch to Highway – JD 4	\$ 151.82

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 execute the annual agreement with Countryside Public Health for tobacco compliance checks.

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

2021-11

WHEREAS, Big Stone County supports the grant application made to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for the Federal Recreational Trail Program.

The application to purchase of equipment for trail maintenance for the Big Stone Lake Sno Riders Trail System; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County recognizes the twenty-five (25) percent match requirement and that Big Stone Lake Sno Riders have secured the matching funds.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, if Big Stone County is awarded a grant by the DNR, Big Stone County agrees to accept the grant award, and may enter into an agreement with the State of Minnesota for the above referenced project. Big Stone County will comply with all applicable laws, environmental requirements and regulations as stated in the grant agreement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the applicant has read the Conflict of Interest Policy contained in the Trail Program Grant Manual and certifies it will report any actual, potential, perceived, or organizational conflicts of interest upon discovery to the State related to the application or grant award.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Auditor-Treasurer is authorized to serve as the fiscal agent for this project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Big Stone County hereby assures the equipment acquired through this grant will be maintained for no less than twenty (20) years as required by the Federal Recreational Trail Grant Program or until such time as appropriate disposition actions are approved by the DNR.

Discussion was held on the process for habitat easement requests. Consensus was that this is an opportunity to establish a process that can be used for the current request and any future requests that may affect drainage systems.

BSAG representative Vince Robinson was present to provide an update on the second round of business relief funding. 41 applications were received and the committee is recommending 31 businesses that qualify to receive funds. Motion by Backer and seconded by Sandberg to approve the recommended list and authorize reallocation if any are found to be ineligible. Discussion was held on whether the attestation of no liens was adequate. Robinson recommended that the County actually search the Secretary of State's website versus just relying on the applicant's attestation. Following the discussion, motion carried with Commissioner Athey abstaining.

County Engineer Todd Larson provided a highway update. Highway Maintenance Supervisor/Drainage Inspector Darby Karsky was also present.

Discussion was held on the County's wetland credits. Engineer Larson reported that the intent of the credits was to use them for future road projects. BWRS now has a bank for the counties to use for that purpose. However, concerns were expressed over the sustainability of the BWRS bank and therefore keeping county credits for future road project use is a benefit. Board consensus was to address any requests for credits on a case-by-case basis. Attorney Glasrud and Engineer Larson were directed to address any legal issue with selling credits and report back with a plan to the next meeting.

Engineer Larson provided an update on the recent Joint Ditch 4 clean out and the call had with DNR representatives. A MPARS permit request has been submitted.

Engineer Larson also provided an update on the DNR's appeal to the County Ditch 21 reestablishment of records. A settlement has been proposed, but no decision was made and there will be an upcoming meeting to discuss the County's position.

Engineer Larson provided a brief building update.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to authorize the sale of miscellaneous motors and parts at the Highway Department that are no longer in use or even usable.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 9:56 AM.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor-Treasurer