

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**March 2, 2021**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 2, 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, Vanessa Lhotka-Meyer, Randy Rolfsmeier, IT Director Matt Anderson, County Attorney Joe Glasrud 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 Athey, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the minutes of the February 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Pioneerland

Sandberg – Property; MSI; Safety

Athey – Law Library; AMC Env; Prairie 5; Fair Board; Extension

Klages – Property; ESB; Safety; Extension; Personnel

Backer – RDC; BdSWD; AMC HHS; CPT; Personnel

Jason Mork from the Ortonville Trap Team requested a one-time variance to their conditional use permit to partner with the Big Stone Healthcare Foundation for a trap shoot on Saturday, June 26, 2021. Following discussion, motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the request. Commissioner Olson expressed his appreciation to the adjacent landowners for their flexibility.

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

Abdo Eick & Meyers	\$26,000.00
City of St. Cloud	10,230.45
L & O Acres Transport	4,733.75
MnCCC	2,415.00
Office Peeps	3,389.29
QuinnPro Quality Painting	3,140.00
31 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>7,709.95</u>
Total	<u>\$57,618.44</u>

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to authorize Auditor-Treasurer Knutson to proceed with the refunding process of the Abatement Bonds.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to transfer the Highway Petty Cash funds to checking as requested by the Highway Department as it is not being used.

Discussion was held on a membership request from the Yellowstone Trail Alliance of Wester Minnesota. The matter was tabled until more information is gathered on how a membership would benefit the County.

Chairman Backer provided information on a draft resolution from MRC regarding the proposed rule making process for adopting low and zero-emission vehicle mandates by MPCA. Motion by Athey and seconded by Backer to adopt the resolution as

presented. Following discussion, the resolution was edited and the motion carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2021-12**

WHEREAS, Big Stone County is responsible for providing essential government services such as transportation infrastructure and solid waste management that promote a vibrant community; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County works tirelessly to be good stewards of our tax dollars and provide these programs in a cost-effective and efficient manner; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is in the process of adopting California's Low-Emission Vehicle (LEV) and Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) mandates; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of these rules is being conducted by rulemaking, which limits the scope of the discussion to a narrow set of issues, precluding a broader policy debate on the economic development, transportation, energy, and waste disposal impacts of the policy. The proposed rule and process for adopting it also fail to address many of the Minnesota-specific concerns related to our county's demographics and climate; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Big Stone County encourages the Walz administration to withdraw its proposed rulemaking and bring a proposal to the Legislature where a more comprehensive policy can be considered.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Big Stone County stands ready to advise the Governor, his administration, and our regional Legislators on proactive methods to achieve the goals raised by Governor Walz without adversely impacting our ability to provide public services.

US Fish & Wildlife representatives Blake Knisley and Bruce Freske were present via TEAMS to follow-up on their request for certification of acquisition of land for a habitat easement in Akron Township. Discussion was held on proposed language to be added to the easement to address the drainage rights for County Ditch 2. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to certify for acquisition the following described property owned by Randal and Susan Rolfsmeier for a habitat easement contingent on the additional language being added to the easement documents:

T121N, R44W, 5th PM, Section 26, the W1/2 SE1/4 and the SW1/4, including Lot C of the SW1/4; Lot A of the SW1/4 SW1/4; and Lot B of the SW1/4 & SW1/4 SE1/4. The additional language to be included is as follows: *ALSO SUBJECT to the right of way of any ditches under the Drainage Authority and associated rights of entry and occupation for inspection and maintenance purposes pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E.* The County Board would also like this included in all future requests.

EMD Dona Greiner provided a general emergency management update. Deputy EMD Val Seifert was also present.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept a \$189 donation from Sandy Bakeberg to the Sheriff's Department as presented by Sheriff Mark Brown. The funds will be used for the DARE program.

Environmental Director Darren Wilke was present to provide additional information on the County's wetland credits. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to set the price at \$1 per square foot plus any costs related to the approved purchase.

Wilke also provided an update on BWSR's Performance Review Assessment Program (PRAP) and on the notices sent out for buffer-noncompliance.  
Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 9:55 AM.

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Jay Backer, Chairman

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