

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
April 21, 2020

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met via Microsoft Teams at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer, Klepel, Olson and Sandberg participating. Also online were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Joe Glasrud, County Auditor Michelle Knutson and other department heads and staff. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to approve the minutes of the April 7th regular board meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to approve the agenda.

EMD Dona Greiner provided an update on COVID-19 and reported that her office is working on updating the Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP) for essential services.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

- Olson – Countryside; P&Z; PrimeWest; PLS
- Sandberg – MSI
- Athey – EM Mtgs; SWCD; Prairie 5; P&Z; Dept Head
- Backer – EM Mtgs; Personnel; Woodland
- Klepel – BSAG

Commissioner Athey also reported on other meetings/calls he participated in.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to authorize payment of the following claims as presented by Auditor Knutson:

Abdo, Eick & Meyers	\$ 6,000.00
Anoka County	2,000.00
City of Graceville	5,697.00
Contech Engineered Solutions	11,905.48
CPT	5,652.00
ESRI	2,528.00
Kandiyohi County Sheriff Dept	36,267.54
L&O Acres Transport	2,549.75
LG Everist	5,508.47
MnCCC	8,491.75
Mustang Survival	14,664.84
Ortonville Independent	4,413.79
Prairie Lakes Youth Programs	2,462.99
Rinke-Noonan	2,643.00
The Shop	2,139.71
Waste Management	11,267.38
West Con	3,863.82
39 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>12,216.91</u>
Total	<u>\$140,272.43</u>

Motion by Klepel, seconded by Sandberg and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to authorize payment to Liftoff as an auditor warrant in the amount of \$21,284.40.

Auditor Knutson requested approval to start rolling out the use of electronic timesheets. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to approve the use of electronic timesheets as requested by Auditor Knutson.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to accept the NG911 grant funds and execute the grant application addendum and authorize Sheriff Mark Brown to sign the addendum on behalf of the County.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to hire Kelsey Pederson at Grade 10 Step 1 effective May 18, 2020 as recommended by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

HR Director Gregoire reported that department heads had met via TEAMS on Friday to review the Coordinator job description. Motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to approve the job description as presented. Discussion was held on moving forward with filling the position and concerns with the timing from board members were expressed. Following further discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to proceed with drafting interview questions, but stop there for now. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to appoint the Personnel Committee as the board's appointees to the Review Committee.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to appoint the Board Chair as the hiring manager for the Assistant CVSO position.

Michael Potter, a commissioner from Wright County and the president of Minnesota Transportation Alliance, called in to ask the Board to reconsider their decision to drop their membership with the Alliance. County Engineer Todd Larson was also on the call. Mr. Potter clarified that membership fees are calculated using a CSAH formula with the County's share being \$1,586. Commissioner Backer shared some of his concerns including the lobbyists concentrating on gas tax and not taking a complete comprehensive approach. Commissioner Olson agreed with some of the concerns but feels there is value in membership for the rural counties. Following discussion, motion by Olson and seconded by Sandberg to continue the County's membership in the Alliance. Motion carried via roll call vote 3-2 with Commissioners Athey and Backer voting Nay.

Environmental Director Darren Wilke reviewed the recent Planning Commission meeting addressing Lismore Colony's conditional use permit (CUP) application to establish a confinement swine finishing barn. Jeff Bauman from Anez Consulting was also present on the call. Wilke stated that the Commission is recommending approval with a condition that a road maintenance agreement is completed with Prior Township to address road use, deterioration and maintenance. Motion by Olson and seconded by Backer to approve the CUP as recommended by the Planning Commission. Following further discussion, motion carried via roll call vote 4-0 with Commissioner Athey abstaining.

Environmental Director Wilke provided information on MPCA's regulatory flexibility to assist entities that will have an unavoidable noncompliance situation directly due to impact from COVID-19. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to authorize Environmental Director Wilke to sign temporary extensions to exceed the number of animal units in county feedlot permits/registrations for up to 45 days through this emergency situation and address disposal options if necessary.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Klepel and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to execute the agreement with Upper MN River Watershed District for Environmental Office staff to operate the dam during District staff absences at the normal 1W1P billable rate of \$40/hour and authorizing Environmental Director Wilke to sign the agreement.

Environmental Director Wilke reviewed the County's agreement with Eagleview for the second fly over of this contract. Due to the pandemic, they are offering a free upgrade to a 3" countywide resolution if we push the flyover back to June. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to authorize Wilke to sign the addendum for the free upgrade and date change.

Environmental Director Wilke reported that SW, Inc. has cancelled all appliance collections for this summer. Consensus of the Board is to also postpone the hazardous waste collection until a later time. He also stated he will sign the SCORE Grant Agreement upon County Attorney review. Authority to sign had previously been given at a past meeting while discussing this being the first year the County had to sign an agreement for this annual grant.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to execute the aggregate crushing contract with Brown Excavating for CP 06-2001-SP.

Engineer Larson presented the following bid summary for the seal coat projects:

Bituminous Paving	\$ 157,371.78
Allied Blacktop Company	\$ 182,562.73

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to award the bid to Bituminous Paving.

Engineer Larson presented the following bid summary for the mill and overlay projects:

Central Specialties	\$1,870,695.43
Duininck	\$1,909,820.49
Bituminous Paving	\$1,979,274.85
Mark Sand & Gravel	\$2,115,079.79

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried via roll call vote 5-0 to award the bid to Central Specialties.

Engineer Larson provided an update on the status of DNR permits for Peterson Lake, Fitzner's Slough and Otrey Lake.

Discussion was held on possible property tax relief. Treasurer Cindy Nelson reported that she has not received any calls from taxpayers to date and that she has contacted our neighboring 6 counties on what they are considering. At this time they have not passed any changes to current policies and due dates. Discussion followed on several options. It was decided to wait on any action until the May 5th meeting to allow for updated information.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 10:32 AM.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor