

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
June 15, 2021

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 6:00 PM on Tuesday, June 15, 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, Coordinator Pam Rud and Auditor-Treasurer Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

There were no public comments received.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the minutes of the June 1st regular meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the agenda with noted addition.

Drainage Inspector Darby Karsky reported that the weeds are back on County Ditch 2 and that he has received a petition to remove them. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the expenditure. The County will do the clean out with the equipment purchased last year to do this kind of work.

Commissioner Klages reported on the meeting with the DNR on last year's cleanout of County Ditch 2 in Section 5 in Akron Township the nearby WMA. It was agreed that the County will clean the original established Ditch 2 with the DNR establishing the property line between the SW $\frac{1}{4}$ and the SE $\frac{1}{4}$ and the County will place an earthen plug (dam) at the north end of the private ditch in the NE corner of the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ on the WMA. The spoils from the cleanout in 2020 do not have to be replaced in the private ditch, but the County has agreed to provide weed control for 2 years for this area. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to authorize the additional cleanout and restoration of the previous cleanout.

Inspector Karsky reported that with the State redoing Hwy 12, there will need to be some checking for inlets on County Ditch 5. Motion by Klages, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize the expenditure to assist with the road project.

Environmental Director Darren Wilke presented a purchase agreement from Bituminous Paving for .08 acres of wetland credit. Motion by Klages, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the purchase agreement for the sale of the credits in the amount of \$3,484.50.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to change the agent of record to Benefits Consultant William Chukuske of National Insurance Services (NIS) for the County's employee insurance coverages and authorize HR Director Dawn Gregoire to sign on behalf of the County.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the Recorder job description at Grade 12 as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

HR Director Gregoire reviewed the changes made to the Employee Handbook. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the updated Handbook as presented.

HR Director Gregoire reported that the Personnel Committee is recommending the County move the Coordinator position to full time. The position will be posted internally and a screening tool and interview questions will be developed. Motion by Olson and seconded by Sandberg to approve the full-time position. HR Director

Gregoire reported that the job description was already approved. She also stated that the position would be a Grade 19 on the scale, but could also be done by an employment agreement. Motion carried.

Attorney Glasrud reported that the Personnel Committee is recommending to adopt a non-reappointment resolution prepared by Ann Goering, the County's employment attorney. Motion by Klages, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution approving the notice of intent not to reappoint Daniel Meyer as County Veterans Service Officer and approving non-reappointment:

2021-19

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statute § 197.60, a Veterans Service Officer (VSO) must be notified in writing at least ninety (90) days in advance of the expiration of the term of the VSO of the County's decision not to be reappointed to another term; NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners as follows:

1. Daniel Meyer shall not be reappointed as Veterans Service Officer.
2. The Board has reviewed and hereby approves the letter of Notice of Non-Reappointment to be sent to Meyer.
3. The Board Chair is authorized to sign the letter of Notice of Non-Reappointment on behalf of the County.
4. The County Coordinator is directed to place a copy of this Resolution and the letter in Meyer's personnel file and make arrangements to have the documents served on Meyer.

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

CPT	\$ 5,687.00
Kandiyohi County Recycling	2,848.18
Lac qui Parle Sheriff	3,808.07
M-R Sign Co	5,590.83
MCIT	5,517.00
Northland Business Systems	3,460.37
Office Peeps	2,850.00
Ortonville Independent	2,602.11
Stevens County	3,025.12
Waste Management	11,108.34
West Con	10,228.96
36 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>10,800.51</u>
Total	\$67,526.49

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the following internal transactions:

General to Highway	\$ 1,307.58
Ditch to Highway	\$ 1,236.03
County Ditch 2	\$1,128.33
Joint Ditch 7	\$ 107.70

Auditor-Treasurer Knutson asked for questions and/or comments on the year-to-date financial information provided for the Board's review.

Auditor-Treasurer Knutson opened the following bids for the farm leases in Browns Valley Township:

Section 16 (Landfill)	Kenneth Hendricks	\$ 81/acre
	Jeff Schmidt	\$162/acre
Section 31 (Rieck Pit)	Craig Doschadis	\$120/acre
	Jeff Schmidt	\$125/acre

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to accept the high bids from Jeff Schmidt.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – PrimeWest; Countryside; AMC District Meeting

Sandberg – Property; HRA

Athey – HRA

Klages – Property; Personnel; ESB; Pomme de Terre; RLF

Backer – Personnel

Discussion was held on updating the Commissioners' Room with technology and different furniture. Board members were asked to stop and look at the proposed layout of the room after the meeting. Following discussion, motion by Olson and seconded by Sandberg to approve up to \$15,000 towards the project. Motion carried with Commissioner Athey voting Nay.

Attorney Glasrud reported that he will be removing the note from the bottom of the agenda allowing commissioners to attend electronically.

The work session included discussion on the space and storage shortages. There are several properties in the City currently owned by the EDA. Consensus was for Coordinator Rud to pursue conversations with the EDA.

Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Administrator Amber Doschadis called in to the meeting to request a short-term loan to purchase land for the Whetstone Restoration Project until the awarded grant funds are received. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution:

2021-20

WHEREAS, the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District's Whetstone River Restoration project was awarded a grant through MN DNR for work on the MN design; and

WHEREAS, the grant is on a reimbursement basis and the upcoming land purchases for the project are larger than normal invoices for services the District provides; and

WHEREAS, the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District is requesting a short-term loan from Big Stone County to complete the purchases of land for the Whetstone Project and is requesting \$700,000 to be used for the land purchases;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Big Stone County approves the loan request to be paid back within 90 days at 1% interest with the option to pay off early as the reimbursements of funds are received.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor-Treasurer

