

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
July 20, 2021

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, July 20, 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.

During the work session, Commissioner Olson brought up the possibility of using American Rescue Plan funds for affordable housing.

There were no public comments received.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the July 6th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – Museum

Athey – SWCD; UMRWD; HRA

Klages – Personnel (3); BSAG; Safety; ESB

Olson – Countryside

Backer – Personnel (2); BSAG; Woodland

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
Lac qui Parle Sheriff	2,462.68
Marco	2,977.25
Nelson Electric	24,732.59
Pro West & Associates	3,347.61
West Con	9,577.29
Ziegler	4,189.46
42 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>18,513.08</u>
Total	\$71,486.96

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

General to Highway	\$ 2,071.12
Ditch to Highway	\$ 5,510.92
County Ditch 2	\$4,803.29
Joint Ditch 4	\$ 134.90
Joint Ditch 7	\$ 192.73
County Ditch 8	\$ 380.00

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the Liquor License for Club 7-75 as presented by Auditor-Treasurer Knutson.

Discussion was held on the Artichoke Lake Outlet. Drainage Inspector Darby Karsky reported that he went out and did an inspection and found it to be in good working condition in the portion that is in Big Stone County except for the two side inlet pipes that are rusting and should be replaced. He stated that Doug Larson does a great job of keeping it mowed every year. However, he also reported that the portion in Swift

County needs to be cleaned out. Karsky has been in contact with their Assistant Engineer and he will look into it. Auditor-Treasurer Knutson provided a brief history of expenditure activity. Following discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to authorize Karsky to replace the pipes and spray the willows in the Big Stone County portion. Karsky will continue to have discussions with Swift County.

Drainage Inspector Karsky reported that the old portion of County Ditch 2 in Section 5 has been cleaned and once spoils dry out, they will be leveled. He also reported that the coontail on the south end were removed with the new contraption (landscape rake made to mount on an excavator) and it worked very well. Videos were shown for those present on the clean outs.

Engineer Todd Larson provided an update on department activities.

The annual Highway 5-Year Plan meeting was set for August 17th at 1:00 PM at the Highway Department as requested by County Engineer Todd Larson.

Amber Doschadis from the Upper MN River Watershed District was present to request vacation of a portion of CSAH 15. A petition to vacate was presented. Engineer Larson reported that when the road is officially vacated, CSAH 15 will need to be revoked from the State Aid System and the county will no longer be able to draw needs on those miles. Revoked miles will go into our banked CSAH mileage and could be added elsewhere in the County system at a later time and that this request would require final approval from the Commissioner of Transportation.

Emergency Management Director Dona Greiner provided an update on her office's activities.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the Emergency Operations Plan as presented by Greiner.

Family Services Director Pam Rud provided a Family Services update. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the claims as presented.

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

2021-25

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency has made available Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program grant monies to encourage and support innovation at the local level to help prevent homelessness, reduce the length of homeless episodes, and reduce repeated episodes of homelessness, and

WHEREAS, Area service providers who administer programs that address families crisis needs have identified gaps within the service delivery system, and

WHEREAS, Area service providers who administer programs that address families crisis needs have identified strategies to address the identified service gaps,

WHEREAS, Area service providers wish to continue to work together to coordinate their services and improve the service delivery system,

WHEREAS, United Community Action Partnership as the Grantee desires to make an application on behalf of the area service providers for funds to address these identified problems,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Big Stone agrees to support United Community Action Partnership (with Prairie Five Community Action Council as a sub-grantee) in its application and implementation of the proposed Family Homeless

Prevention and Assistance Program for the period of October 1, 2021 to September 30, 2023.

HR Director Dawn Gregoire reported that Financial Worker Billie Wendell has submitted her resignation and her last day is July 27th. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to accept Wendell's resignation and authorize filling the position.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the updated Data Practices Policy as reviewed by Attorney Glasrud and presented by Gregoire.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to close the meeting at 9:34 AM for labor negotiations at 9:34 AM. The Commissioners, HR Director Gregoire, Coordinator Rud and Attorney Glasrud were present during the closed session.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Klages and carried to reopen the meeting at 9:51 AM at which time Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting.

Jay Backer, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor-Treasurer