

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**July 6, 2021**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, July 6, 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 items to be discussed during the work session.

No public comments were received.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the June 15<sup>th</sup> regular meeting and the June 15<sup>th</sup> Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting.

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

Attorney Joe Glasrud arrived at the meeting.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – LELS

Athey – LELS; Prairie 5

Olson – Pioneerland

Klages – Personnel (2)

Backer – Woodland; Workforce; RDC; Personnel (2)

Commissioner Sandberg reported that he has been asked to serve on the RDC's Bike and Trails Advisory Committee. Board consensus was to have him represent the County on the Committee.

Highway Technician Derrick Loeschke provided information on the opportunity to have the County participate in the Red River Watershed Management Board's Lidar Data Collection this fall. Another opportunity will be in 2023 when MNDot will be doing the rest of the State. Following discussion, motion by Olson and seconded by Klages to approve the expenditure and participate in the project this fall. Following further discussion, motion carried.

Loeschke also provided an update on the department's paving projects for the Board's information.

Attorney Glasrud provided an opioid litigation update.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Athey and carried to adopt the following resolution approving the sale of real property:

**2021-22**

WHEREAS, on or about September 1, 2020, Big Stone County acted to allow the sale of the real property described below by Big Stone County to Graceville Golf Club, Inc.;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 373.01, subd. 1(i), a county may convey real property without advertising for bid when the real property is owned in fee simple and cannot be improved because of noncompliance with local ordinances regarding minimum area, shape, frontage, or access, and the real property described below meets is such a property;

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 373.01, subd. 1(i), a county may restrict the sale of such a property to adjoining landowners and Graceville Golf Club, Inc., is the only other adjoining landowner to the property;

WHEREAS, 90 percent of the assessed value of the property described below as of the County action on September 1, 2020, was \$1350, and this amount represents the minimum legal sale amount for the property to an adjoining landowner; and WHEREAS, a resolution authorizing sale appears to be necessary for the transfer of title;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. For consideration in the amount of One Thousand Three Hundred Fifty dollars (\$1,350.00), plus any deed tax and recording fees necessary to the transaction, Big Stone County authorizes sale to Graceville Golf Club, Inc. of real property in Big Stone County, Minnesota, legally described as follows:

That part of Government Lot Nine (9), Section Sixteen (16), Township One Hundred Twenty-four (124) North, Range Forty-six (46) West described as follows: Commencing at the northwest corner of said Lot Nine (9), thence south along the west line thereof a distance of Three Hundred Thirteen (313.0) feet, thence north Seventy-one (71) degrees and Thirty-eight (38) minutes east a distance of Seven Hundred Fifty-four (754.0) feet, more or less, to the westerly right-of-way line of the present highway as laid out, thence northerly along said right-of-way line a distance of Sixty (60) feet to the north line of said Lot Nine (9), thence west along said north line a distance of Seven Hundred Twenty-six (726.0) feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, containing three and one-tenth (3.1) acres together with all hereditaments and appurtenances belonging thereto.

2. Jay Backer, the Chair of the Big Stone County Board of County Commissioners, and Auditor-Treasurer Michelle R. Knutson, the clerk for the County Board, are authorized to sign a quitclaim deed conveying the above-described property upon receipt by Big Stone County of the above-referenced monetary consideration, EXCEPT: The Deed will not convey and quitclaim rights that Big Stone County is required to retain under Minn. Stat. § 373.01, subd. 1(h).

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve and execute the 3-month license agreement for storage with the City of Ortonville as presented by Attorney Glasrud.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to execute the 3-year farm leases with Jeff Schmidt.

Attorney Glasrud left the meeting.

Drainage Inspector Darby Karsky provided pictures of County Ditch 2 as a follow-up to the last meeting showing where the survey of the original ditch is located. The survey shows that this location is also on the DNR's property and not the property line as was the thought when the meeting was held with the DNR. There is approximately 40 feet between the two channels. Commissioner Klages commented that it appears it was incorrectly surveyed back when they did the installation in the early 1900s. The DNR would still like the ditch moved back to its original location.

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

Berkner Plumbing & Heating	\$ 2,995.00
Clayton Brobst/SJJK Plumbing & Heating	13,786.66
CDW Government	3,030.89
Office Peeps	5,092.74
Pro West & Associates	5,373.30

Regents of the U of MN	18,814.00
Traverse County Sheriff	2,068.68
45 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>19,305.27</u>
Total	\$70,466.54

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

Motion by Athey, seconded by Backer and carried to reappoint Gary Haugen to the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Board of Managers for a 3-year term effective August 10, 2021 through August 13, 2024.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve MN Life Insurance Company Compensation Notice and Disclosure Statement as requested by HR Director Gregoire and authorize her to sign the document.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to approve the hiring of David Moberg for the Highway Maintenance Worker position at Grade 8 Step 1 as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried to authorize filling the Seasonal Highway Worker position vacated by Moberg.

HR Director Gregoire requested approval to hire a full-time Appraiser to aid in succession planning in the Assessor's Office. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the request with Commissioner Athey voting Nay.

HR Director Gregoire requested approval to hire a full-time Deputy Recorder due to the upcoming retirement in the Recorder's Office. Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the hiring as requested.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Klages and carried to adopt the following resolution:

### **2021-23**

WHEREAS, Minnesota statutes requires that County Board of Commissioners have oversight and ultimate authority over County Human Services; and

WHEREAS, Department of Human Services for the State of Minnesota recognizes that Big Stone County Family Services is organized under Minn. Stat. Chap. 393 and as such, requires oversight by the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County Board of Commissioners desires to be in conformity with requirements of state statute pertaining to oversight and governance of its county human services department; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County Board will assume all obligations of operation and oversight of its county human services department as is required by state law; and

WHEREAS, any contracts that have been duly executed by the Social Service Board shall continue in full force and effect as the County Board ultimately has authorization over all contracts executed by any county agency; and

WHEREAS, the County Board shall set at least one County Board meeting per month with a block of time dedicated solely for the purposes of county human services related matters with the time, place, notices, agendas, and minutes all complying with state statutes; and

WHEREAS, the County Board shall begin to set County Board meetings with dedicated county human services agendas in the month of August, 2021, and continue thereafter at least monthly or until the County Board otherwise directs; and

WHEREAS, the County Board has personnel oversight over all employees employed by Big Stone County regardless of what agency or department they work in and all

employees are expected to adhere to the policies and procedures established by the County Board, regardless of their union or non-union status.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, effective immediately, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners will have direct oversight and authority over the county's human services agency; any powers previously conferred to social services board are revoked and said authority rests solely with the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners, the same as it is for all agencies and departments within Big Stone County.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to adopt the following resolution of intent to appoint the County Recorder:

**2021-24**

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. §375A.1205 allows a county board to appoint certain offices including the County Recorder; and

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners recognizes the benefit to having appointed persons in the position of County Recorder because it promotes efficiency and consistency of County business with individuals qualified to oversee a broad spectrum of complex issues within the Recorder's Office; and

WHEREAS, there is a signed contract with the county board and incumbent recorder that the incumbent officer will be appointed to the position and retain tenure, pay and benefits equal to or greater than length of service pursuant to Minn. Stat. §375A.1205, Subd. 1.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners hereby notifies the public of its intent to appoint a County Recorder by action of the County Board and in accordance with applicable Personnel Rules and statutes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners will hear Public Comments on August 3, 2021, at 8:30 a.m. during its regular board meeting regarding appointment of the Recorder with said appointment taking place by signed contract with the incumbent Recorder.

Chairman Backer adjourned the meeting at 9:08 AM.

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Jay Backer, Chairman

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