

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
July 7, 2020

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, July 7, 2020. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer, Klepel, and Sandberg present. Commissioner Olson was participating via Teams. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, Family Services Director Pam Rud, Assistant CVSO Ward Odom, County Attorney Joe Glasrud and Deputy Auditor Heather Henrich. Other department heads and staff were participating via phone. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The work session began with a discussion on appointing an interim County Coordinator. Family Service Director Pam Rud had met earlier with the Personnel Committee to discuss the Memorandum of Understanding. Discussion followed and it was noted that clerking the Board was moved back to the County Auditor for now. Commissioner Sandberg questioned how the Personnel Committee would be utilized going forward with Commissioner Backer responding it would be used at the discretion of the County Coordinator. Commissioners agreed on the terms of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the minutes of the June 16th regular board meeting. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the minutes of the June 23rd Board of Appeal and Equalization meeting.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to approve the agenda with the following changes:

1. Add County Treasurer Cindy Nelson's retirement
2. Remove Sale of Current Highway Garage
3. Add Leasing the Ortonville Armory for Jury trials

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Olson – Primewest; Pioneerland

Sandberg – MSI; Museum

Athey – EM Mtg; Fair Board; Personnel; Prairie 5; CARES Act

Backer – Woodland; CPT; RDC; Personnel; Bois de Sioux

Commissioner Backer presented the Western Probation Services 2020 Salary Adjustments. Discussion followed. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer to table decision until the July 21st meeting and invite Tony Frisch to meet with the Board to answer questions.

Attorney Glasrud reported that because of social distancing, Court Administration believes that the Big Stone County Courtroom can be used in misdemeanor trials with a 6-person jury, but any felony trials with a 12-person jury would need to be held in a larger space. The Ortonville Armory has been toured and it was determined that the space would meet the court's needs. IT and Court Administrator will also tour with the plan to begin using in September if needed. Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to give County Attorney Glasrud authority to enter into a lease agreement with the Ortonville Armory.

Countryside Public Health Administrator Liz Auch provided a COVID update. Lacy Joyce was also present. Discussion followed about additional COVID related costs and a request was made to have access to Big Stone County CARES Act funds, estimating those costs to be \$11,000-\$20,000 for Big Stone County.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to adopt the following resolution as presented by Assistant CVSO Ward Odom:

2020-22

BE IT RESOLVED that Big Stone County enter into a Grant Contract with the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs (MDVA) to conduct the County Veterans Service Office Operational Enhancement Grant Program. The grant must be used to provide outreach to the County's veterans; to assist in the reintegration of combat veterans into society; to collaborate with other social service agencies, educational institutions, and other community organizations for the purposes of enhancing services offered to veterans; to reduce homelessness among veterans; and to enhance the operations of the County Veterans Service Office, as specified in Minnesota Statute 197.608 and Minnesota Laws 2017, Chapter 4, Article 1, Section 38, Subdivision 2. This Grant should not be used to supplant or replace other funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Chairman and Assistant CVSO be authorized to execute the Grant Contract for the above-mentioned Program on behalf of the County.

EM Director Dona Greiner informed the Board that the County EOC is still activated and monitoring the COVID situation. The focus is now on long term recovery. Discussion followed about the CARES Act funds and how they would be utilized. Commissioner Backer has been in contact with BSAG and it was suggested that the County set up a CARES Act Task Force. Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to organize a CARES Act Task Force. After further discussion, motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize Chairman Athey to sign any forms relating to CARES Act reimbursement.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Klepel and carried to approve the IT Services agreement with MSI as presented by IT Director Matt Anderson.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to authorize payment of the following claims as presented by Deputy Auditor Henrich:

Bob Walsh Enterprises	\$ 9,944.00
City of Ortonville	2,530.00
Contech Engineered Solutions	14,566.80
Government Forms and Supplies	2,782.99
U of MN	19,017.88
Stevens County	12,148.78
West Con	5,562.78
47 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>18,030.04</u>
Total	<u>\$84,583.27</u>

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried to authorize the following internal transactions:

General to Highway	\$ 1,332.02
Ditch to Highway	\$ 3,931.57
County Ditch 2	\$3,078.12
Joint Ditch 4	\$ 853.45

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg to approve the revised CPT Joint Powers Agreement pending County Attorney Glasrud's approval.

Deputy Auditor Henrich presented a dilapidated structure application from Cory Fuhrman. The building has already been removed as it had collapsed next to his business. Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to approve the application and contribute \$3,000 to the project.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to reappoint Terry Gillespie to the Upper MN River Watershed District Board of Managers for a 3-year term effective August 11, 2020 through August 8, 2023.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to adopt the following resolution for final payment to Bitumious Paving, Inc.

2020-23

WHEREAS, CP 006-001-020, CP 006-002-020, and CP 006-003-020 have in all things been completed and the County Board being fully advised in the premises.

NOW THEN BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board hereby accepts said completed projects for and on behalf of the County of Big Stone, and authorize final payment to Bituminous Paving, Inc. in the amount shown on final pay estimate.

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

Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to hire Heather LaMee as Child Support Officer at Grade 8 Step 1 effective July 13, 2020, as recommended by HR Director Dawn Gregoire.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to fill the Case Aide position vacated by LaMee.

HR Director Gregoire presented an amendment to the Flex Spending Plan that will no longer allow part-time employees not eligible for our health coverage to enroll in the plan. We currently have no part-time employees enrolled, but when reviewing our plan document, the change was recommended. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Klepel and carried to approve the Flex Spending Plan Amendment as presented.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the Nationwide Plan amendment that provides clarification on how the guaranteed minimum interest rate is calculated for the Fixed Annuity Account as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the Retiree Medicare Supplement Plan, which allows retiree spouses to have access to the current Big Stone County plan through direct bill. The County will not sign them up for the benefit or handle any of the billing, that will all be done through Blue Cross Blue Shield.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the extension of the personal unpaid leave request for VSO Dan Meyer until August 4, 2020.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to appoint Pam Rud as the Interim Coordinator and approve the Memorandum of Understanding effective July 13, 2020. Commissioner Sandberg thanked all involved in the Coordinator process and expressed his appreciation for their time spent.

County Treasurer Cindy Nelson presented the Board with a letter announcing her retirement on December 31, 2020. The Board applauded her 46 years of service and is appreciative of her dedication to the County.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting at 9:58 AM.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Heather M. Henrich, Deputy Auditor