

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
August 18, 2020

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the courtroom at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, August 18, 2020. Chairman Athey called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer, Klepel, Olson and Sandberg present. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, Jeff Klages, Coordinator Pam Rud, County Auditor Michelle Knutson. Several staff were participating via phone. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

The work session began with an update from Rud on the CARES Act funding noting that BSAG will be approving the application that will be used for businesses later today. The next task force meeting is next week.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to approve the minutes of the July 29th special meeting and the August 4th regular board meeting.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the agenda with the removal of the approval of the Case Aide hire.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

- Sandberg – Property
- Olson – Countryside
- Athey – Property; CARES; Personnel
- Backer – CARES; CPT; BdSWD; Personnel; Woodland
- Klepel – RLF

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

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|-------------------------------|---------------------|
| CPT | \$ 5,652.00 |
| Countryside Public Health | 63,429.00 |
| Kandiyohi County Sheriff Dept | 3,782.00 |
| Nelson Electric | 4,750.00 |
| Regents of U of MN | 3,049.26 |
| Ridgeview Excavating | 42,630.84 |
| Steven’s County | 15,108.44 |
| TrueNorth Steel | 12,026.76 |
| Twin Valley Tire | 4,770.00 |
| West Con | 8,746.12 |
| Ziegler | 4,741.99 |
| 55 Payments Less Than \$2,000 | <u>15,441.42</u> |
| Total | <u>\$184,127.83</u> |

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

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| General to Highway | \$ 3,117.88 |
| Ditch to Highway | \$ 1,676.48 |
| County Ditch 2 | \$ 881.40 |
| Joint Ditch 4 | \$ 622.11 |
| County Ditch 13 | \$ 89.37 |
| County Ditch 20 | \$ 83.60 |

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

Auditor Knutson reported that the County's 2020 MCIT dividend will be \$37,346 and is allocated as follows: Workers' Compensation \$32,978 and Property/Casualty \$4,368.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize 24 hours per week for Deputy EMD Val Seifert until the end of the year as requested by EMD Dona Greiner and presented by Coordinator Rud.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the advertisement for bids for the property adjacent to the Graceville Golf Course prepared by Attorney Glasrud and presented by Coordinator Rud.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried to approve \$5.50 per person for the 2021 public safety dispatching cost. Sheriff Brown will present a new fee schedule after the 2020 census numbers are finalized.

Discussion was held on the County's 2021 budget.

County Engineer Todd Larson, Drainage Inspector Darby Karsky, Kendra Koch and Rich Guse arrived at the meeting.

At 9:30 AM, following a short break, Chairman Athey called the public hearing to order on the proposed reestablishment and correction of the drainage system records for County Ditch 21 under M.S. 103E.101, subd.4a. Chairman Athey stated that the purpose of the hearing was to review the Engineer's investigation and report of findings and receive comment from those affected by the proposed reestablishment and correction of the records. Ditch Attorney John Kolb was introduced and was participating via TEAMS. Mr. Kolb reviewed information related to the Drainage Authority and its function; the Drainage Authority's management of public drainage systems; the engineer's review of this public drainage system; and subsequent actions that may occur following these proceedings. Engineer Larson presented and reviewed the report he prepared in January and is being made part of the record of these proceedings. Following the Engineer's report, Chairman Athey asked for public comment. Mr. Kolb read the letter the County received from the MN DNR objecting to the proceeding and is being made part of the record of these proceedings. No other public comments were received. Mr. Kolb addressed the DNR's concerns. Bill Pansch arrived at the hearing. Mr. Kolb recommended that the hearing be continued and that findings that are responsive to the DNR's comments be prepared. Chairman Athey closed the public comment portion of the hearing at 9:58 AM.

The Board discussed the information presented and received confirmation from those present that they were in support of leaving the ditch as an open ditch. Motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried to direct staff to prepare findings and an order consistent with the proceedings, including responses to all comments received through the public comment process; that the draft findings and order be written to affect the reestablishment and correction of the public drainage system records consistent with the engineer's findings; direct recording of the order to reflect the reestablishment and correction of the public drainage system record; and that we recess this hearing to the Board's regular meeting on September 1, 2020, at 9:00 AM, at which meeting we will consider findings and an order for the proposed reestablishment and correction of the public drainage system records. Mr. Kolb will work with staff to prepare the findings.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to go into closed session at 10:07 AM for labor negotiation strategy.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Sandberg and carried to reopen the meeting at 10:20 AM.

Chairman Athey adjourned the meeting.

Wade Athey, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor