

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**August 6, 2024**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, August 6, 2024. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Zimmel, Athey, Klages and Olson present. Also present were County Attorney Rebecca Trapp and Coordinator Pam Rud. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Klages, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the July 16<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Zimmel – Toqua Park, BdSWD, RDC

Athey – Law Library, 1W1P

Klages – Woodland, CPT, ESB

Olson – Prime West (2), CPH, SHNFP

Sandberg – MSI, Woodland, Food Shelf, Collaborative, Museum,  
Personnel

Emergency Management Director Dona Greiner presented a state of emergency declaration for the July 31<sup>st</sup> rain, wind, and large hail event. Motion by Athey, seconded by Zimmel and carried unanimously to approve the following resolution:

**2024-16**

WHEREAS the heavy rain, wind and large hail has caused major damage to public infrastructure in Big Stone County beginning on July 31, 2024, causing emergency clean-up and emergency building and infrastructure repairs; and

WHEREAS due to the heavy rain, wind and large hail the disaster event beginning on July 31, 2024, has impacted the population of Big Stone County, and its cities; and

WHEREAS the three weather events that occurred on July 31, 2024, have caused a significant amount of public and private property damage; and

WHEREAS the Big Stone County Department of Emergency Management requests the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners to declare Big Stone County in a STATE OF EMERGENCY for the weather events beginning on July 31, 2024.

WHEREAS the Board Chair – Roger Sandberg declares a State of Emergency on behalf of the residents of Big Stone County on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners declare Big Stone County in a State of Emergency for conditions resulting from the severe wind, rain and hail events of July 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to authorize payment of claims as prepared by Auditor-Treasurer Michelle Knutson. Vendors, excluding Family Services, receiving payments in excess of \$2,000 are as follows:

Asphalt Surface Technologies	\$ 65,570.00
Baycom, Inc	5,312.00
CPT	6,698.00
Kris Engineering	3,325.00
Motorola	4,911.88

Nelson Electric	2,560.99
Pictometry	29,112.46
ProWest & Associates	4,350.50
Traverse County	2,560.93
Tri County Co-Op Oil	3,940.00
TrueNorth Steel	9,026.00
Twin Valley Tire	5,705.00
West Con	5,276.45
42 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>15,292.67</u>
Total	\$163,641.88

Motion by Klages, seconded by Zimmer and unanimously carried to ratify the approval of Club 7-75's on-sale liquor license.

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

Big Stone Area Growth Director Lisa Graphenteen presented an update on BSAG activities and shared their 2025 budget request.

Curt Vacek with the DNR presented information on a land acquisition. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to approve the following resolution:

**2024-17**

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes 97A.145, Subd. 2, the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources on July 25, 2024 provided the county board with a description of lands to be acquired by the State of Minnesota for water, forestry, wildlife, and natural plant community conservation purposes. Lands to be acquired are described as follows: Northwest fractional Quarter (NW1/4 Frac) of Section Seven (7), Township One Hundred Twenty-two (122) North, Range Forty-six (46) West, also referred to as Lots One (1) and Two (2) and the East Half of the Northwest Quarter (E1/2-NW1/4), Section Seven (7), Township One Hundred Twenty-two (122) North, Range Forty-six (46) West, Big Stone County, Minnesota.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Board of County Commissioners of Big Stone County that the State's proposed acquisition of the attached described property be approved.

Pioneerland Land Librarian Jason Frank presented an update on library activities and shared their 2025 budget request.

Soil and Water Conservation District Manager Tammy Neubauer presented the SWCD 2025 budget request.

Veteran Service Officer Ward Odom presented the 2025 CVSO operational grant. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the submission of the 2025 operational grant and authorize Odom to enter into a grant agreement.

Family Service Director Laura Laub requested that the Ford Taurus at Family Services be sold at public surplus auction. Motion by Olson, seconded by Zimmer and carried unanimously to post the car on auction as requested.

Rud presented a proposal from Gallagher to assist with benefit compliance and compensation structure strategies. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to contract with Gallagher for assistance as needed.

Sheriff Mark Brown introduced the new Deputy David Gizinski to the Board. Gizinski is starting at 30 hours per week but will transition to full time.

Family Service Director Laub introduced the new Case Aide Danica Maus to the Board.

Work session included discussion on a recent request from Prairie 5 Food hub for an additional 25,000.00 for their new construction project. Rud will invite staff from Prairie 5 to a future meeting to answer some questions regarding this project. Discussion was held on the proposed 2025-2027 Memorandum of Agreement with the University of Minnesota Extension. The proposed MOA reflects a 21% increase from the previous MOA.

Chairman Sandberg closed the meeting at 9:53 am to discuss negotiation strategy.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to open the meeting back up at 10:46 am.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:46 AM.

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Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pam Rud, Coordinator