

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**September 20, 2022**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, September 20, 2022. Chairman Klages called the meeting to order with Commissioners Sandberg, Olson, Backer and Athey present. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent and Coordinator Pam Rud. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the agenda.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the minutes from the September 6<sup>th</sup> regular board meeting.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Sandberg – Museum  
Olson – Joint Ditch 4, AMC Fall Policy Conference  
Backer – AMC, Joint Ditch 4, BSAG  
Athey – SWCD, Joint Ditch 4, Park  
Klages – PdTRA, BSAG, Personnel

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

Bituminous Paving	\$ 6,760.86
Butler Industrial Tire	2,820.05
CPT	6,242.00
Maximus	3,350.00
Nelson Electric	5,395.68
Nutrien Ag Solutions	13,608.75
Samatha Thompson's Daycare	4,053.47
Snow-Wheel Systems	3,100.00
Stevens County	4,929.90
Stevens County Times	2,550.00
West Con	4,248.75
40 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>18,805.36</u>
Total	\$75,864.82

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

General to Highway	\$ 3,126.95
Family Services to Highway	\$ 71.50
Ditch to Highway	\$ 1,297.42
Joint Ditch 4	\$1,203.67
County Ditch 5	\$ 93.75

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

Steve Strei from Odessa Township brought concerns regarding 660<sup>th</sup> Ave to the Board for discussion. Strei was looking for direction on who to bring the drainage concerns to. In 2015 the land was purchased by the US Fish & Wildlife and concerns with drainage were discussed at that time. Motion by Olson seconded by Athey and carried to have the Highway Department take various elevations and look into the situation and bring the issue forward for further discussion.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the contract for a new road grader as presented by Highway Maintenance Supervisor Darwin Karsky. By ordering the grader now, it is a cost savings of \$74,000 and will be acquired in 2024.

Engineer Todd Larson provided an update on highway department activities. He discussed the CSAH 1 grading project and the need to get the deed/title work completed to allow for a November letting. Engineer Larson will work with County Attorney Kluver to get a timeline for completion. Motion by Olson seconded by Sandberg and carried to approve the final pay request to Rogge Excavating.

Motion by Athey seconded by Olson and carried to approve the contract with Foster Township to maintain their roads.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the warrants as presented by Family Service Director Laura Laub.

Laub shared information on upcoming events in the County, the Run to Remember and Caregiver Training. Laub also provided an update on procurement stating that the mediation panel decided to agree with the Department of Human Services decision. The lawsuit regarding procurement has not been ruled on yet.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Jared Heck shared information on the county office building roof and estimates to repair from the storm damage. Motion by Olson seconded by Sandberg and carried to use Noble Roofing to replace the roof. Heck also reported that the ceiling repair in the Courthouse will cost the County around 3500.00. The remainder will be covered by insurance.

Coordinator Rud shared information on Prairie 5 and their Grand re-opening of the meal site.

Following discussion on the 2023 preliminary budget, motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to pursue with bonding for needed capital improvement projects in the County.

Discussion was held on employee health insurance rates. Commissioner Sandberg reported that he had been approached by OAHS CEO Al Ross asking to meet with the County regarding options for health insurance. Coordinator Rud was asked to set up a meeting. Rud and Commissioners Olson and Sandberg will attend on behalf of the County.

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

#### **2022-32**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the proposed 2023 budget be approved and the net levy be established at \$5,509,273.

The public meeting to take comments on the proposed budget and levy was set for Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 PM in the Commissioners' Room.

The start time of the December 1<sup>st</sup> board meeting was changed to 6:00 PM to accommodate the public comment period for the 2023 budget and levy.

Discussion was held on the HRA's levy request. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to adopt the following resolution:

#### **2022-33**

WHEREAS, the Housing and Redevelopment Authority of Big Stone County (the "Authority") was created by action of the Board of Commissioners of Big Stone County (the "Board") pursuant to M.S. §469.004; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to such action on the part of the County and M.S. §§ 469.001 to 469.047 (the "Act"), the Authority was granted all of the same functions, rights, and

powers, duties, privileges, immunities, and limitations as are provided for housing and redevelopment authorities created for cities under the Act; and  
WHEREAS, §469.033, subd. 6, of the Act permits the Authority to levy and collect a special benefit tax of up to .0185% of estimated market value upon all taxable property, both real and personal, within the Authority's area of operation; and  
WHEREAS, proceeds of the tax may be extended for the purposes of §§469.001 to 469.047 of the Act, including, without limitation, to pay certain administrative costs of the Authority; and  
WHEREAS, the Authority has requested that the Board approve the levy of such a special benefit tax in the amount not exceeding .0185% of the estimated market value of taxable property within the Authority's area of operation contained within the County; and  
WHEREAS, the Board has considered such request by the Authority and has determined that consenting to such a special benefit tax levy by the Authority is in the best interests of the County and its residents; and  
WHEREAS, the Authority is also required pursuant to §469.033, subd. 6, of the Act to, in connection with the levy of such a special benefit tax, formulate and file a budget in accordance with the budget procedure of the County in the same manner as required of executive departments of the County and the amount of the tax levy for the following year shall be based upon that budget and approved by the County; and  
WHEREAS, the Authority has presented to the Board a copy of a proposed budget for its operations for fiscal year 2023.  
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board that the levy of a special benefit tax pursuant to M.S. §469.033, subd. 6, is hereby consented to with respect to taxes payable in calendar year 2023 in the amount of \$143,628; which amount does not exceed .0185% of estimated market value of taxable property within the Authority's area of operation within the County.

Commissioner Klages adjourned the meeting at 10:02 AM.

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Jeff Klages, Chairman

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