

REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD
November 5, 2024

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, November 5, 2024. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Zimmel, Athey, Klages and Olson present. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Rebecca Trapp and Coordinator Pam Rud. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Zimmel and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 15th regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Zimmel – EOC, AMC District 6

Athey – P5, Extension, Planning & Zoning

Klages – EOC, Woodland, AMC District 6, Extension

Olson – PW, Pioneerland, Planning & Zoning, Supporting Hands

Sandberg – MSI, SWEMS, Food Shelf, Personnel, Collaborative

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages 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:

City of Ortonville	\$ 61,541.45
Guardian Fleet Safety	24,585.04
JRH Auto	9,115.80
LG Everist	10,335.45
Motorola	12,151.44
Regents of the U of MN	20,162.00
Tessier's	450,649.00
Traverse County Sheriff	2,072.56
Twin Valley Tire	4,733.00
44 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>14,269.20</u>
Total	\$609,614.94

Emergency Management Director Dona Greiner presented information on the ARMER Equipment Grant program. Discussion on the 5% grant match was held. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously for the County to pay the 5% grant match which is \$13,157.89 for the \$250,000 ARMER grant.

Motion by Zimmel, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to approve the following resolution.

2024-23

WHEREAS, Big Stone County was awarded ARMER funding in the amount of \$250,000.00 from the State of Minnesota.

WHEREAS, the award for ARMER funding requires a 5 % match.

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners will provide the match in the amount of \$13,157.89, and;

WHEREAS, timely execution of this grant, as well as quarterly and annual reports to be completed and submitted is necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County Sheriff, County Coordinator, and the County Emergency Management Director are authorized to execute the grant agreement and submit reports on behalf of Big Stone County.

IT Director Matt Anderson presented information on Microsoft Enterprise Agreement. Motion by Klages, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve renewing the agreement and authorize Anderson to sign on behalf of the County.

County Engineer Jorden Roggenbuck requested that the Board consider allowing him to send a letter of support to the UMRWD to support their project that would analyze the Otrey Watershed Area. Motion by Klages, seconded by Athey and carried unanimously to allow Roggenbuck to send a letter of support as presented.

Roggenbuck shared information with the Board regarding the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB). The RRWMB has been notified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that a grant of up to \$1 million will be awarded to develop flood inundation mapping and modeling in rural areas of Minnesota's Red River Basin (RRB). This will cover select areas that have not previously been mapped under standard floodplain management procedures applying to urban areas. With this project, the County could more efficiently build hydraulic models and be more prepared for infrastructure grants in areas of concern. Roggenbuck will continue to work with the RRWMB regarding this work going forward. No action taken.

Roggenbuck presented an update on the FEMA appeal and asked the Board to consider accepting the FEMA appeal and continue working on the portion of work that has been approved. Motion by Klages, seconded by Zimmel and carried unanimously to accept the FEMA decision and continue with the approved work.

Roggenbuck presented updates to the ditch cleanout permit. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to approve the updates pending County Attorney approval.

Roggenbuck provided a Highway Department update.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Jared Heck requested approval for Augustana University to complete a phase 1 archaeological survey at Toqua Park. Motion by Zimmel, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to approve the survey as presented.

Family Services Director Laura Laub presented the Woodland Centers 2025 Purchase of Service Agreement. Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried with Commissioner Olson abstaining to approve the agreement as presented.

Laub presented the Successful Transition to Adulthood for Youth (STAY) Agreement. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried unanimously to approve the agreement as presented.

Laub informed the Board that Family Services was awarded \$50,000 for a Lead Agency Employment First Capacity Building Grant. Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried unanimously to accept the grant and authorize Laub to sign on behalf of the County.

Laub presented the 2024 Presbyterian Family Foundation guardianship agreement. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried unanimously to approve the 2024 agreement as presented.

Environmental Director Darren Wilke shared that the Planning Commission held a public hearing for a conditional use permit for Kyle and Allison Homan to mine gravel.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Zimmel and carried unanimously to approve the conditional use permit and the findings of fact as presented.

Rud presented the 2025 Medical Examiner Contract. Motion by Athey, seconded by Zimmel and carried unanimously to approve the contract as presented.

Rud shared information on Operation Green Light for Veterans. Motion by Athey, seconded by Sandberg and carried unanimously to adopt the following resolution.

2024-24

WHEREAS, the residents of Big Stone County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of those who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County seeks to honor individuals who have made countless sacrifices for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veterans Service Officers in 29 states to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, active military service members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County appreciates the sacrifices of our United States military personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Big Stone County hereby declares from November 4th through Veterans Day, November 11th, 2024 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifices of our men and women in uniform transitioning from active service;

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Big Stone County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying green lights in a window of their place of business or residence from November 4th through the 11th, 2024.

Rud reported the VSO Ward Odom has agreed to work up to 20 hours a week until a replacement is found for the VSO position. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to allow Odom to work up to 20 hours a week until 12-31-24 or until a replacement is hired.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 9:33 AM.

Roger Sandberg, Chairman

ATTEST: _____
Pam Rud, Coordinator