

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**December 17, 2024**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioners' Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, December 17, 2024. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Olson, Klages, Athey and Zimmel 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 December 3<sup>rd</sup> regular meeting.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Zimmel – MRC, AMC Conf, PIC

Athey – HRA

Klages – PrimeHealth, Woodland, CPT, PdTRA

Olson – PW, AMC Conf, Countryside

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

Anoka County	\$ 2,500.00
Cloudpermit	4,000.00
CPT	6,698.00
HitesmanLaw	4,650.00
Marco	3,085.89
MCIT	6,756.00
Ratwik, Roszak & Maloney	3,634.51
Regents of the U of MN	20,162.00
Stevens County	3,962.78
Tri County Co-op Oil Assn	2,681.50
Twin Valley Tire	2,124.80
West Con	2,653.98
39 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>14,388.02</u>
Total	\$77,297.48

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

Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried unanimously to authorize the Auditor to pay any claims received by December 31<sup>st</sup> to account for them in the current year's business.

Knutson reviewed the proposed 2025 ditch budget with the Board and provided a brief overview of the process for the newly elected commissioners attending the meeting.

Countryside Public Health Administrator Liz Auch was present to share updates and highlights for 2024.

Upper Minnesota River Watershed Director Amber Doschadis presented updates on Watershed activities.

Travis Sandberg and Matthew Wellendorf were present to address the Board on why they wanted to be appointed to the Upper Minnesota River Watershed Board.

Motion by Athey to appoint Matthew Wellendorf to the Watershed Board. Motion failed for lack of a second. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages to appoint Travis Sandberg to the Watershed Board. Motion passed with Commissioners Olson, Klages, Zimmel and Athey voting aye and Commissioner Sandberg abstained.

Andrew Maas and Logan Nadgwick were recognized by the Board for achieving their Certification as Minnesota Licensed Assessors.

County Engineer Jorden Roggenbuck presented an updated fee schedule for the Highway Department. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to approve the fee schedule as presented.

Building Maintenance Supervisor Jared Heck requested approval to contract with Engan Associates for the engineering/architectural services for the upcoming project at Toqua Park. Engan Associates fee for their services is 8% of construction costs. Based on the construction cost estimate of \$742,100.00, their fee would be approximately \$59,368. Execution of the contract will be contingent on the completion of the environmental review process and execution of the grant agreement with the State of Minnesota. Motion by Zimmel, seconded by Athey and carried unanimously to approve the contract as presented.

Family Services Director Laura Laub presented the 2025 Woodland Centers Community Support Agreement. Motion by Klages, seconded by Zimmel and carried with Commissioners Klages, Zimmel, Sandberg and Athey voting aye and Commissioner Olson abstaining.

Laub presented the 2025 Child Care Provider Grant. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to approve the grant as presented.

Laub presented the 2025 Chippewa County Childcare Licensing contract. Motion by Klages, seconded by Zimmel and carried unanimously to approve the contract as presented.

Laub presented the West Central Industries 2025 Purchase of Service Contract. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to approve the contract as presented.

Laub presented the 2025 Day Training and Habilitation third party agreement. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the contract as presented.

Rud requested that Emily Sigler be appointed to the Extension Committee. Motion by Athey, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to appoint Sigler as presented.

Rud presented the 2025-2027 AFSCME Highway Union contract for approval. Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the contract as presented.

Rud presented the 2025-2027 AFSCME Family Services Union contract for approval. Motion by Athey, seconded by Zimmel and carried unanimously to approve the contract as presented.

Rud presented the 2025-2027 LELS Law Enforcement Union contract for approval. Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried unanimously to approve the contract as presented.

Rud requested approval to fill the part-time Deputy Sheriff position. This is not a new position but a back filled position from 2023. Motion by Klages, seconded by Zimmel and carried unanimously to post the vacancy.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried unanimously to approve the following resolution:

**2024-26**

BE IT RESOLVED that the Big Stone County 2025 budget and levy be established as follows:

	GENERAL	HIGHWAY	FAMILY SERVICES	DEBT SERVICE	DITCH	2025 TOTAL
<b>REVENUES</b>						
Tax Levy & Aids	\$4,413,701	\$1,431,498	\$1,318,321	\$296,337		\$7,459,857
Other Taxes	\$13,000	\$170,000				\$183,000
Special Assessments	\$17,000				\$139,780	\$156,780
Licenses & Permits	\$28,250	\$2,000				\$30,250
Intergovernmental	\$1,311,248	\$5,097,244	\$1,570,913			\$7,979,405
Charges for Services	\$792,853	\$433,000	\$569,600			\$1,795,453
Investment Earnings	\$200,400	\$40,000				\$240,400
Miscellaneous	\$231,957	\$50,000	\$31,100			\$313,057
Other Financing Sources	\$1,500	\$105,000		\$203,469		\$309,969
Use/(Increase) of Available Funds	\$1,146,744		\$157,088	(\$105,268)	(\$95,826)	\$1,102,738
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$8,156,653</b>	<b>\$7,328,742</b>	<b>\$3,647,022</b>	<b>\$394,538</b>	<b>\$43,954</b>	<b>\$19,570,909</b>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>						
General Government	\$3,588,352					\$3,588,352
Public Safety	\$2,099,445					\$2,099,445
Highway		\$7,328,742				\$7,328,742
Sanitation	\$257,704					\$257,704
Family Services			\$3,647,022			\$3,647,022
Health	\$170,007					\$170,007
Culture & Recreation	\$1,065,870					\$1,065,870
Conservation of Natural Resources	\$526,294				\$43,954	\$570,248
Economic Development	\$448,981					\$448,981
Debt Service				\$394,538		\$394,538
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$8,156,653</b>	<b>\$7,328,742</b>	<b>\$3,647,022</b>	<b>\$394,538</b>	<b>\$43,954</b>	<b>\$19,570,909</b>

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the scheduled debt service levy for the 2021A GO Abatement Refunding Bonds is hereby canceled due to sufficient funds on hand as a result of loan payments received from Federated Telephone Cooperative.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a portion of the scheduled debt service levy for the 2019A GO CIP Bonds is hereby canceled due to sufficient funds on hand as a result of wheelage tax.

Chairman Sandberg recessed the meeting at 9:42 AM.

The meeting resumed at 10:00 AM for the Public Hearing on Cannabis Orientated Business and Land Use Ordinance. There was no public comment and the Public Hearing was closed at 10:09 AM. Motion by Olson, seconded by Klages and carried unanimously to adopt the Ordinance as presented by Attorney Trapp and Environmental Director Darren Wilke.

Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 10:10 AM.

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Roger Sandberg, Chairman

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