

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**October 7, 2008**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, October 7, 2008. Chairman Janssen called the meeting to order with Commissioners Athey, Sandberg and Olson present. Also present were Mike Swenson of the Ortonville Independent, County Attorney Bill Watson and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed. Commissioner Tomschin arrived at the meeting.

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

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to approve the agenda with noted additions.

Committee reports were presented.

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

**2008-23**

WHEREAS, MS 375A.121 permits modifying the duties of the County Auditor and Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, Big Stone County requested special legislation to allow the transferring of additional delinquent tax and tax forfeiture duties from the County Auditor to the Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has passed Laws, 2008, Chapter 180 permitting assigning all duties relating to delinquent property taxes, including tax forfeiture to be assigned to the County Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, a special law shall not be effective without the approval of the local government affected as per MS 645.021.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Big Stone County hereby approves of Laws, 2008, Chapter 180 and authorizes the Auditor to file a certificate of approval with the Secretary of State.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to adopt the following resolution:

**2008-24**

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 484.87, Subd. 3 allows for a city with a population of 600 persons or less to, by Resolution, authorize the County Attorney to prosecute petty misdemeanor and misdemeanor violations of state law; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the subdivision, the action must be approved by the Board of County Commissioners; and

WHEREAS, the County Attorney is willing to prosecute all petty misdemeanor and misdemeanor violations of state law in the cities of a population of 600 or less in Big Stone County, Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, the following cities have passed resolutions authorizing the County Attorney to prosecute the same, said cities are:

City of Barry, Minnesota  
City of Beardsley, Minnesota  
City of Clinton, Minnesota

City of Correll, Minnesota  
City of Graceville, Minnesota  
City of Johnson, Minnesota  
City of Odessa, Minnesota

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED:

1. The County Attorney, and/or his designee, is authorized to prosecute all petty misdemeanor and misdemeanor cases and gross misdemeanors prosecuted by the city attorney, within the cities of Barry, Beardsley, Clinton, Correll, Graceville, Johnson and Odessa.
2. This authorization shall continue until and unless the cities that are subject to this authority or the County Board shall rescind this authority.

Attorney Watson updated the Board on the County Road #63 condemnation case.

Discussion was held on the County Attorney's 2009 budget. Attorney Watson requested that expenditures to Bachman Printing be in addition to his office contract. Motion by Olson, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize payment for professional printing services to Bachman Printing as a separate line item in the County Attorney budget.

Attorney Watson reported that the Attorney General's Office will be assisting with a grand jury on a County case.

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

General	\$ 59,131.50
Highway	<u>73,404.53</u>
Total	\$132,536.03

Auditor Knutson reported that only one bid was received for snow removal services at Family Services. Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to accept the bid from Bob Johnson for snow removal services at the Family Services building. Auditor Knutson was also instructed to contact Mr. Johnson to see if he was willing to provide snow removal services at the Courthouse as well and report back at the next meeting.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Sandberg and carried to reappoint Isabel Kraemer to the HRA Board for a 5-year term effective October 4, 2008.

Discussion was held on a letter received from the USDA regarding the air quality report that was received for the Family Services Building. Commissioner Sandberg will be meeting with the respective agencies at 10:30 AM to discuss the options available.

County Engineer Nick Anderson gave a project update and reported that the agreement with the DNR for the trail has been received.

Motion by Sandberg, seconded by Olson and carried to award and execute the contract with Structural Specialties for SAP 06-090-002 with Commissioner Athey voting Nay.

Engineer Anderson reviewed the Highway Department's financial status.

Discussion was held on the County Road #63 project. Consensus was to table it until the next meeting.

Motion by Athey, seconded by Olson and carried to accept the quote for gravel crushing from Sibson Gravel at \$2.10/yard to be done this fall. This was originally budgeted out of 2009 funds.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Sandberg and carried to light the intersection of Highway 75 and the Golf Course Road as recommended by Engineer Anderson.

Engineer Anderson provided an update on the upcoming bridge work on the trail.

Motion by Tomschin, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the elected officials 2009 salaries to be divided over 27 payrolls as recommended by HR Director Sue Schultz.

Due to the additional duties added to the Assessor's Office with the retiring of local assessors, motion by Sandberg, seconded by Athey and carried to authorize the hiring of Travis Scoblic for the Appraiser/Office Clerk position at Grade 7 Step 1.

Discussion was held on the increasing BCBS rates for retirees. HR Director Schultz will provide more information at the next meeting.

Auditor Knutson reminded board members of the registration deadline for the annual AMC conference.

Auditor Knutson presented a copy of a letter received from Western Minnesota Prairie Waters.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Tomschin and carried to authorize the Historical Society to erect a message center at the Musuem as part of a recent grant they received.

Commissioner Sandberg provided an IT update from Vertical Solutions. Motion by Sandberg and seconded by Olson to authorize continuing the contract with Vertical Solutions through December 31<sup>st</sup> at the current rate. Motion carried with Commissioners Athey and Tomschin voting Nay.

A space needs discussion was held. Sheriff John Haukos reported on the assessment received from Hasslen Construction on the H&H building. Sheriff Haukos also reviewed some of the advantages of one facility for all law enforcement.

Commissioner Sandberg, Attorney Watson and Mike Swenson left the meeting at the break.

MCIT Account Executive Bruce Underdahl was present to provide the 2008 Coverage Review. Department Heads Sue Schultz, Sandy Vold and Elaine Martig were also present. Commissioner Sandberg returned to the meeting during the presentation.

Bruce Casey, also from MCIT, provided an update on some of the loss control programs available to the County.

Commissioner Sandberg reported on his 10:30 AM meeting.

Chairman Janssen adjourned the meeting at 12:08 PM.

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Howard Janssen, Chairman

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor