

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD**  
**March 5, 2019**

The Big Stone County Board of Commissioners met in the Commissioner's Room at 8:30 AM on Tuesday, March 5, 2019. Chairman Sandberg called the meeting to order with Commissioners Backer, Klepel and Olson present. Commissioner Athey was absent. Also present were Dillon Dwyer of the Ortonville Independent, Mary Meyer, Mary Gustafson, Janet Spalinger, HR Director Dawn Gregoire, County Attorney Joe Glasrud and County Auditor Michelle Knutson. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to approve the minutes of the February 19<sup>th</sup> regular meeting.

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

Commissioners reported on the following committees:

Klepel – Extension  
Olson – Pioneerland  
Sandberg – MSI; Property; Dept Head  
Backer – CPT; RRB

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

Fidlar	\$38,191.09
Kris Engineering	8,100.70
L & O Acres Transport	4,119.29
MnCCC	8,177.00
Pro West & Associates	3,285.12
34 Payments Less Than \$2,000	<u>12,200.85</u>
Total	\$74,074.05

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

General to Highway	\$ 1,683.45
Family Services to Highway	\$ 155.15

Motion by Backer, seconded by Olson and carried to not renew the phased retirement agreement for Sharon Finke. However, Finke will remain on the employee list for call-in help as needed.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried to execute the 3-year agreement with MAXIMUS for the completion of the 2018, 2019 and 2020 Indirect Cost Allocation Plans.

Motion by Backer, seconded by Klepel and carried to re-appoint Commissioner Backer to a 6-year term on the EDA Board.

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

Environmental Services Director Darren Wilke provided an update on discussions he has had with Swift County regarding collaboration on the Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) program. Consensus was to pursue an agreement between the counties.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to authorize the hiring of Kyle Arndt for the Deputy Sheriff position at Grade 10 Step 5 as presented by HR Director Gregoire.

Chairman Sandberg asked for public comment on the proposed combination of the County Auditor and County Treasurer positions. Various staff were also present. Chairman Sandberg stated that any combination would not occur until the end of the current term or unless there was a vacancy in one of the positions prior to that time. No comments were received.

Motion by Backer and seconded by Olson to adopt the following resolution combining the Big Stone County Auditor and the Big Stone County Treasurer into one position titled Big Stone County Auditor-Treasurer:

**2019-08**

WHEREAS, Big Stone County currently has an elected Auditor and an elected Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, under Minnesota Statutes § 375A.10 through 375A.121, counties are allowed to combine the offices of Auditor and Treasurer; and

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners, after studying this matter, has decided that combining the offices will provide efficiencies for Big Stone County Government, and has concluded that the Board wishes to see these two offices combined, either upon a vacancy or at the end of the current term; and

WHEREAS, the current terms of the Auditor and the Treasurer will expire on January 2, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board's decision to combine the elective office of Auditor-Treasurer without a referendum requires the concurrence of 80% of the members of the Big Stone County Board; and

WHEREAS, the Big Stone County Board does not choose to initiate a referendum by resolution to consolidate the offices of Auditor and Treasurer into one elected office.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that by adopting this Resolution, effective with the term beginning January 3, 2023, or prior to if a vacancy occurs, the current Office of the Big Stone County Treasurer and the Big Stone County Auditor will be abolished and in its place a new office named Office of the Big Stone County Auditor-Treasurer will be created.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all of the duties that are required by Minnesota Statutes by the Auditor and Treasurer will be vested in the newly created Office of the Big Stone County Auditor-Treasurer and performed by the Big Stone County Auditor-Treasurer without diminishing, prohibiting or avoiding those specific duties required by statute to be performed by the Big Stone County Auditor and the Big Stone County Treasurer.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that all requirements that are specified in Minnesota Statutes § 375A.10 through 375A.121, to enact this change, will be complied with by Big Stone County.

Following further discussion, motion carried with the four commissioners present voting Aye.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Klepel and carried to close the meeting at 9:02 AM for labor negotiations.

Motion by Olson, seconded by Backer and carried to open the meeting at 9:29 AM.  
Chairman Sandberg adjourned the meeting at 9:30 AM.

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Roger Sandberg, Chairman

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