

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2015-23  
BIG STONE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Date: October 20, 2015

Motion made by Commissioner Backer and seconded by Commissioner Athey.

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**WHEREAS**, according to the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the State of Minnesota's prison population exceeds capacity; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is housing 560 inmates in county jails where they cannot receive critical rehabilitation services available in State correctional facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Corrections projects the State of Minnesota's prison population will grow by at least 500 inmates by the year 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Corrections is seeking \$141.5 million in general obligation bonds to finance the construction of a 500-bed expansion at Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City to accommodate projected prison population growth; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Minnesota would incur additional costs such as interest, debt service, maintenance, and annual operating costs associated with expanding Minnesota Correctional Facility – Rush City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Appleton is home to a vacant and well-maintained 1,600-bed prison; and

**WHEREAS**, 350 people from 24 surrounding counties worked at the Appleton prison when it was in use, generating an estimated \$15.2 million for the regional economy; and

**WHEREAS**, many ancillary businesses in the region and their workers benefitted when the Appleton prison was in use; and

**WHEREAS**, the region offers robust infrastructure to provide rehabilitation services for State of Minnesota inmates and a great quality of life for working families; and

**WHEREAS**, the cost to the State of Minnesota to lease the Appleton prison is estimated to be \$6-8 million per year, plus annual operating costs – substantially lower than constructing and maintaining new, permanent correctional facilities; and

**WHEREAS**, it is practical that the State of Minnesota do its due diligence to fairly consider the costs associated with leasing and operating the Appleton prison before constructing new, permanent correctional facilities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners declared its support for a proposal for the State of Minnesota to lease and operate the Appleton prison with State of Minnesota public employees to provide much-needed jobs and economic development for the people of West Central

Minnesota and to provide effective rehabilitation services for inmates needed to reduce recidivism.

VOTING AYE										
COMMISSIONERS	X	BACKER	X	ATHEY	X	OLSON	X	SANDBERG	X	BERNING
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COMMISSIONERS		BACKER		ATHEY		OLSON		SANDBERG		BERNING

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STATE OF MINNESOTA, COUNTY OF BIG STONE

I, Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor of the County of Big Stone, State of Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly passed at a meeting of the Big Stone County Board of Commissioners held on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2015.

Witness by hand and official seal at Ortonville this 20<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2015.

SEAL

*Michelle R. Knutson*  
 Michelle R. Knutson, Auditor