

Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, Iowa
January 19, 2021

The Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County, Iowa, met in regular session pursuant to adjournment.

Members present: Chairman, Clarence Siepker; Supervisors, Jeffrey Ives, Brent Aden, Louis Stauter, Kyle Smith; and Auditor, Kelly Jepsen. Others present: Reporter, Erin Somers.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to approve the minutes, dated January 12, 2021 and January 13, 2021, as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Smith, to approve the tentative agenda with striking Orene Cressler, VA/GA Director and approve Jt. DD 9-13 claim for \$396.40. Ayes all, motion carried.

Kathy Piffner, Pathfinders Executive Director, along with some of her associates, met with the Board telephonically to give an overview of what services Pathfinders provides. Pathfinders, formally known as Midas Council of Governments, was established in 1974 with a 28E Agreement to provide intergovernmental services to the community in their region. The three divisions that make up Pathfinder are economic development, community development, and transit.

All nine of the county librarians spoke to the Board to thank them for their continued support and requested an 8% increase in county funding for FY22. They each presented their reasons for the requested increase. The Board will take their request into consideration.

The Board discussed the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 that was signed into law on December 27, 2020. Motion by Ives, seconded by Stauter, to allow the unused amounts remaining in FSA Health and Dependent Care accounts to be carried over into 2021 and extend the grace period to 12 months after the end of 2020. Ayes all, motion carried. Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to authorize the carry forward rule for the FSA dependent care where the dependent aged out during the pandemic. Those dependents will now age out at age 14 instead of age 13. Ayes all, motion carried. Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to deny allowing terminated employees who ceased plan participation during 2020 or 2021 to continue to receive reimbursements from unused amounts through the end of the plan year in which their participation ended. Ayes all, motion carried.

The Board discussed the donated leave policy passed in 2002 and felt that it need more clarification, so they requested the Auditor to make changes discussed and revisit the policy at the next Board meeting.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Smith, to approve the hire of Kristine Trenary as a full time Clerk for the Recorder's Office. Trenary's first day was Monday, January 18, 2021, at \$18.50 per hour. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to approve the Recorder's December Report & Recorder's Quarterly Reports of Fees Collected. Ayes all. Motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to approve the Treasurer's Quarterly Investment Report, Statement of Condition, and Semi-Annual Report. Ayes all, motion carried. In the Quarterly Investment Report, it was noted that there was \$600.00 cash in the Treasurer's Office, \$5,002,539.53 in Certificates of Deposit, \$3,043,177.48 in Stamped Drainage Warrants, \$2,010,013.44 in Drainage Improvement Certificates, and \$8,473,847.47 in banks, for a total of \$18,530,177.92. This quarter there were no CD's renewed, \$176,611.06 in interest earned, and 376 driver's licenses issued that generated \$2,632.00 in revenue.

Due to a decrease in the number of attorneys on the Magistrate Appointing Committee, the number of community members was required to be decreased. Motion was made by Stauter, seconded by Ives, to rescind the motion made of January 4, 2021 to reappoint Nancy Fuchs, Dean Behrendsen, and Gary Devereaux, to the Magistrate Appointing Commission. Ayes all. Motion carried. Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to reappoint Nancy Fuchs and Gary Devereaux to the Magistrate Appointing Commission to a six term ending December 31, 2026. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Smith, to authorize the Auditor to sign and send a letter to Aflac concerning an exception to a policy. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Aden, to appoint the following people to the Courthouse Security Commission: Judge, Kurt K. Stoebe; Sheri Miller, Acting Clerk of Court; Sheriff, Steve Nelson; Magistrate, Ben Meyer; and EMA/E911/Zoning Director, Russ Jergens, for the 2021 calendar year. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Ives, to approve the Jt. DD 43-72 claim from Pocahontas County Secondary Roads for watchman services, in the amount of \$227.93. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Smith, to approve the Jt. DD 77 Main Open Ditch claim from Darren Stearns for beaver trapping, for \$240.00. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Aden, to approve the Jt. DD 63 Main Open Ditch claim from B & W Control Specialists for brush control, for \$1,012.25. Ayes all, motion carried.

Gary Atherton, Assistant to the Engineer/Drainage Clerk, advised that the cost to date for the construction of N-28 was \$6,847,531.69. The estimate for said project was \$7,399,554.32. Atherton believes the total cost will be close to the estimate.

Kelly Jepsen, County Auditor, requested the Supervisors to submit claims for mileage, and as requested, presented the 28E Agreement Providing for the Joint Exercises of Power between Pocahontas and Humboldt Counties. The 28E Agreement details how Pocahontas County's Sanitarian will be shared between the two said counties.

The Board discussed the wages for FY22. With the wage study not complete, motion was made by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to set the wage increase at 2% for FY22. Ayes all, motion carried. If the wage study is presented and is acceptable prior to budgets being complete, they will consider rescinding this motion.

Weekly meetings: Siepker-North Raccoon Watershed meeting and Rolling Hills; Stauter-City of Fonda and the YES Center; and Smith-Safety meeting. All Supervisors participated in budget reviews.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned.

Clarence Siepker, Chairman

Kelly Jepsen, Auditor