

**Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, Iowa
January 21, 2025**

The Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County, Iowa, met for a regular session pursuant to adjournment. Members present: Chairman, Clarence Siepker; Supervisors, Peter Seehusen, Louis Stauter, Kyle Smith, Brent Aden; Nita Hinrickson, Auditor. Others present: Erin Sommers, Reporter. Pocahontas County Librarians: Lola Dewall, Linda Mercer, Glenda Mulder, Melissa Hoyt, Becky Ives, Lorna Naeve, Stephanie Archer and Betty Janssen. PCEDC members: Mary Jo Litwiller, James Roetman, Jessica Feilmeier, and Hannah Kies. Tate Schmeling, Engineer; Cathy Frerk, Recorder; Kalista Wagner, Assessor and Amy Johnson, Treasurer.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Aden to approve the minutes from January 14, 2025 as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Seehusen to approve the agenda as posted. Ayes all, motion carried.

Lola Dewall, Pocahontas Librarian, presented the county library report. 8 of the 9 county librarians were present and each one talked to the Board on what they offer. For FY26 budget, they are asking for a 6% increase. Chairman Siepker, thanked the librarians for all they do and that all budgets are tight. The Board may not be able to give an increase this year and may have to look at lowering donation amount in the future.

Tate Schmeling, Engineer provided the Board additional information on the trucks he was budgeting for in FY26. He is working on a 5-year plan.

Jessica Feilmeier, PCEDC spoke on behalf of the board. The PCEDC met last Thursday and reviewed the budget again and removed ten budget line items. Rent could potentially be eliminated after the LEC is up and running, moving the office to the Courthouse. Current budgeted expenditures were decreased to \$179,945. Budgeted revenues were \$130,125. Still making the budget short by \$49,820. It is noted on the revenue budget that Fonda and Rolfe may not be able to provide any contribution this year.

Nita Hinrickson, Auditor presented the Board with a revised Employee Handbook. Department Heads met and reviewed the Employee Handbook and made changes as noted. The handbook was also reviewed by our HR consultant. Motion by Smith, seconded by Seehusen to approve Employee Handbook as presented.

Hinrickson said that FM Controls didn't put wireless relays on electric heating units and stated that they were told that they could put in a wired relay on the breaker instead. Smith is going to reach out and talk to them. Collin Klingbeil advised that Aaron Wright with IA DNR will be here this Friday to look at and mark trees in close proximity to the Main #1 tile of DD51.

Calhoun County wants to do a joint call on Tuesday, January 28 at 9:25 a.m. to do watchman services approval. The Board advised this will work as long as it wasn't for Jt DD181. If it is, it can wait until the annual meeting on February 3, 2025.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Stauter to acknowledge 6 months of employment for Andrea Simental, full-time dispatcher. Dre's pay will be \$20.75/hr, plus differential. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith to acknowledge Alexandria Salsberry's resignation as Public Health nurse. Ayes all, motion carried. The Board thanks Alexandria for her service and wishes her good luck.

Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Aden to acknowledge receipt of election of Magistrate Judicial Nominating Commissioners of Pocahontas, Noelle Raelyn Murray from Clerk of District Court. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Smith to acknowledge receipt of Pocahontas County Historical Society 2024 report, profit & loss report & financial statement. Ayes all, motion carried

After discussion with employees at the all employee meeting held on January 14, 2024, regarding a change in offering for the supplemental employee retirement benefit. Motion by Smith, seconded by Seehusen to approve changing and have optional employee participation in the Iowa Retirement Investors' Club (RIC) with Corebridge. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Aden to approve Amended Resolution 2025-01-#10 Revised Bridge Posting on County #423 location from 15/16/35/36 Marshall to 25/26/35/36 Marshall. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Aden to approve Resolution 2025-01-#12 Appointment of Deputy Auditors. Ayes all, motion carried.

**Appointment of Deputy Auditors
RESOLUTION 2025-01-#12**

WHEREAS, the Pocahontas County Auditor, Nita Hinrickson, was duly elected on November 5, 2024 and sworn into office on January 2, 2025; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Iowa Code 331.903(1), the Auditor, Treasurer, Recorder, Sheriff, and County Attorney may each appoint, with approval of the Board of Supervisors, one or more deputies, assistants, or clerks for whose acts the principal officer is responsible; and

WHEREAS, approval of each appointment shall be adopted by a resolution recorded in the minutes of the Board of Supervisors;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors that the following appointments by the Auditor is approved: Kristi Seiler, Deputy Auditor; Laura Erickson, Elections Deputy Auditor; and Bryan Rahn, Real Estate Deputy,

APPROVED THIS 21ST DAY OF JANUARY 2025

By: Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors

/s/ Clarence Siepker, Chairman /s/ Brent Aden /s/ Kyle Smith /s/ Louis Stauter /s/ Peter Seehusen Attest /s/ Nita Hinrickson, Auditor

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden to approve JT DD 63 MOD invoice from in the amount of \$440.40. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Stauter to approve Manure Management Plan (1) K&M Turkey Farm– ID# 68050 SW SE, Section 34, Coon Township, Buena Vista Co. Matt McCarthy as owner & contact person. Ayes all, motion carried.

Weekly meetings: Seehusen- ISAC & Safety Mtg; Stauter- None; Siepker- Laurens City Council; Smith- Environmental & Public Health and Aden – Solid Waste and Economic Development.

It was decided to have a budget work session, Tuesday, January 28 @ 1:00 p.m. and also possibly discuss wages.

Hinrickson advised that in Iowa Code for optional taxes for Emergency Medical Services, that it does not look like wages can be apart of the tax appropriation. She will do some further research.

Seehusen asked at the prior meeting how much the budget would decrease if we just did 3% instead of including the matrix step. There could be a \$100,500 decrease in those budget line items of over 6%, not including Secondary Roads.

There was further discussion on wage determination between the Board and Department Heads present. Making note that any increase or decrease for elected officials from what the Comp Board recommended needed to use “show your work” to come with any different amount. If the Board opted to use a straight dollar amount instead of % for elected officials, it was asked that the Board make sure they compared the dollar amount of percentage increase to the straight dollar amount as deputies can be paid up to 85% of the elected official salary by code.

Seehusen and Smith will be attending the Farm Bureau annual meeting on February 3.

Smith received an email from Renodry USA regarding a quote to dehydrate and desalt the Courthouse. It was decided that we did not need this completed. Smith will let Don with Renodry know.

With no further business, motion by Aden seconded by Stauter to declare the meeting adjourned. Ayes all, motion carried.

Clarence Siepker, Chairman

Nita Hinrickson, Auditor