

**Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, Iowa
October 15, 2024**

The Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County, Iowa, met for a regular session pursuant to adjournment. Members present: Chairman, Kyle Smith; Supervisors, Jeff Ives, Louis Stauter, Clarence Siepker, Brent Aden; Nita Hinrickson, Auditor. Others present: Reporter, Erin Sommers; Mary Jo Litwiller, Economic Development; Amy Johnson, Treasurer; Brian Reis, Conservation Director; Cathy Frerk, Recorder; Kalista Wagner, Assessor; Tate Schmeling, Engineer; Dan Feistner; County Attorney.

Motion by Clarence Siepker, seconded by Brent Aden, to approve the minutes from October 8, 2024 as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

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

Jt DD 63 phone call with Palo Alto County regarding repairs requested by landowner. Members present from Palo Alto were Board members: Craig Merrill, Keith Wirtz, Ron Graettinger, Linus Solberg, Roger Faulstick along with Carmen Moser, Auditor. Louis Stauter motioned for Kyle Smith to be chairperson and Nita Hinrickson as secretary, seconded by Keith Wirtz. All ayes by Palo Alto and Pocahontas, motion carried. Keith Wirtz advised he talked to Myer Tiling and they would plow in the tile, use non-perforated and perforated tile where needed. This tile repair is all in an acreage and not in a field. The tile will be 4' to 7' deep. Louis stated that he was okay with the proposed repair. Louis Stauter motioned to proceed with the repair as presented, seconded by Keith Wirtz. Ayes all from both Counties. Motion carried.

Brent Aden motioned to adjourn drainage meeting, seconded by Roger Faulstick. Ayes all from both Counties. Meeting adjourned.

Old business: Clarence Siepker stated that he reached out to supervisors in other counties regarding their HR consultant. In reviewing all prospected consultants, Clarence Siepker motioned to terminate Paul Greufe, effective October 31, 2024 and contract with Renee Von Bokern. Further discussion regarding the wage study was had. Nita advised that ISAC had 97 counties participate in a wage survey and that she would be able to prepare a report, after the election. Clarence Siepker motioned again, seconded by Brent Aden. Ayes all, motion carried.

Nita told the supervisors that Mary Jo Litwiller advised that the Solar Panel Company was hoping to have someone hired as a part time local representative but they have not hired anyone yet. The company was not having luck finding an office space in Fonda and they didn't want a pod brought in. They want to be involved in the community. The Economic Development Board meets the 17th of October and the Board of Supervisors will wait until there is a recommendation from the Economic Development Board.

Tate Schmeling, Engineer, informed the Board of MidAmerican Energies Application of Underground Construction Across Organized Drainage District Lands in Pocahontas County, 90N 31W, & 92N 31W and Iowa DOT Application & Agreement for Use of Highway Right-Of-Way for Utilities Accommodation. Brent Aden motioned to approve, seconded by Clarence Siepker. Ayes all, motion carried.

Tate advised that Barga is finishing up original contract for sealing roadways. The proposed bid from Barga is an additional 7 mile stretch on N65 that was not on the original contract. The quote is for \$108,975.00 to fill & seal the cracks. Motion by Brent Aden to approve the quote from Barga, seconded by Louis Stauter. Ayes all, motion carried.

Sherman Box Culvert project has started.

Nita Hinrickson, Auditor, advised the Board that the insurance committee met and reviewed new companies to be administrator for our self-funding. It was the recommendation of the committee to change from Benefits, Inc. to Midwest Group Benefits. Midwest Group Benefits is owned by Assured Partners and we already have a relationship with them. The cost per plan employee is the same, but the annual fee would save the county \$200/year. The committee felt a change was needed due to the lack of customer service by Benefits, Inc and the delay in payments. Motion by Jeff Ives to change from Benefits, Inc to Midwest Group Benefits, seconded by Clarence Siepker. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Brent Aden, seconded by Louis Stauter, to approve the liquor license request by Fonda Golf Club. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Louis Stauter, seconded by Brent Aden, to approve the Treasurer's office quarterly investment report. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Jeff Ives, seconded by Clarence Siepker, to approve JT DD 63 Luft & Sons invoice in the amount of \$345.55 for animal guard picked up. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Jeff Ives, seconded by Louis Stauter, to approve DD 63 MOD Jacobson-Westergard invoice in the amount of \$420.00 services for review of drone video and damage inventory. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Louis Stauter, seconded by Brent Aden, to approve DD 51 MOD Jacobson-Westergard invoice in the amount of \$752.25 services for completion of engineer's report & filing. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Brent Aden, seconded by Clarence Siepker, to approve Manure Management (1) Farm 124-Lampe B – ID# 61613 SE NE, Sec. 15 Cummins Township New Fashion Pork, LLP as owner & Sarah Withers as contact person. Ayes all, motion carried.

Weekly meetings: Ives- Drainage Concerns; Stauter- None; Smith- Safety Meeting, Law Enforcement Center Concerns; Siepker- Laurens Law Enforcement and HR Considerations and Aden- Midas 50-year celebration, Solid Waste.

Dan Feistner inquired if there were any plans for additional plans for parking lot lighting. Dan discussed an email that was received by the City of Laurens City Clerk Hilary Reed requesting a short-term contract with the Sheriff's Department that they would like to have in place by the end of the week for adequate policing. There is a meeting Wednesday, October 16 at 1:00pm.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Louis Stauter, seconded by Brent Aden, to declare the meeting adjourned. Ayes all, motion carried.

Kyle Smith, Chairman

Nita Hinrickson, Auditor