

Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, Iowa
November 30, 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, and Kyle Smith; and Auditor, Kelly Jepsen. Others Present: Reporter, Erin Sommers.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to approve the minutes, dated November 23, 2021, as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Ives, to approve the tentative agenda as posted. Ayes all, motion carried.

Jerry Depew, Rayne Dull, and Rita Helmers, from the Temporary County Redistricting Commission (TRC), presented option 1 as their choice of maps for reprecincting and Depew gave background information on the process and advised on the public hearing held on Monday, November 29th. Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to accept the option 1 map as presented by the TRC. Ayes all, motion carried. The Board thanked the Commission for all their hard work.

At 10:05 a.m., the Board proceeded with the first reading of Ordinance #42. The affidavits of publication are on file in the Auditor's Office. There were no written or verbal objections to the ordinance. The Chairman introduced the ordinance titled "Ordinance #42, An Ordinance adopting the 2021 Reprecincting Plan". Motion by Ives, seconded by Aden, that the ordinance be given its first consideration and that it be adopted. Ayes all, motion carried. Second reading will be Tuesday, December 7th.

Chad Cleveland, Brian Larsen, Hope Radke, and Neven Conrad, from the Pocahontas County Housing Committee, requested the Board consider signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). The MOU was being presented to the cities and County to sign, not for a financial comment, but as a public statement affirming that there is a housing concern and that they are willing to work together to resolve the problems with housing. Motion by Smith, seconded by Aden, to authorize the Chairman to sign the MOU between Pocahontas County and all incorporated areas within Pocahontas County. Ayes all, motion carried.

Margo Underwood, Hometown Pride Community Coach, gave an update on Hometown Pride. Since 2012, Hometown Pride has had \$1,434,511.86 coming into the communities through 227 grants and fund raising. Projects Underwood spotlighted were the location for recycling in Varina, Elbert Park in Pocahontas, Sportsman's Park pond in Laurens, and Sunset Park in Gilmore City. The Board thanked Underwood for her time.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Ives, to acknowledge receipt of Manure Management Plans: (1) Martin Finisher Farm – ID# 61740 located in the SW NW, Sec. 19 Des Moines Township with Crown Farm Partners IV, Inc. as owner & Keith Kratchmer contact person; and (2) S&B Pork LC #1 – ID# 58414 located in the NW SW, Sec. 6 Marshall Township with S&B Pork LC as owner & Mick Sundblad contact person. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to approve a wage increase for Ann Garvey, part-time dispatcher, as she had reached six months of service. As of December 5, 2021, Garvey's new hourly rate will be \$17.58/hour, as per the union contract. Ayes all, motion carried.

At 11:00 a.m., the Board held a conference call with Calhoun County to discuss combining Jt. DD 37-35 and Jt. DD 173-67 and creating a new schedule for the new district. The full minutes are available for review in the Auditor's office.

Parker Aden, with Pocahontas Chamber of Commerce, met with the Board to discuss applying for the Rural Return Grant. The grant is a 50% match, so Aden requested that the County provide a \$10,000 match, for a total of \$30,000 to put toward building and completing an Alumni Registry, which would be completed by the end of June 2023. The Alumni Registry would be a tool used to communicate with alumni of Pocahontas County about possible business opportunities, job openings, current events, and a point of contact for alumni interested in coming back to the community. The main focus is to market the County to encourage people to move back to the area. Motion by Ives, seconded by Smith, to be the applicant of said grant, and contingent to receiving the grant, support this effort with a \$10,000 match. The amount of match may be adjusted if the grant is for a lesser amount. Ayes-Ives, Siepker, Stauter, Smith; Nays-None, Abstain-Aden.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Smith, to approve the transfer of John Runneberg, Laurens Patrol Operator, to Roads Superintendent. Ayes all, motion carried. Runneberg will start his new position on December 6, 2021 at an annual salary of \$62,940.80.

After a short break, a motion was made by Aden, seconded by Smith, to go into an exempt session, pursuant to Iowa Code 21.9. Ayes all, motion carried. At 12:50 p.m., the Board voted to come out of exempt session with no action taken.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to approve the wage study with an implementation date of July 1, 2022 and to annually use the cost of living rate for November to October from the Bureau of Labor and Statistics as the adjusted cost of living rate. Ayes all, motion carried.

At 12:55 p.m., a motion was made by Ives, seconded by Stauter, to discuss union strategy with Paul Greufe, Human Resource/Union Negotiator, which was exempt from open meetings rules, pursuant to Iowa Code 20.17(3). Ayes all, motion carried. Then at 1:10 p.m., the Board voted to come out of closed session with no action taken.

Supervisor Smith excused himself to attend another meeting.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Ives, to deny longevity pay for Chief Deputy Wes Van Donge, as he is not a union employee. Ayes all, motion carried.

Weekly meetings: Aden – drainage concern; Siepker – Upper Des Moines, Secondary Roads interviews, and Rolling Hills; Stauter– Secondary Roads interviews, and junk yard concerns; and Smith– HCA concerns. Supervisors Aden, Siepker, Stauter, and Smith all attended the public hearing for reprecincting.

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

Clarence Siepker, Chairman

Kelly Jepsen, Auditor