

Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, Iowa
December 19, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County, Iowa, met for a regular session pursuant to adjournment. Members present: Chairman, Brent Aden; Supervisors, Jeff Ives, Louis Stauter, Clarence Siepker, Kyle Smith; and Auditor, Kelly Jepsen. Others present: Reporter, Erin Sommers.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Stauter, to approve the minutes from December 12, 2023 as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Ives, to approve the agenda with striking, Jack Moellering, County Engineer. Ayes all, motion carried.

Julie Edwards, Upper Des Moines Executive Director, met with the Board to give an annual report. 3,549 individuals in 1,340 households in Pocahontas County were served between October 1, 2022-September 30, 2023, at a total cost of \$403,607.20. FY25 budget request was \$18,000.00.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Siepker, to acknowledge the appointment of the following people to the Compensation Board for a four-year term ending June 30, 2027: Marvin Dirks, Jr. as the County Attorney's representative; Rick Winegarden as the Sheriff's representative; and Jody Lyon as the Recorder's representative. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to acknowledge the Sheriff's letter informing them that as of December 12, 2023, Samantha Richison will no longer be employed as a part-time Dispatcher for the Sheriff's Department. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Siepker, to approve the Utilities' values for 2023, payable in FY25. Ayes all, motion carried.

Auditor Jepsen presented the State Valuations. General Basic had a 3.4% increase and Rural Basic a 4.1% increase but unfortunately due to HF718, the County will be limited to only a 1.38% levy increase in General Basic and 2.08% levy increase in Rural Basic, which equates to a little less than \$100,000 combined. With increasing the levy 11.71% in General Services and 6.03% in Rural Services last year and using \$808,128.24 from reserves last year to meet budget requests, the Board discussed different options to meet the budget requests this year. The Supervisors requested that the departments return budget requests by January 5th and to hold budget reviews on January 11th and 12th. No decision on wages for FY25 or health insurance premiums were decided.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Smith, to approve the employment agreement with Tate Schmeling for County Engineer and authorize the Chairman to sign the said agreement. Ayes all, motion carried. Schmeling will begin employment around February 1, 2024 as an Assistant Engineer with an annual salary of \$105,000.00 and three weeks of vacation. Once Schmeling earns his Professional Engineer designation, he will be promoted to County Engineer at an annual salary of \$125,000.00

Motion by Ives, seconded by Siepker, to present the County's initial proposal to the Sheriff's Union as prepared by Paul Greufe, Union Negotiator. Ayes-Ives, Aden, Siepker; Nays-Stauter, Smith. Motion carried.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Siepker, to acknowledge receipt of Manure Management Plans: (1) FMP III Wernimont #1 South– ID# 65117 located in SW SE, Section 18, Cedar Township with FMP III, LLP as owners as owner & Nutra Tech as contact; (2) Nehman's – ID# 59264 located in the NE SE, Section 1, Williams Township, Calhoun County with Nutra Tech, LC as owners and contact; (3) Dutchland Dairy – ID# 56669 located in the SE NW, Sec. 4 Garfield Township with Dan Duitscher as owner & contact person; and (4) S&B Pork LC #1 – ID# 58414 located in the NW SW, Sec. 6 Marshall Township with Mick Sundblad as owner & contact person. Ayes all, motion carried.

Weekly meetings: Ives-Workforce Development and nursing home meeting, Stauter-YES Center; Aden-Nothing; Siepker-Conservation and Linking Families; and Smith-Nursing home meeting and drainage & Public Health concerns.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to adjourn the meeting. Ayes all, motion carried.

Brent Aden, Chairman

Kelly Jepsen, County Auditor