

Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, Iowa
February 16, 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. Telephonically: Reporter, Erin Somers.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Aden, to approve the minutes, dated February 9, 2021, as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

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

Margo Underwood, Hometown Pride Community Coach, gave an update on Hometown Pride and County Foundations. Emily Williams, Economic Development Marketing Coordinator, accompanied Underwood. In the past 9 years, Hometown Pride has had \$1,331,992.11 disbursed to the communities through grants, fund raising, and County contributions through Economic Development. Current improvement projects include: Sportsman's Park pond in Laurens, Elbert Park in Pocahontas, and Sunset Park in Gilmore City. County Foundations awarded 26 grants to non-profits in every community in Pocahontas County; the Foundations also celebrated 15 years of charitable giving this year.

Angela Duitsman, Fonda's City Clerk, and Amy Johnson, County Treasurer, came before the Board and requested an assignment of County held certificates on parcels #13-27-185-005, #13-27-185-004, #13-27-403-004, #13-27-405-021, #13-27-259-002, #13-27-259-001, and #13-27-257-010. Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to assign the tax certificates, #2010-74, #2010-73, #2017-184, #2014-158, #2018-194, #2017-183, to the City of Fonda. Ayes all, motion carried.

Sheriff Steve Nelson presented the 28E agreement that the City of Fonda signed. The 28E Agreement is a 4 year agreement, beginning July 1, 2021, for 20 hours/week of law enforcement to the City of Fonda. Fonda will pay \$60,000 the first year, with increases for each year after. Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to approve the Pocahontas County and the City of Fonda 28E Law Enforcement Agreement. Ayes all, motion carried.

Nelson requested to hire another Deputy Sheriff. He advised that covering two cities as far apart as Rolfe and Fonda would stretch them thin. They would also need to purchase another vehicle or work out something with Fonda for their law enforcement vehicle. Since coverage for Fonda would not begin until July 1, 2021, the Board will revisit the request around the end of March.

Nelson gave an update of the jail. The State Jail Inspector indicated that he would not shut down our jail as long as he sees progress towards either building a new jail or closing the jail and transporting the prisoners to other jails. Nelson and Supervisor Smith met with the Sheriff Lynn Schultes from Palo Alto County and John Hansen with Midwest Construction Consultants. The process of building a new jail would be a 5 year process. The consulting firm advised to build only for what you need and that the payback to build vs transporting would take 20-25 years to break even. After that, you would be spending more money to transport out than it cost to build a new jail. The Board advised Nelson to keep moving forward on getting information and cost.

Jack Moellering, County Engineer, advised on how they have been dealing with the snow and cold weather and discussed the deer crossing signs on N-28. It was the consensus of the Board to extend the deer crossing sign another mile, north of the Pocahontas/Calhoun County line. Supervisor Aden inquired about the C56, west of Palmer. Once Moellering finishes the Bridge at the South County line, the Palmer highway is his next project.

Gary Atherton, Assistant to the Engineer/Drainage Clerk, advised that the bid letting at 11:00 a.m. is for pipe culvert for the County, not pipe for DD 59. The pipe for DD 59 would come from the County's stock of pipe. Motion by Ives, seconded by Aden, to amend the agenda to bid letting for pipe rather than bid letting for DD 59 pipe. Ayes all, motion carried.

At 11:00 a.m., the Board proceeded with the bid letting. Three bids were received: True North Steel, St Paul, MN, was rejected since they did not bid as instructed; Contech Engineering Solutions, Ankeny, IA for \$201,364.68; and Metal Culverts, Inc., Jefferson City, MO for \$187,477.32. Motion by Ives, seconded by Aden, to accept Metal Culverts, Inc. bid for \$187,477.32. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Stauter, to approve the Recorder's Report of Fees Collected for the month of January. Ayes all, motion carried.

Auditor Jepsen advised that on January 26, 2021, the Board approved the letter of understanding between the Sheriff's union and Pocahontas County in an effort to save money by avoiding arbitration. The agreement was approved until June, 30, 2021, when it should have been until June 30, 2022. Paul Greufe, Human Recourse/Union Negotiator, revised the agreement and requested the Board approve the new letter of understanding. Motion by Ives, seconded by Aden, to approve the new side letter of understanding between the Sheriff's union and Pocahontas County, effective from Labor Day 2020 until June 30, 2022. Ayes-Ives, Aden, Siepker, Smith; Nays-Stauter.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to approve the hire of Samantha Richison as a part-time dispatcher/jailer, for the Sheriff's Department. Richison will start on February 17, 2021, at \$16.98/hour, as per union contract. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Ives, to acknowledge receipt of Manure Management Plans: (1) Kies North Farm – ID#63529 located in the NW SW, Section 6, Cedar Township with FMP, LLP as owner & Rusty Kosky as contact person; and (2) K&M Turkey Farm– ID# 68050 located in the SW SE, Section 34, Coon Township, Buena Vista County with Matt McCarthy as owner & contact person. Ayes all, motion carried.

Auditor Jepsen, explained that she had received three quotes for the elected officials' surety bonds but in doing research found Iowa Code 331.324(6), which states that an elected county officer is deemed to have furnished surety if the officer is covered by a blanket bond purchased as provided in this subsection. Jepsen discussed the code with ISAC legal counsel and Rick Woodley, Woodley Insurance, who wrote the County's insurance, and concluded that the elected officials do not have to do surety bonds since they are covered by the County's blanket surety. An endorsement to the County's crime policy would cover the elected official, costing roughly \$200.00 a year, otherwise surety bonds for 3 Supervisors, Auditor, Recorder, and Sheriff would cost \$2,635.00. Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to purchase the endorsement to the current policy with EMC rather than purchase individual surety bonds for the elected officials. Ayes all, motion carried.

Jepsen explained that since Orene Cressler, VA/GA Director, is no longer at the Annex, she will need to have different signers on her payee program accounts. Years back, the State Auditor requested a second signer on payees' checking accounts and a second person to review the bank statements, to safeguard against fraud. Cressler requested Sue Reigelsberger, Kelly Haberl, and Amy Johnson to be designated signer on the accounts. Jepsen inquired if Cressler's request was acceptable. The Board felt that since the Auditor would be the person to audit the account if need be, that it makes the most sense to have the Auditor's office be the authorized second signer and the person to review the bank statements. Motion by Ives, seconded by Stauter, to have Cressler use the Auditor's office as the second signer and auditing of the bank statements. Ayes all, motion carried.

Jepsen also handed out a new FY22 budget spreadsheet reflecting the latest changed in budget requests.

Weekly meetings: Ives-Solid Waste concerns; and Smith-Safety meeting and Courthouse committee. All Supervisors participated in the DD 168 Completion Hearing and Conference Board.

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

Clarence Siepker, Chairman

Kelly Jepsen, Auditor