

Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, Iowa
February 7, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County, Iowa, met for a regular meeting. Members present: Chairman, Brent Aden; Supervisors, Jeffrey Ives, Louis Stauter, Clarence Siepker, Kyle Smith; and Auditor, Kelly Jepsen. Others present: Reporter, Erin Somers.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to approve the minutes dated January 31, 2023 as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

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

At 10:05 a.m., the Board had a conference call with Palo Alto and Humboldt County to accept the Tri Jt. DD 1 Engineer's Report, consider setting a date for hearing and approving payment for Engineering services. The full minutes are available for review in the Auditor's office.

Appointments to the 2023 Eminent Domain Commission will be discussed at the February 14th Board meeting.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Smith, to approve the hire of Alison Hauser as a Reserve Deputy for the Sheriff's Department. Ayes all, motion carried. Hauser started employment on January 20, 2023 at \$18.00/hr. but since she is currently an exempt County employee, her wage will have to be blended.

At 11:00 a.m., a bid letting for supplemental abutments on four bridges was held. Jack Moellering, County Engineer, advised that six bids were received with five being accepted: Christensen Bros. Inc. from Cherokee, IA, for \$504,835.00; Cunningham-Reis, LLC from Van Meter, IA for \$273,196.00; Cramer & Assoc., Inc. from Grimes, IA for \$431,585.90; Minturn, Inc. from Brooklyn, IA for \$500,682.55; and Nelson & Rock Contracting, Inc. from Onawa, IA for \$404,005.00. Motion by Stauter, seconded by Siepker, as long as the calculations are correct, to accept the bid from Cunningham-Reis, LLC for \$273,196.00. Ayes all, motion carried.

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

Motion by Ives, seconded by Siepker, to approve a pay increase for Samantha Richison, PT Dispatcher, as she has reached 24-months of employment in the Sheriff's Department. Ayes all, motion carried. On February 17, 2023, Richison's rate of pay will change to \$19.28/hr., as per union contract.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Stauter, to approve payment to King Excavation for repairs in Jt. DD 63 Lat. 13 for \$1885.00. Ayes all, motion carried. The work was performed in Section 19, Great Oak Township, Palo Alto County.

Since funds will be collected through a separate EMS ad valorem property tax and a local option income surtax, a motion was made by Ives, seconded by Siepker, to suspend the agreement with Pocahontas County Emergency Response System. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Ives, to acknowledge receipt of Manure Management Plans: (1) PI-251 – ID# 65720 located in the NW NW, Section 21, Powhatan Township with Prestage Farms of Iowa LLC as owner & contact; (2) Mark Wells – ID# 64298 located in the SW NW, Section 18, Colfax Township with Mark Wells as owner & contact person; (3) Fonda Finisher Farm – ID# 58396 located in the NW NW, Section 5, Williams Township, Calhoun County with Iowa Select Farms, LLP as owner & Keith Kratchmer as contact person; (4) Plover Finisher Farm – ID# 58387 located in the NW SW, Section 32, Powhatan Township with Marton Pork Productions Inc. as owner & Keith Kratchmer as contact person; (5) Benelli Finisher Farm – ID# 71429 located in the SW SW, Section 10, Cedar Township with Prime Farms LLC as owner & Keith Kratchmer as contact person; (6) DeYoung Finisher – ID# 61831 located in the SE SE, Section 17, Sherman Township with Middle Creek Swine, LLC as owner & Steve Licht as contact person; and (7) Baker 1 Finisher – ID# 61828 located in the SE SW, Section 13, Marshall Township with Middle Creek Swine, LLC as owner & Steve Licht as contact person. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Siepker, to authorize the Chairman to sign the underground utility permit application for Alliant Energy and the Iowa DOT agreement for use of highway Right-of-Way. Ayes all, motion carried. Alliant Energy will be doing underground work North of Rolfe.

Weekly meetings: Ives-Statewide Supervisors meeting, drainage concerns and Jt. DD 181 Annual meeting; Stauter-EMS, Fonda City Council, Economic Development Annual meeting and Jt. DD 181 Annual meeting; Aden- Economic Development Annual meeting, Midas Revolving Loan Committee, and Jt. DD 181 Annual meeting; Siepker-Statewide Supervisors meeting and Jt. DD 181 Annual meeting; and Smith- Economic Development Annual meeting, Public Health, met with contractors, and bridge concerns.

Paul Greufe, HR/union negotiator, and Sheriff Steve Nelson visited with the Board about compensating non-exempt supervisors for taking phone calls outside their normal work hours. Nelson explained that his supervisors used to not expect compensation for such calls, but since the County started using a time clock system, his Chief Deputy and Dispatch Supervisor have requested reimbursement. Since this was not an agenda item, the Board will discuss at their next meeting.

Greufe also advised on changes to the tentative union agreement for FY24. The Board did not want to take any action until decisions were made on budget requests.

The Board recessed for lunch from 12:25 p.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Kelly Jepsen, County Auditor, presented information on proposed employee wages and a comparison of expenses vs wages/benefits for FY22, FY23 budget, and FY24 requested. Talk on the levies will continue next week.

There being no further business, the Chairman declared the meeting adjourned. Ayes all, motion carried.

Brent Aden, Chairman

Kelly Jepsen, Auditor