

Supervisors Room, Courthouse  
Pocahontas, Iowa  
March 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 Stauffer, Kyle Smith; and Auditor, Kelly Jepsen. Others Present: Reporter, Erin Somers.

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

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

Sheriff Steve Nelson presented a list of calls that Dispatch had received from the Fonda area since January 1, 2021 to present and requested to hire another Deputy Sheriff. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Board to revisit the idea in three to six months.

Nelson and the Board also discussed the idea of building a new jail versus transporting prisoners. The Board had received good references on John Hansen from Midwest Construction Consultants, but before hiring him, they would like to have Nelson form a jail committee and to determine if the people in the County are in favor of building a new jail. They do not want to spend money on a feasibility study if the community does not even want a new jail. Nelson will also attend the Pocahontas City Council meeting to inquire about a lot North of Pocahontas.

The Board reviewed the bid tab for DD 72 cleanout. Estimate of the cleanout was \$8,930.00. Three bids were received: Anderson Drainage & Excavation LLC, Rutland, IA for \$7,422.50; Luft & Sons, Inc., Rolfe, IA for \$10,399.10; and Quality Drainage Solutions, Sac City, IA for \$16,099.10. Motion by Aden, seconded by Stauffer, to approve the repair work in DD 72 and to hire Anderson Drainage & Excavation LLC for \$7,422.50. Ayes all, motion carried.

The Board reviewed information regarding a large rock, trees and tree roots in DD 86, located in Section 25, Lizard Township. No action was taken.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Stauffer, to authorize the Chairman to sign the utility permit allowing Northwest Communications to do underground construction across organized drainage district lands and authorize Palo Alto County to perform the inspection. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Ives, to authorize the Chairman to sign the utility permit allowing Palmer Mutual to perform underground construction across organized drainage district lands. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauffer, seconded by Ives, to approve the Iowa Department of Transportation Agreement for County Bridge Federal-Aid SWAP funding for 19-30 Marshall. Ayes all, motion carried.

Jack Moellering, County Engineer, advised of the Pocahontas Prairie Wind Farm will begin as soon as April 12<sup>th</sup>.

At 11:00 a.m., the Board proceeded with the Public Hearing for the FY2022 Budget. Jepsen presented proof of publication. No one was present from the public and there were no written objections filed. Motion by Aden, seconded by Smith, to approve the FY22 budget by resolution. Voice vote: Ayes – Ives, Aden, Siepker, Stauffer, Smith; Nays-none. Whereby the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit:

**RESOLUTION – 2021-03- #10  
FY 2022 COUNTY BUDGET**

WHEREAS, Pocahontas County, Iowa held a Public Hearing on March 30, 2021 for the 2021/2022 Fiscal Year County Budget, and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 331,434 authorizes the Board of each county to certify property taxes annually at its April session,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, on March 30, 2021, the Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors approved the County Budget in the amount of \$14,025,073 with \$1,710,286 in transfers for a total of \$15,735,359; with the following approved levies and tax asking:

Levies per \$1,000 of valuation:

General Basic \$ 3.50  
Pioneer Cemetery \$0.00575  
General Supplemental \$ 1.70951  
Mental Health \$ 0.24796  
Rural Basic \$ 3.19569  
Total \$ 8.65891

Tax Askings:

General Basic \$ 3,042,445  
Pioneer Cemetery \$5,000  
General Supplemental \$ 1,486,022  
Mental Health \$ 215,544  
Rural Basic \$ 2,347,014  
Total \$ 7,096,025

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors adopts the Fiscal Year 21/22 County budget beginning July 1, 2021.

Auditor Jepsen advised that she would like to be paid \$1,000 less, making her salary the same as the County Treasurer and County Recorder. Kristi Harshbarger, ISAC legal counsel, advised that she could not decline a portion of her salary and that all salary changes have to go through the Compensation Board's process. Harshbarger also advised that the Board of Supervisors can only lower the Compensation Board's recommendation by the same amount. Jepsen will make the request at the next Compensation Board meeting.

The Board considered the increased salary recommendations of the County Compensation Board for the elected officers. Motion by Smith, seconded by Stauter, to adopt, by resolution, option 2, setting the wage increase to 50% of the Compensation Board's recommendation. The Chairman called the question with the following recorded vote: Ayes – Ives, Aden, Siepker, Stauter, Smith; Nays-none. Whereby the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit:

**RESOLUTION – 2021– 03 #11**

**COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD SALARY RECOMMENDATION**

WHEREAS, the Pocahontas County Compensation Board meets annually to recommend a compensation schedule for elected officials for the fiscal year immediately following, in accordance with Iowa Code Chapters 331.905 and 331.907, and

WHEREAS, the Pocahontas County Compensation Board met on December 8, 2020 and made the following salary recommendations for the following elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021:

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Proposed Increase</u>	<u>Recommended Salary</u>
Auditor	\$ 62,000	\$2,000	\$ 64,000
County Attorney	\$ 86,000	\$4,000	\$ 90,000
Recorder	\$ 61,000	\$2,000	\$ 63,000
Sheriff	\$ 84,000	\$4,000	\$ 88,000
Supervisors	\$ 30,500	\$1,000	\$ 31,500
Supervisor Chairman	\$ 31,500	\$1,000	\$ 32,500
Treasurer	\$ 61,000	\$2,000	\$ 63,000

**OPTION 1:**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors adopts the salary recommendations for elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021 as recommended by the Pocahontas County Compensation Board.

**OPTION 2:**

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors approves the following salary adjustments for the following elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2021.

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Approved Increase</u>	<u>Approved Salary</u>
Auditor	\$ 62,000	\$1,000	\$ 63,000
County Attorney	\$ 86,000	\$2,000	\$ 88,000
Recorder	\$ 61,000	\$1,000	\$ 62,000
Sheriff	\$ 84,000	\$2,000	\$ 86,000
Supervisors	\$ 30,500	\$500	\$ 31,000
Supervisor Chairman	\$ 31,500	\$500	\$ 32,000
Treasurer	\$ 61,000	\$1,000	\$ 62,000

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Ives, to discontinue with the County's established Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) guidelines as of April 1, 2021 with the understanding that they may choose to reactivate it if needed. Ayes all, motion carried.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold the annual employee meeting in June. Auditor Jepsen will explore dates and report back.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to appoint Jerry Hammen and Mike Behrendsen as Commissioners for DD 41, DD 44, and DD 168. Ayes all, motion carried.

On behalf of the Jt. DD 181 interim board, a motion was made by Stauter, seconded by Ives, to approve the transfer of Jt. DD 181 Br. 676 to Jt. DD 25-39. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to accept Jt. DD 181 branches into the respective ditches as follows: Jt. DD 181 Br. 616 into DD 182, Jt. DD 181 Br. 520 into DD 8 Southwest, Jt. DD 181 Br. 527 into DD 8 South, Jt. DD 181 Br. 32 into DD 59, Jt. DD 181 Br. 676 into Jt. DD 25-39. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Ives, to acknowledge receipt of Manure Management Plans: (1) PI-258 Finisher-ID# 65208, located in the NE, NE, NW, Section 19, Grant Township, with Prestage Farms of Iowa LLC as owner & Dennis Benning as contact person; (2) Mary Lee Peiffer-ID# 57939, located in the SW SE, Section 1, Douglas Township, Sac County, with Mary Peiffer as owner & contact person; and (3) Ken Woodford Finishing #2 – ID# 67029, located in the SE SW, Section 5, Cummins Township, with Ken Woodford as owner & contact person. Ayes all, motion carried.

Jepsen and the Board discussed mailboxes for the different departments at the Courthouse. Motion was made by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to purchase a 16 unit cluster box with individual locks for the Courthouse, for \$671.86. Ayes all, motion carried.

Weekly meetings: Ives-Workforce Development training and ISAC Spring Conference; Siepker-Upper Des Moines, CSS, Rolling Hills, and Linking Families; Stauter-CFR and Courthouse roof concerns; Aden and Smith had no meetings.

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

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Clarence Siepker, Chairman

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Kelly Jepsen, Auditor