

Supervisors Room, Courthouse Pocahontas, Iowa
May 19, 2020

The Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County, Iowa, met in regular session pursuant to adjournment.

Due to the spread of COVID-19, all County buildings are open to the public by appointment only, making holding public meetings impossible. Since public meetings are an essential part in keeping the County operational, Pocahontas County will hold all public meetings electronically. The public was able to participate in the Board of Supervisors meeting held on May 19, 2020 by electronic means posted at the top of the Agenda.

Members present: Chairman, Jeffrey Ives; Supervisors, Clarence Siepker, Louis Stauter, and Brent Aden; and Auditor, Kelly Jepsen. Electronically: Supervisor, Ed Dewey; and Reporter, Erin Sommers.

Motion by Dewey, seconded by Aden, to approve two sets of minutes dated May 12, 2020, as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Stauter, to approve the tentative agenda with the addition of, approve response letter to Allen Bonini from the DNR. Ayes all, motion carried.

Phil Waniorek from Benefits, Inc., presented several different short-term disability policy options offered by three different insurance companies. The Board will consider their options.

Steve Nelson, Chief Deputy Sheriff, met with the Board to discuss purchasing new body cameras; two are no longer working and the rest are ten years old. Motion by Stauter, second by Aden, to authorize the purchase of seven body cameras from Axon Enterprise, Inc. for \$5,409.25. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Siepker, to approve Jt. DD 36 Main Tile, FEMA claim from Pocahontas County Secondary Roads for tile replacement in Section 5 of Cummins Township, for \$356.38. Ayes all, motion carried. This is an addition to the June 11, 2019 claim, as the material was left off that claim.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Siepker, to approve the proposed repairs to Jt. DD 9-13 totaling \$3,900.00, located in the SE SW Section 5, Sherman Township, Calhoun County. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Dewey, to approve the Recorder's April Report of Fees Collected. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Aden, to approve the Veterans Affairs Quarterly report for January thru March 2020. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Aden, to authorize the Chairman to sign a letter addressed to Economic Development Executive Committee. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Dewey, seconded by Aden, to approve the hire of part time seasonal employees for the Conservation Department, as follows: Mason Stall, effective May 1, 2020 at \$12/hour; and Myrvin Samuelson, May 1, 2020 at \$13.50/hour. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Siepker, to acknowledge receipt of Manure Management Plans: (1) Staiert Terry – ID# 61547 located in the SW SW, Section 7, Colfax Township with Terry Staiert as owner & Terry Staiert and Twin Lakes Environmental Services as contact persons. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Siepker, to rescind the motion made on May 12, 2020, to set a public hearing for FY20 budget amendment for Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., in the Board Room in the Courthouse, as it is not needed. Ayes all, motion carried.

Auditor Jepsen explained that the furnace and air conditioner unit at the Annex was recently repaired; making her question the number of repairs the unit has had in the past ten years. Dick Seiler, from Seiler Appliance, investigated and agreed that the unit was a lemon. Seiler offered to take the cost of the recent repair, \$1,777, and credit it towards a new unit if the Board would choose to replace the system. Motion was made by Stauter, seconded by Siepker, to proceed with the purchase of a new furnace and air conditioner unit for the Annex, taking advantage of Seiler's offer. Ayes all, motion carried. Jepsen will look for rebates as well.

Jepsen advised that Secondary Roads assisted in removing the old generator and Vern Casey with Standby Power Systems, would be at the Courthouse on Wednesday, at 1:00 p.m. to pick it up. The Board discussed what to do with the room that housed the old generator; fill it in or cover. Jepsen will see if Casey is interested in purchasing the control box as well.

At 11:00 a.m., the Board, along with Gary Atherton, Assistant to the Engineer/Drainage Clerk, held a bid letting for the DD 30 Br. 3 improvement project. Three bids were received and accepted. The bids considered: Schoon Excavating & Farm Drainage, Inc., from Pocahontas, IA, for \$52,495.00; Luft & Sons, Inc., from Rolfe, IA, for \$48,430.00; and Quality Drainage Solutions, from Sac City, IA, for \$45,990.00. Motion by Aden, seconded by Siepker, to award the bid to Quality Drainage Solutions, from Sac City, IA, for \$45,990.00, with a completion date of July 15, 2020. Ayes all, motion carried.

At 11:10 a.m., a bid letting for pavement markings was held. Jack Moellering, County Engineer, advised that three bids were received: Iowa Plains Signing, from Slater, IA, for \$57,626.44; KAM Line Highway Markings, from Gilbert, IA, for \$51,696.77; and Quality Striping, Inc., from Des Moines, IA, for \$60,441.75. After checking the calculations, a motion was made by Stauter, seconded by Siepker, to award the bid to KAM Line Highway Markings, from Gilbert, IA, for \$51,696.77. Ayes all, motion carried.

Supervisor Stauter inquired about cutting down a hill as part of the N-28 project. Moellering advised that he was not considering it, as changing the grade is costly. The contractor would have to hire a subcontractor, as they are not set up to do earthwork, which would delay the project.

The Board discussed a plan to reopen using a three phased approach that will be discussed with the department heads.

At 11:30 a.m., the Board recessed for Department Head meeting and DD 59 hearing on proposed repairs.

At 2:15 p.m., the Board reconvened.

Jack Moellering, County Engineer, advised that he is still waiting on bids for seeding and mulching 60 acres along N-28, so discussion would need to be tabled.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Stauter, to authorize the Chairman to sign the response letter to Allen Bonini, from the Iowa DNR. Ayes all, motion carried.

The Board discussed a plan to reopen the county facilities in three phases. Motion was made by Siepker, seconded by Aden, to adopt the Pocahontas County Reopening Policy Phased Approach Plan with Phase 1 going into effect today, May 19, 2020. Tentative start date for Phase 2 is June 3, 2020. Ayes all, motion carried.

Weekly meetings: Siepker-Upper Des Moines Finance meeting and drainage concerns; Aden-Solid Waste and Economic Development; Ives-Solid Waste and Economic Development and drainage concerns; Stauter- CFR and drainage concerns; and Dewey- Conservation, Emergency Management, and COVID-19 concerns. All Supervisors participated in the Department Head meeting addressing COVID-19.

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

Jeffrey K. Ives, Chairman

Kelly A. Jepsen, Auditor

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At 11:30 a.m., the Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County, Iowa, met with Department Heads to discuss the COVID-19 pandemic.

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Members present: Chairman, Jeffrey Ives; Supervisors, Clarence Siepker, Louis Stauter, and Brent Aden; and Auditor, Kelly Jepsen. Department Heads present: Diane Ferguson; Sue Reigelsberger; Dereck Hebert; and Steve Nelson. Telephonically: Reporter, Erin Sommers; Supervisors Ed Dewey; and Department Heads: Tom Grau, Russ Jergens, and Jill Conlin.

A few Department Heads gave updates. Diane Ferguson, Director of Public Health, advised on the testing going on in Buena Vista County and explained that Pocahontas County testing has slowed down. Sue Reigelsberger, County Assessor, feels that the new policies are helpful and being open by appointment appears to be working well. Russ Jergens, EMA Coordinator, was able to get more PPE for the Health Department.

Supervisor Ives explained the Pocahontas County Reopening Policy Phased Approach Plan and that the County is in Phase 1. Auditor Jepsen reviewed Phase 1 and the will start working on Phase 2 & 3.

Jeffrey K. Ives, Chairman

Kelly A. Jepsen, Auditor