

Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, Iowa
July 19, 2022

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

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Smith, to approve the minutes dated July 12, 2022, as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

The agenda was approved as posted, on motion by Ives, seconded by Aden. Ayes all, motion carried.

Paige Wheeler, Community Development Manager for the City of Fort Dodge, met with the Board to answer questions regarding the Heart of Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund, the process to join the Trust, and how homeowners could apply for funding. Annually the Trust would apply for funding to assist low to moderate income families rehab their homes. The Trust would divide the funding received by the percent of population of each county within the Trust and those dollars would be allocated to that county to be spent. In 2023, if Pocahontas County joins the Housing Trust, and with a match of roughly \$7,200.00, Pocahontas County could receive up to \$39,355.00 in funding to rehabilitate homes in Pocahontas County.

After discuss with Wheeler, a motion was made by Smith, seconded by Aden, to adopt a resolution of acceptance of merger into the Iowa Finance Authority Certification of the Heart of Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund. The Chairman called the question with the following recorded vote: Ayes: Ives, Aden, Stauter, Siepker, Smith. Nays: none. Whereby the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit:

Resolution-2022-07-26

A RESOLUTION OF ACCEPTANCE OF MERGER OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY INTO THE IOWA FINANCE AUTHORITY CERTIFICATION OF THE HEART OF IOWA REGIONAL HOUSING TRUST FUND

WHEREAS, Webster and Hamilton Counties have created the Heart of Iowa Regional Housing Trust Fund (HIRHTF), and it is an established Local Housing Trust Fund (LHTF) whose general mission and purpose is to address the affordable housing needs within the region through coordination and long-term planning; and,

WHEREAS, it is important for the area's communities and counties to collaborate to address this issue; and,

WHEREAS, Homeward, Inc. will no longer serve as an established LHTF for Calhoun, Humboldt, Pocahontas, and Wright Counties upon completion of the 2022 funding year; and,

WHEREAS, joining a LHTF, that is certified by the Iowa Finance Authority to receive funding, would allow the displaced counties to continue to assist families under the State Housing Trust Fund; and,

WHEREAS, beginning January of 2023, the State Housing Trust Fund dollars will be administered by HIRHTF under the direction of its Board of Directors, and HIRHTF staff will provide day-to-day management that targets the needs of the residents of the respective counties.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County hereby agree to the merger with HIRHTF and their existing certification as an Iowa Finance Authority funded agency, as related to the State Housing Trust Fund.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 19th day of July 2022.

By: Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors

/s/Louis Stauter, Chairman, /s/Jeffrey K. Ives, /s/Brent Aden, /s/Clarence Siepker, /s/Kyle Smith

ATTEST: /s/Kelly Jepsen, County Auditor

Several members from the public, along with owner, Matt Kopriva, discussed the confined animal feeding operation that is to be erected west of the City of Pocahontas. Residents requested Kopriva consider another location for the hog confinement and for the County to contact the DNR requesting the permit be denied. Kopriva advised that he did not have another location for the confinement but would be conscientious of when he spreads the manure. The Board advised that they only get an opportunity to score the master matrix and the score was within the limits set by the DNR, so they cannot do anything to stop it from being permitted. The following people were present for discussion: Hope Radke, Bonnie Wood, Tom McCartan, Doug Anderson, Corinne Peterson, Mary Kelly, Marcella Schoberg, James D. Bartosh, Dick Gruber, Les Bunda, Donna Bunda, Keith Johnson, Millie DeWall, Sandi Kramer, Marilyn Hammer, Marlene Nomann, Patricia Halstead, Susanne Ott, Gerald Eberle, Hans Clausen, Deborah Mefferd, Danny Plantz, Dave Arndt, Marge Dietrich, Judy Shimon, Caitlin Golle, Carl Jacobson, and Dan Anderson with ISU Extension and Outreach. Mitch Baum, with Summit Pork III, LLC participated by phone.

Jack Moellering, County Engineer, and the Board discussed different road and bridge concerns within the County.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Siepker, to approve a pay increase for Bryan Rahn, FT Dispatcher, and Tanner Orwig, FT Jailer as they both have completed 12 months of employment with the Sheriff's Office. Ayes all, motion carried. As of August 2, 2022, Rahn's and Orwig's new wages will be \$18.73/hr. plus differential, as per union contract.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Siepker, to appoint the Chairman, Louis Stauter, as the Privacy Officer for HIPAA. Ayes all, motion carried.

Supervisor Smith advised that there are 9 Ash trees on the Courthouse lawn and should be treated for Emerald Ash Borer. He had received a quote of \$1,615.75 to treat the 9 trees but since the County Conservation has the equipment and is treating the Ash trees in the parks, he suggested having Conservation treat the Courthouse trees to save the tax payers money. Supervisor Siepker is on the Conservation Board, so he will speak with the Conservation Director, Brian Reis, about treating the Ash Trees at the Courthouse.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Aden, to authorize the Chairman to sign the Declaration of Value Statements for the Raymond H. Ohlinger and Betty J. Ohlinger properties and the Terry Zeman properties. Ayes all, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the County Employee's COVID Pay policy that ended July 1, 2022 and decided not to renew the policy. They requested the Auditor confirm the CDC guidelines with the Public Health Director and advise the Department Administrators on the status and guidance on when to allow their staff to come back to work after being COVID-19 positive.

Weekly meetings: Aden–Bridge and sign concerns; Stauter – Two EMS meetings, the County Fair, and driveway concerns; Siepker–North Racoon Watershed meeting and drainage concerns; and Smith–Safety, Building & Grounds, and concerns with Public Health.

Sargent Steve Henderson and John Hansen with Midwest Construction Consultants, presented RFQs for an architect to do a preliminary drawing of a new jail so the cost can be considered when comparing building a new jail to the cost of transporting inmates to other counties to be housed. Motion by Smith, seconded by Aden, to hire Rick A. Weidner, AIA as the Architect to perform Phase 1 for \$9,000.00. Ayes all, motion carried. Phase 1 will include a colored/rendered site plan, floor plans and elevations to use in public meetings and brochures. It also includes 4 trips to Pocahontas. Hansen advised that this would take the County through the time it is decided to proceed with the project.

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

Louis Stauter, Chairman

Kelly Jepsen, Auditor