

Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, Iowa
September 21, 2021

The Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County, Iowa, met in regular session pursuant to adjournment. Members present: Chairman, Clarence Siepker; Supervisors, Brent Aden, Jeffrey Ives, Louis Stauter, and Kyle Smith; and Auditor, Kelly Jepsen. Others Present: Reporter, Erin Sommers.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to approve the minutes from September 14, 2021, as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

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

John Torbert, IDDA Director, provided his annual report. He discussed the annual meeting, tentatively scheduled for December 3, 2021 in Fort Dodge, concerns with Federal rules on the waters of the United States, legislation that was successfully passed and federal grants for “conservation drainage”.

Dereck Hebert, IT Director, advised that we went back to both SCI-Communications, from Milford, IA and Northwest Communications, from Havelock to see if they would revise their numbers. SCI brought their monthly SIP cost down to \$399.09 and their onetime cost for the Avaya IP system down to \$44,564.87 while Northwest dropped their monthly SIP cost to \$586.73 and their onetime cost for the ESI (NCN) system to \$35,923.56. Over a 20 year life expectancy of the system, the cost of the Northwest system would still be higher than SCI's system. On Hebert's recommendation, a motion was made by Aden, seconded by Stauter, to purchase a new phone system through SCI-Communications and use funds from the American Rescue Plan to pay for the new system. Ayes-Aden, Siepker, Stauter, Smith; Nays-Ives. Motion carried. The new phones will have two different options that will allow employees to use their phones to work remotely as if they were using their phone from their office. The current system does not have those abilities.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Stauter, to approve VPN access for Kelly Haberl, Chief Deputy Assessor. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Ives, to accept the retirement letter from Sue Reigelsberger, County Assessor, effective September 24, 2021. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith, to approve Kathy Simacek's request for continuance of health insurance under the Continuation of Health Coverage policy. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Ives, to authorize the Chairman to sign the 28E Agreement with Elderbridge Agency on Aging. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Stauter, to tentatively approve the Completion Report for DD 41 and set the hearing on said report for Tuesday, October 19, 2021 at 10:00 a.m., during the Board meeting in the Supervisors Room on the second floor of the Courthouse. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Aden, to approve the Completion of Jt. DD 63 for the FEMA repairs with the same instruction as Palo Alto County approved. Ayes all, motion carried. On Tuesday September 14, 2021 the Palo Alto County Board approved the crop loss report filed by Bolton & Menk, direct the Auditor to make final payment to the contractor in 30 days with \$981.48 withheld for crop damages and approve the completion of the contractor.

On behalf of the Jt. DD 181 Interim Board, a motion was made by Aden, seconded by Smith, to approve a claim from Brady Stauter for trapping beavers, in the amount of \$120.00. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Ives, seconded by Stauter, to approve Jt. DD 63 claim from Bolton & Menk for professional services, for \$3,751.50. Ayes all, motion carried.

At 11:00 a.m., at bid letting for 19-30 Marshall Bridge replacement with a pre-cast culvert. Jack Moellering, County Engineer, advised that four bids were received: Midwest Contracting, LLC from Marshall, MN bid \$383,462.60; Minnowa Construction, Inc. from Harmony, MN bid \$365,999.50; Peterson Contractors, Inc. from Reinbeck, IA bid \$381,491.80; and Weidemann, Inc. from Dows, IA bid \$423,671.16. Motion by Stauter, seconded by Smith to award the contract to Minnowa Construction, Inc. from Harmony, MN for \$365,999.50, pending their math is correct. Ayes: all, motion carried.

Jack Moellering, County Engineer, advised that Northwest Communications requested a permit to do underground construction across organized drainage district. Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to authorize the Chairman to sign the utility permit for Northwest Communications. Ayes all, motion carried. Work will take place in Sherman Township, along the route of the Albert City Road and then 5 miles East beyond.

Moellering and the Board discussed Secondary Roads concerns.

Weekly meetings: Ives –Solid Waste and Public Health/EMA meeting; Aden– Second Judicial meeting; Siepker – State Mental Health meeting; Stauter– YES Center meeting and beaver dam concerns; and Smith – Public Health/EMA meeting, safety meeting and building/grounds meeting.

The Board canvassed the results for the first tier of the Pocahontas Area Community School District Special Election for Pocahontas and Palo Alto Counties only. The results were as follows:

	Yes	No	Total
Absentee	26	21	47
Palmer Vote Center	36	61	97
Pocahontas Vote Center	269	94	363
Rolfe Vote Center	34	52	86
Total	365	228	593

Next week the Board will perform the second tier canvass where the results from all counties involved in the elections will be reviewed and made official.

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

Clarence Siepker, Chairman

Kelly Jepsen, Auditor