

Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, IA December 20, 2016

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

Members present: Chairman Jeffrey K. Ives, Clarence Siepker, JoAnn Peters, Louis Stauter, and Ed Dewey telephonically present.

The minutes of December 13, 2016 were approved as presented on motion of Dewey, seconded by Stauter. Ayes all, motion carried.

The tentative agenda was approved as amended on motion of Siepker, seconded by Peters to include approve the Wellness Agreement with ISAC and approve the Administration Agreement for Flex Benefit Plan. Ayes all, motion carried.

It was moved by Stauter, seconded by Peters to appoint Gretchen Tiedeman, PCEDC Marketing Coordinator to the Mid-Iowa Growth Partnership to serve along with Tom Grau; Brooke McCartan will continue as an alternate. Ayes all, motion carried.

It was moved by Stauter, seconded by Siepker to set the hearing for the Engineer's Report for D.D. 8, Br H for 1:15 p.m., Tuesday, January 31, 2017. Ayes all, motion carried.

It was moved by Siepker, seconded by Stauter to approve the six parcels disallowed for homestead and military exemption and direct the auditor to send notification letters to the owners. Ayes all, motion carried.

It was moved by Stauter, seconded by Peters to authorize the Chairman to sign the Wellness Agreement with ISAC for the 2017 calendar year. Ayes all, motion carried.

It was moved by Dewey, seconded by Peters to authorize the chairman to sign the agreement for the administration of the flexible benefits plan with Benefits, Inc. with the annual fee to be \$450.00 and a cost of \$4.75 per employee per month. Ayes all, motion carried.

It was moved by Stauter, seconded by Siepker to approve the billing of Bolton & Menk of \$7,355.00 for engineering services for Jt. D.D. 18-42. Ayes all, motion carried.

Mark Korte, tenant for the County Farm presented his annual report to the board. All grain was hauled to New Coop in Palmer; soil samplings were completed; he planted a cover crop that did not do as well as he had hoped for, however he did note some of the diakon radishes did get quite large. The board thanked Korte for the reporting.

Dan Feistner, Attorney and Ann Beneke, County Attorney, Kris Klein, Asst. Co. Attorney, Judy Essing, Secretary for Beneke and later Vicki Troug, secretary for the Asst. County Attorney were present for the considered appointment of a county attorney following the interview process. Feistner noted the group had met at the Community Services Bldg. last week along with Chairman Ives to review the office space, discuss the work load, etc. There was discussion concerning the office equipment and furniture needs and if additional secretarial staff would be needed. Feistner indicated the collections process demands much of one secretary's time. The need to hire Judy Essing, currently employed by County Attorney Ann Beneke, for the Pocahontas Office was discussed at length. It was decided the attorney position needed to be filled through appointment and he can then determine if there is need for additional secretarial staff. It was moved by Siepker, seconded by Stauter to appoint Dan Feistner as part-time County Attorney with Tuesday, December 27, 2016. Ayes all, motion carried.

Discussions again focused on the employment of Judy Essing. Judy queried the board if she would come to work January 3, 2017 or if she needed to file for unemployment. Supervisor Stauter indicated to file for unemployment would be her decision to make and would come from the Beneke law office as her employer. Supervisor Peters moved to hire Judy Essing effective January 3, 2017. The chairman called for a second, the motion died for a lack of a second. Supervisor Dewey indicated

he felt the new County Attorney would need time to evaluate the need to hire. It was then moved by Siepker, seconded by Stauter to place on next week's agenda the need to hire a second secretary. Ayes – Siepker, Peters, Stauter; Nays – Dewey. Whereby the motion carried.

Jack Moellering, County Engineer presented the Utility Permit with Black Hills Energy to install a gas line from the Brand FX blacktop, east along airport road, then southerly to the newest housing development. The Black Hills representative noted they usually install pipe 3 feet deep. There was discussion if the installation needed to be deeper. The representative indicated the pipe line would be bored. The permit was reviewed and for drainage purposes the gas line should be at a depth of five foot. It was moved by Peters, seconded by Stauter to approve the permit with installation in the bottom of the ditch right-of-way at a 48" depth minimum. Ayes all, motion carried.

Moellering provided copies of the letters sent to landowner for removal of crops in the right-of-way and a letter from the landowner's attorney. It was determined that ½ of the seeding costs should be removed from the bill and paid by the Engineer.

Supervisors Weekly Reports: Ives attended the water quality meeting in Laurens, participated in the Rural Challenge conference call and contacted UDMO outreach office for consideration of involvement. Peters attended the Board of Health meeting, PCEDC board meeting, MIDAS legislative luncheon, and Second Judicial board meeting. Peters indicated the Senator Krayenbrink did not believe there would be much happening with the CAFO concerns addressed by various counties. Siepker participated in the Rural Challenge conference call, attended the Cedar Creek water quality meeting in Laurens, and participated in the Workforce Development conference call. Dewey participated in the Rural Challenge conference call and attended the HCA board meeting. Stauter attempted to attend the water quality meeting, attended the YES board meeting and the Co. Conservation Board meeting as liaison.

There being no further business the board adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Jeffrey K. Ives, Chairman

Margene A. Bunda, County Auditor