

Supervisors Room, Courthouse Pocahontas, Iowa
May 5, 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 closed to the public, 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 5, 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; Reporter, Erin Sommers; and Landowner, Fred Cook.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to approve two sets of minutes dated April 21, 2020, as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Dewey, to approve the tentative agenda as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to approve Jt. DD13 claim from Jacobson-Westergard for March 2020 labor on outlet repair/improvement, for \$385.00. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Siepker, to approve the new hires for the Sheriff's Office; Mackenzie Pedersen, part-time jailer and Kim Heck, part-time dispatcher. Pedersen began employment April 28, 2020 and Heck on May 1, 2020, both at \$16.65 per hour plus shift differential until probationary period is completed. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Stauter, to approve the hire of Kayla Nedved as a part-time clerk for Public Health. Nedved's start date was May 4, 2020 at \$13.50 per hour with a \$0.50/hour increase after probationary period has been satisfied. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Dewey, seconded by Stauter, to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the Administration Services Proposals from Benefits, Inc. for administration of partially self-funding and COBRA services with no change in rates. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Dewey, seconded by Siepker, to approve and authorize the Chairman to sign the FY21 contract with Dental Dental PPO with no change in rates. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Stauter, seconded by Aden, to adopt the following resolution. The Chairman called the question with the following recorded vote: Ayes – Siepker, Aden, Ives, Stauter, Dewey; Nays-none. Whereby the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit:

**Resolution 2020-05 #16
DESTRUCTION OF NOXIOUS WEEDS**

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors, Pocahontas County, Iowa that pursuant to the Provisions of Chapter 317.13 and 317.14, Code of Iowa, 2019, it is hereby ordered:

That each owner and each person in the possession or control of any lands in Pocahontas County, Iowa, shall cut, burn or otherwise destroy all noxious weeds thereon, as defined in the Chapter, at such times each year and in such manner as shall prevent said weeds from blooming or coming to maturity, and shall keep said lands free from such growth of any other weeds shall render the streets or highways, adjoining said lands unsafe for public travel. Noxious weeds shall be cut or otherwise be destroyed on or before the following dates as often as necessary to prevent weed production.

Group 1 – May 25 to June 15, 2020 - for Leafy Spurge, Perennial Pepper Grass, Sour Dock, Smooth Dock, Sheep Sorrel

Group 2 – June 1 to June 15, 2020 - for Canada Thistle, Russian Knapweed, Buckthorn, Wild Mustard and other species of Thistles

Group 3 – June 21 to July 15, 2020 - for Field Bindweed, Wild Carrot

Group 4 – June 21 to July 15, 2020- for Horse Nettle, Perennial Sow Thistle, Quack Grass, Butterprint, Puncture Vine, Cocklebur, Bull Thistle, Teasel

Each owner and each person in the possession or control of any lands in Pocahontas County infested with any primary or secondary noxious weeds including:

Quack Grass, Perennial Sow Thistle, Canada Thistle, Bull Thistle, Field Bindweed, Horse Nettle, Leafy Spurge, Buckthorn, Perennial Pepper Grass, Palmer Amaranth, Russian Knapweed, Butterprint, Cocklebur, Teasel, Wild Mustard, Wild Carrot, Buckhorn, all other species of thistles belonging in the genera of "Cirsium and Carduus, Wild Sunflower, Sheep Sorrel, Sour Dock, Smooth Dock, Puncture Vine, Multiflora Rose, Poison Hemlock, and Shattercane, shall adopt a program for weed destruction, prescribed by the Weed Commissioner, which in five years may be expected to destroy and will immediately keep under control such infestations of said primary and secondary noxious weeds.

That if the owners or person in possession or control of any land in Pocahontas County fails to comply with the foregoing orders, the Weed Commissioner shall cause this to be done and the expense of said work including costs of serving notice and other costs, if any, to be assessed against the land and the owners thereof.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Siepker, to acknowledge receipt of Manure Management Plans: (1) Marshall Wean-Finish Farm – ID# 58386 located in the SE NE, Section 6, Marshall Township with Iowa Select Farms, LP as owner & Keith Kratchmer as contact person; (2) Hauswirth, Finisher Farm – ID# 64514 located in the SE SW, Section 31, Powhatan Township with Morning Glory Farms, LLC as owner & Keith Kratchmer as contact person. Ayes all, motion carried.

Fred Cook addressed the Board concerning the denial of his two damage claims on DD 31; \$755.28 for reseeding the buffer and \$482.35 to re-seed established seeding destroyed by late rock installation. After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to stand by their decision to deny both claims.

Gary Atherton, Drainage Clerk/Assistant to the Engineer, gave an update on DD 17 repair and the six items left to do. With the lack of response from the contractor, Atherton will try to contact the contractor one last time, if no response; will hire another contractor to complete the project. The Board agreed with his plan.

Jack Moellering, County Engineer had no new information. Supervisors Aden and Siepker requested that the black silt fencing and post on N-65 and on the Albert City Road be removed. Supervisor Stauter inquired about a clean-out on N-28 and if it would be done prior to paving. Moellering will follow up with the Roads Superintendent.

Supervisor Dewey received three quotes for short-term disability insurance that is taking some time to review, so will table discussion until next week.

Auditor Jepsen advised the Board on the progress at the Annex and inquired about Imagine the Possibilities' claims.

The Board discussed Governor Reynolds reopening establishments but that some places have decided to remain closed for the time being.

The Supervisors shared information on different activities cancelled and places that are still closed even though Governor Reynolds is working on re-opening establishments. Russ Jergens, EMA Director, explained that two of the three individuals that tested positive for COVID-19 in Pocahontas County have already recovered. They will discuss ideas on when and how to reopen the County facilities with the Department Head meeting.

Weekly meetings: Siepker-Work Force Development, Upper Des Moines meeting, North Raccoon Watershed concerns, and COVID-19 meeting with City of Laurens; Aden -Solid Waste; Ives-Solid Waste and Monday's Department Head meeting; Stauter- seeding concerns; and Dewey- Monday's Department Head meeting, and COVID-19 concerns with Mayor Gruber. All Supervisors participated in the DD 30 Br. 3 formal hearing and 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.

Due to the spread of COVID-19, all County buildings are closed to the public, 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 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. Department Heads present: Diane Ferguson; Sue Reigelsberger; Amy Johnson; Jack Moellering and Steve Nelson. Telephonically: Reporter, Erin Sommers; Supervisors Ed Dewey; and Department Heads: Tom Grau, Russ Jergens, Mary Eastman, Brian Reis, Orene Cressler, and Alison Hauser.

Diane Ferguson, Director of Public Health, explained that Pocahontas County has had three positive cases and there are no tests pending. Pocahontas Community Hospital is requiring everyone to wear a mask inside the facility. A discussion on when and how to re-open county facilities was discussed and what policies to implement when re-opening takes place. The facilities will remain closed this week and more discussion on the subject will take place next week.

Jeffrey K. Ives, Chairman

Kelly A. Jepsen, Auditor