

April 20, 2020

The Mahaska County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on the above date at 9:00 a.m. in the third floor conference room of the Mahaska County courthouse. Present were the following board members: Chairman – Mark Groenendyk; Vice chairman – Steve Wanders and Member – Steve Parker (arrived 9:15 am). Also present in person were Joe Lancello, KBOE; Russ Van Renterghem, Sheriff; Andrew Ritland, Attorney; Darin Hite, IT; Tom Flaherty, Econ Dev; Kevin DeRonde, Cathy Stahl, MHP and Susan Brown, Mahaska County Auditor. Joining the meeting telephonically Angie Holland, Osky Herald; Connie Van Polen, Treasurer; Dave Sedivec, Conservation; Brad Reiman, North Point Risk; Roger Shindell, Carosh and through live stream RD Keep, The Sun. This meeting was live streamed by Communications Research Institute of William Penn University.

Chairman Groenendyk opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with a moment of silence.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to approve agenda for today's meeting. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to open 9:05 public hearing on status of funded activities for the Community Development Block Grant to support infectious disease response at local county hospital. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Economic Director Tom Flaherty noted the need for project and gave kudos to Mahaska Health Partnership in quickly getting the project submitted. He gave the following overview of the project:

- 1. Need for the CDBG project- As Mahaska Health prepares for and is in the beginning stages of treating residents infected with COVID-19, our goal is the safety of our residents, including our employees. There is a great need to ramp up our telehealth services to help protect our community, especially the most vulnerable who need to stay isolated to stay healthy. Telehealth services will allow them to receive medical attention without leaving the comfort of their home and risking exposure. Our many patients with chronic illnesses still need medical guidance to remain healthy but leaving their home to get that care is not advised. Our goal is to use “remote” healthcare services as a tool to try and slow the spread of the coronavirus. By ramping up our telemedicine services, we will also be able to conserve limited supplies of personal protective gear and other equipment while also limiting the potential of exposure for our medical staff and patients. However, like many rural, critical access hospitals, we do not have adequate funding. Currently, telehealth services are being offered on a very limited basis. We have 6 iPads to share among the 18 primary care providers. The hospital also wants to protect vital support service employees by allowing them (when appropriate) to work remotely, as infected persons will most likely come to the hospital campus, thus increasing the potential for exposure. These staff do not perform

patient care services and as we are conserving our PPEs, they will not have easy access to protective equipment. These employees are essential to the continued operation of the hospital, but they do not offer direct patient care and can perform their needed support services from their home if they had the necessary computer equipment. If MHP becomes inundated with COVID-19 patients, we have discussed reassigning some of laptops purchased with CDBG funds to perform scribe services for our medical staff so they can accomplish more. This would require some adjustments and safety measures (such as plastic covers on keyboards so they could be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected often), but having the flexibility to adjust and respond to the current pandemic situation facing our healthcare professionals is vital to our safety and success.

2. Description of the CDBG funded project & activities – Of the 20 iPads that will be purchased with grant funds, 15 will be designated for our physicians and nurse practitioners to offer telemedicine in the primary care clinic. We would also like to designate 5 iPads for patients to communicate with family members while on lockdown. The 30 laptops are for our support services staff to have the ability to work remotely, being able to shelter in place while still performing the vital services they provide to keep the hospital operating. If/when needed to assist our medical staff if the large influx of patients becomes a reality, those laptops can be reassigned and used for scribe services to assist our medical staff and free up their time to treat more patients.

3. The amount of CDBG funds for the project -- \$49,000 +

4. Estimated amount of CDBG assistance that will benefit low and moderate income persons. - Mahaska Health is a Critical Access Hospital, providing healthcare services to Mahaska and surrounding counties. We serve a population of 22,235 in Mahaska County, where 16.3% of the population is 65 years of age or older. About 7.50% of families and 9.80% of the population were below the poverty line, including 11.70% of those under age 18 and 9.30% of those age 65 or over.

5. The location of project activities – Mahaska County Hospital in Oskaloosa, IA

6. Any relocation that will have to take place as a result of the CDBG project. - No relocation will need to take place as a result of this project.

7. City/ County contact information for residents to contact with concerns or complaints regarding the project.

Mark Groenendyk, Chair

Mahaska County Board of Supervisors

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8. Community Development and Housing Needs of low to moderate persons in the city/ county and any planned or potential activities to address these needs. - The Ironwoods apartment complex was built in 2015 and features 48 units dedicated to low to moderate income (LMI). In 2016 City of Oskaloosa implemented a rental housing inspection with

goal to improve quality of rentals. In 2017 City of Oskaloosa conducted a housing needs assessment for all facets of housing including low to moderate income. Study indicated the quantity of LMI housing was met; however, the quality of LMI is an ongoing concern.

9. Other Community Development and Housing needs and any planned or potential activities to address these needs. - The City, County and private sector are investigating a revolving loan program that will help buy down the financial hurdle many Mahaska County residents face. Mahaska County and the City of Oskaloosa formed a joint US Census Complete Count Committee and included United Way to ensure difficult to reach members of the community are counted in the 2020 US Census.

Kevin DeRonde, MHP CEO, commented this is a great service for the residents of Mahaska County for health care options. Cathy Stahl commented MHP will designate five iPads for inpatient unit communication with loved ones.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to close public hearing. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Parker to approve as presented the five policies required for the grant process: Affirmative Fair Housing Policy; Equal Opportunity Policy; Code of Conduct; Residential Anti Displacement & Relocation Assistance Plan; Excessive Force Policy; Procurement Policy. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Brad Reiman of North Risk Partners went over the renewal proposal for the Mahaska County Health Plan. No action taken.

Roger Shindell of Carosh Compliance provided the quarterly HIPAA compliance update on training and the audit.

It was moved by Parker seconded by Wanders to approve minutes for April 6 meeting. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Parker to accept 3rd quarter reports from Veterans Affairs and Recorder. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Groenendyk seconded by Wanders to approve payroll change in IRVM department adding Barb Van Patten as seasonal Roadside Technician effective April 20, 2020 through December 31, 2020 and will not exceed 1560 hours. Wage will be \$16.00/hr. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Groenendyk seconded by Parker to approve, as presented, Notice of Destruction of Noxious Weeds for publication. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Parker to accept the final FY19 Mahaska County audit. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Groenendyk seconded by Wanders to transfer \$250,000 from General Fund to Mahaska County Health Plan Trust fund. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Groenendyk seconded by Wanders to appoint Jaci Nunnikhoven to Pella Board of Adjustment serving through January 2022. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Groenendyk seconded by Parker to approve letter to .Gov Domain Registration requesting authority for a .gov domain name for the county. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Parker to approve and sign appraisal quote of \$600 for county owned property at intersection of 340th St and 330th St near Eddyville. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None.

Committee Reports: Supervisor Wanders noted that Workforce Development Region 15 and 6 are being combined. Ten-15 Transit is talking to Ottumwa Transit about bus service. Supervisor Groenendyk reported Solid Waste Commission is starting interviews for a manager.

It was moved by Wanders seconded Parker to adjourn. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Attest: _____
Susan L. Brown
Mahaska County Auditor

Mark Groenendyk
Mahaska County Board of Supervisors