

October 16, 2023

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 – Chuck Webb. Also present were Darin Hite, IT; Andrew Ritland, County Attorney; Andrew McGuire and Carter Brehm, Secondary Roads; Brian Moore, Iowa County Eng. Assoc; Chris Clingan, Conservation Director; Sheriff Russ Van Renterghem, Kim Newendorp (via phone), General Relief; Channing Rucks, Oskaloosa Herald; Rep. Helena Hayes and Teri Rogers, County Auditor. This meeting was not live streamed by Communications Research Institute of William Penn University as they were having technical issues.

Chairman Groenendyk opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public comments:

- ✚ Rep. Helena Hayes approached the Board to provide updates on the proposed carbon sequestration pipeline. She spoke about Doyle Turner, Navigator suspending their permit in IL for injection well and Cargill.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve minutes of Oct. 2nd. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the bills in the amount of \$832,684.64 for September. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to accept the 1st quarter reports for the Auditor, the Recorder and the Sheriff. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

There are multiple payroll changes for the Sheriff's office. The Board chose to approve these individually.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to accept the resignation of Chief Deputy Scott Miller. He is retiring effective Nov. 1, 2023. The Board thanked CD Miller for his 40 ½ years of service (includes time in the Reserves). All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the removal of part-time jailer Noah Ide from payroll effective Oct. 12. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the removal of part-time jailer Jordan Redlinger from payroll effective Oct. 10. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

At this time, Board chair Groenendyk addressed the public regarding the charges of child abuse brought against him in the past. He informed everyone that the charges have been adjudicated by the Iowa Attorney General and that the child was more likely to be subjected to abuse by another party. Sheriff Van Renterghem responded by saying he was not aware of any investigation by DHS or by the Attorney General.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the appointment of Deputy Sheriff Ben Johnston to Chief Deputy effective Nov. 1, 2023. His annual wage will increase to \$77,197. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the hiring of Riley Calhoun. He will be added to the payroll as a Deputy Sheriff effective Oct. 31, 2023, and his annual salary will start at \$60,058.96. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the Nyhart service agreement for the filing of the 509A actuarial certification. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the disallowances as recommended by the Assessor for Assessment year 2023. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Wanders made a motion to approve the increase in burial allowances for indigent persons. Discussion ensued with input coming from Kim Newendorp, General Relief, Attorney Ritland, and Sheriff Van Renterghem. Without the document with the information up for consideration being available, the motion was withdrawn, and the issue tabled until the next Board meeting.

County Engineer, Andrew McGuire approached the Board about Project NHSX-063-3(93)-3H-62 and the revision to the original agreement. After much discussion and notification that there will be a public meeting tomorrow night, Tuesday, Oct. 17, it was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to table this topic to the Board's first regularly scheduled meeting in November. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Brian Moore, Iowa County Eng Assoc., joined Andrew McGuire at the table to speak with the Board. With the passage of the infrastructure bill (BIL) by the Federal government, this was an opportunity to get more federal funding for infrastructure projects. The Iowa County Engineers Association applied for a Safe Streets and Roads for All Grant (SS4A). The grant was awarded for \$2,000,000 for the establishment of comprehensive safety action plans. It is 100% grant funded and 97 of the 99 Iowa counties are taking advantage of it. Iowa is clearly leading the way with participation. Mahaska County will serve as the lead agency for this project, the effect of this on the county budget is only administrative (pass-throughs). In addition to the two-million-dollar award, another \$500,000 was also acquired from State Safety Funds. The proposal is for \$2,499,986 from Kimley-Horn and Associates and the anticipated completion date is July 2025. It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the Engineering Services Contract for the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) project. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

- ✚ Member Webb reported that Doyle Turner will return to our Nov. 20 meeting to field questions, and he is working with the South Iowa Area Crime Commission to resolve the issue they are having with billing us electronically.
- ✚ Chair Groenendyk attended Heartland Insurance Risk Pool meeting Oct. 12. Property insurance rates are expected to go up substantially next year since rates were not raised for this year. The new cell at the landfill has been approved.

Public Comments:

- ✚ Chris Clingan, Conservation Director, updated the Board on funding for the playscape, plans to establish a REAP committee and closing the campgrounds at the end of October. Revenue for the campgrounds was lower than expected due to low river levels.

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

Attest: _____

Teri Rogers
Mahaska County Auditor

Mark Groenendyk
Mahaska Co. Board of Supervisors