

March 04, 2024

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; Heidi Kuhl with Northland Securities; Troy Bemis, Maintenance Director; Shauna Hol, Treasurer; Ben Johnston, Deputy Sheriff; Andrew McGuire and Carter Brehm, County Engineers; Andrew Ritland, Attorney; Deann De Groot and Angela Foster, Mahaska Chamber; Channing Rucks, Oskaloosa Herald and Teri Rogers, Auditor. This meeting was live streamed by Communications Research Institute of William Penn University.

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: Mark Groenendyk acknowledged the construction due to the new HVAC system and asked everyone to be patient while the project is ongoing for the next few months.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve minutes for Feb 20, Feb 26, and Feb 28. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to accept the payroll change for Secondary Roads. David Malloy has resigned effective Mar. 8, 2024, and will be removed from payroll. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

In December 2023, the Compensation Board recommended a 20% increase in wages for elected officials in Mahaska County for FY24/25. It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to reduce the recommendation by 25% leaving a 15% increase. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to set the date and time for the HF718 Property Tax Levy Hearing for April 1, 2024, at 6:30 pm. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to give permission to the Chamber to use the county parking lot during the 2024 Chamber events if the parking lot is not in use for equipment related to the installation of the HVAC system. The 2024 schedule is as follows. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

- ✚ Saturday, June 8 – Art on the Square
- ✚ Friday, June 7, June 14, June 21 – Friday after Five
- ✚ Thursday, July 25 – Sweet Corn Serenade
- ✚ Saturday, November 23 – Turn on the Lights
- ✚ Saturday, November 30 – Merry Little Downtown Christmas
- ✚ Saturday, December 7 – Lighted Christmas Parade

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the FY23/24 and FY24/25 contracts with the Mahaska County Historical Society/Nelson Pioneer Farm & Museum. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Heidi Kuhl with Northland Securities provided an update to the Board on urban renewal projects, funding and provided a potential timeline. The Board is to meet with the County Engineer to determine what projects will be funded with future bonding.

Chairman Groenendyk spoke about details specific to the current fund balance of the county budget. After doing much research after the posting of this Board meeting last week, he is more comfortable with the numbers. If expenses are not exceeded and revenues stay on track, there is no need to discuss implementing a hiring freeze.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve repair work and other building updates to the Fremont Grader Shed by Secondary Roads Department. Insurance will pay \$24,000. The Board and County Engineer, Andrew McGuire, discussed sole source repair as the project estimate is below the competitive quote threshold. Repairs plus building upgrades were approved at a cost of \$49,508 plus any potential overages. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mark Groenendyk and Andrew Ritland met with Musco representatives recently regarding the contract with Musco/MCG for broadband services using ARPA funds. The final agreement should be ready soon and will be discussed again in a future Board meeting.

A brief discussion was held regarding budgeting funds for the migration from PaperVision to Document Locator for the digitization of documents. It was determined that this will not be included in the budget for FY24/25.

Committee Reports:

- ✚ Chuck Webb mentioned that Conservation received a \$25,000 grant from United Way for the Playscape.
- ✚ Mark Groenendyk informed everyone that the ISAC Spring Conference will be held next week Thursday and Friday in Des Moines. The Board will be in attendance. Andrew Ritland reminded the Board about County Day at the Capital on Wednesday, March 13th. This day is important because it gives elected officials a chance to lobby the State legislators on the impact of their decisions at the county level.

Public Comments: None

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