

December 18, 2024

The Mahaska County Board of Supervisors met at a work session on the above date at 5:30 p.m. in the third-floor conference room of the Mahaska County Courthouse. Present were the following board members: Chairman – Mark Groenendyk, Vice-Chair Steve Wanders and Member – Chuck Webb. Also present were Russ Van Renterghem Sheriff; Andrew Ritland, County Attorney; Doug Greenlee, Eddyville Mayor; Sherri Baxter, Fremont Mayor; Andy Sytsma, Leighton Mayor; George Toubekis, University Park Mayor; Richard Thomas, Bruce Vroegh, Mark DeJong, Jacob Dannels, Rob Dannels, Lorie Jager, Julia Newcomb, Maddison Denny, Brenda Doonan, Steve Kauffman, Shawn Maxwell, Henry Van Roekel, Robert Veldhuizen, Ken Vermeer, Jeff Wilford, Oskaloosa Herald and Teri Rogers, County Auditor.

Discussion centered around funding mechanisms for the incorporated cities to fulfill the state requirement for police protection. Chapter 331.651 covers the county sheriff’s duties and responsibilities. Property taxes paid to the county pay for the services laid out in that code section. Each 28E agreement is good for one year. The city clerk updates the 28E agreement, it is then signed by the city clerk and mayor. The county sheriff should sign the agreement before it is brought before the Board of Supervisors. There was much discussion about whether the amount each city is being asked to pay should be calculated on valuations or per capita. For most of the cities, the funding method doesn’t make much difference.

County attorney, Andrew Ritland, has an agreement with the standard language with the variables being the number of patrol hours each city would request and the schedule of payments (quarterly vs annually).

There was also discussion about the possibility of creating a unified law enforcement district. Some cities could contract out as a district to get the same service and use a new levy to cover the costs. Cass County is an example. This option is flexible enough to fit various situations for the cities that can’t afford their share of the cost.

No action was taken.

Attest: _____
Teri Rogers
Mahaska County Auditor

Mark Groenendyk
Mahaska Co. Board of Supervisors