

Floyd County Board of Supervisors Meeting
February 21, 2024, 3:30 p.m.

The Floyd County Board of Supervisors met in the EOC/Training room of the Floyd County Courthouse with the following in attendance: Supv Mark Kuhn, Supv Dennis Keifer, and Supv Jim Jorgensen.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Public comment: none.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved to approve the February 12, 2024 regular meeting minutes and the minutes from the utility-scale wind energy listening session held jointly with the Zoning Commission. Motion carried 3-0.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved to approve the claims presented: County #1810-1812, Engineer/Secondary Roads #1809. Motion carried 3-0.

Builders	Mat'l	4950.00	1
Gordon Flesch	Lease	118.03	1
IICA	Edu Serv	600.00	1
Kwik Star	Supplies	86.57	1

Updates on various boards/commissions/activities: Supv Kuhn attended a County Social Services Human Services Committee meeting. Supv Keifer attended Area Development Corp Asset Management and North Cedar Regional Aviation Authority meetings. Supv Jorgensen attended a Cedar Valley Transportation meeting.

Denise Ballard, Iowa Governmental Health Insurance Plan representative, provided information on the insurance pool's health and dental plans. The county's annual average cost increase since 2019 is 0.8%. Ballard provided information on the 2023 monthly claims and premiums, the partial self-funding utilization, high-cost claimants, receipts and disbursements, medical benefit overview, July 1 renewal rates reflecting a 3.54% increase, and risk review. Changes to the plan include \$20 office copays reduced to \$15 if the member goes to go to a designated primary care provider and Prudent Rx for listed specialty medications reducing costs from \$85/prescription to \$0 employee cost. Due to the dental insurance having a 13% increase, Ballard will be providing alternative options. Should the county engage EBS to administer COBRA benefits, the cost is \$1.12 per employee, per month. County, the IGHCP pool and national benchmarks on deductibles, out of pocket maximums, coinsurance and copays, pharmacy copays, total premiums, and employee contributions were reviewed. There are currently 47 entities in the IGHCP pool with an expectation of at least three joining the pool in the future. Bronze, Silver, and Gold Wellness plans were reviewed. Rocket Lawyer, a new benefit to members, offers legal services at no charge to employees. Employee Navigator offers online enrolment options at no cost as well.

Updates on Law Enforcement Center/Courthouse Project: Auditor Carr reported two ceilings have been repaired but still need lights, the ceiling repair and moving a wall in the supervisor's office are in the works, a hole in the HVAC hot water line leaked in the fourth floor secure vestibule has been fixed, quotes are being sought for scaffolding needed for the fourth floor south stairwell ceiling repair project, Noah needs to install parts for 3rd and 4th floor detention doors and Communication Innovators needs to program the door hardware, two law enforcement doors arrived and a door release button needs to be programmed by Communication Innovators. Keifer reported there has been no progress on the water softening system bids and is unsure if it would be cost effective to install the water softening system versus replacing equipment and faucet screens due to lime buildup issues in the future.

The Board discussed the communications tower project, starting with Kuhn reading the January 29 and February 12 meeting minutes which were the first two meetings where sites of the tower location were discussed. Kuhn reported receiving 85 or more e-mails regarding opposition of placement of the tower on the Fossil and Prairie Center (Center) property and read Joy Tumilson's e-mail regarding the proposed tower location near the statue of her son, John, as being an eyesore and requested a different location, such as the property adjacent to the Center, as being more appropriate. Kuhn emphasized that the location of the tower is not going to be made today but consideration to not support locating the tower at the Center may be considered. Keifer commented on his surprise of the number of e-mails and his admiration and respect for John. Jorgensen was also surprised at over 100 e-mails and continues to not support the tower being located at the Center unless there is no other option.

Ben Chatfield reported that the tower needs to be located within a half mile radius of the Center. Since the last meeting, a location on the Joney Laudner Wildlife Preserve, north of a residential parcel, has been researched and was found to be 25 feet lower in elevation than the Center. Motorola's maps of a location on the preserve reflect significant loss of coverage compared to the Schlader property. Chatfield reported Schlader is willing to

meet with the Board to negotiate selling a piece of land. Jeannette Lien, Rockford resident, encouraged the Board to make an appointment to meet with Schlader.

Adam Sears, Conservation Director, mentioned his response at the January 29 meeting of the mowed area not being in the preserve was found to not be a correct answer and notified the Board. Sears stated that building the tower in the mowed area put up a red flag to him and some of the Conservation Board members. If another conservation area would be a considered for the tower, the Conservation Board, as managers of conservation property, would need to make the decision to the use of conservation property per Iowa Code Chapter 350.

Kuhn recollected years ago when the previous supervisors had foresight to save the site from being a landfill and all that has been done by conservation board to promote, preserve and enhance the Center property to this day. The Board thinks the Schlader property may be the last remaining good sight but at least the Center site can be crossed off the list. The Board will proceed with Schlader site but knows there will be delays, one due to the 90-day process for the Federal Aviation Authority for approval of any tower over 200 feet.

Heidi Reams, Conservation Naturalist and Rockford resident, mentioned being thankful for the e-mails and respect for conservation staff in preserving resources. The natural resources at the Center are sensitive and rare in Iowa, such as 1/10th of 1% of native prairie in the state and endangered plants and species; when using conservation areas for any type of function other than their natural state, take those resources into consideration. Kuhn mentioned the Board has charted a course that they will be working on as soon as possible.

Carr provided an update on the Drainage District #3 Open Ditch repair project including the pay ap for consideration is for tree removal only, the threshold for additional mobilization has not been reached yet, excavation work should have started this week, and project work is ahead of schedule. Jorgensen/Keifer moved to approve Drainage District #3 Open Ditch Pay Ap #4 for \$18,000 for Larson Contracting. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board noted a 3% pay increase from \$21.60 to \$22.25/hour per the June 12, 2023 Board action for Elizabeth Knecht, County Attorney staff, following a successful 6-month performance review with the increase being retroactive to December 26.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved for the Board of Supervisors to not take the Compensation Board's FY25 3.5% recommended pay increase and to freeze their salary as allowed with 30-day notice per Iowa Code 331.907 prior to the county budget being certified. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board reviewed FY25 budget information. Auditor Carr provided all departmental budget expenses, levy rate options and carryover fund balances. Information will be discussed in more detail with potentially setting the first hearing date/time at the next board meeting.

Future agenda items: Conversation with landowner regarding communications tower, Environmental Health Specialist/Zoning Administrator/911 Signs Administrator job description and advertising for the position, Home Base Iowa Initiative Veteran Affairs 0% loans, and Cost Advisory Services/Cost Allocation Plan.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0.

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Carr
Floyd County Auditor

Mark A. Kuhn, Chair
Floyd County Board of Supervisors