

Floyd County Board of Supervisors Meeting
March 25, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

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

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

Public comment: none.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to approve the March 18, 2024 minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to approve the claims presented: County #2058-2106 and Engineer/Secondary Roads #10540-10547. Motion carried 3-0.

Publication List

Alliant	Elect	172.61	2
A Bellinger	Reimb	171.00	1
Butler SO	Serv Fee	62.45	1
J Butterfield	Reimb	131.67	1
YesWay	Fuel	45.90	1
Carquest	Parts	182.07	1
G Carr	Reimb	24.00	1
CenturyLink	Phone	75.68	1
Charles City	Services	50.46	1
Cooley	PortaPot	95.00	1
Cooley	Serv	475.00	1
Dakota Supply	Supply	1656.40	1
B Hinz	Reimb	95.19	1
H Ducker	Reimb	25.65	1
Elect Eng	Equip	1166.10	1
Exceptional	CCR&R	9807.03	1
F&H Publ	Supplies	312.00	1
Farmers New Ag	Chem	593.39	1
S Funte	Reimb	33.63	1
Gordon Flesch	Lease	124.81	2
Graham	Tires	639.12	1
GRP Assoc	Disposal	89.95	2
Hy-Vee	Misc	87.57	1
IACCVSO	Regist.	60.00	1
Illowa	Supplies	48823.00	1
IDPS	Services	300.00	1
L Kristiansen	Reimb	383.07	1
LEAF	Services	289.16	2
Learning Conn	Fees	4055.37	2
J Lovik	Reimb	172.14	1
M&J Snap On	Tools	64.35	1
Mail Serv	Renewals	629.42	1
Marco	Maint	476.73	1
Mid Am	Util	879.23	3
Mikes C&O	Tires	75.98	1
Myron	Ad	1674.19	1
NS-Rkfd Reg	Notice	430.01	1
PATC	Forfeiture	1578.80	2
P Novak Elect	Serv	51.89	1
Powerplan	Parts	474.14	1
B Schmidt	Reimb	37.01	1
St. Joseph	Learning Con.	776.98	1
Swartzrock	Parts	5860.00	1
D Swartzrock	Reimb	76.95	1
Thomson Reu.	Library	1693.62	1
Vanguard	Appraisal	1600.00	1
Visual Edge	Equip	54.60	1
L Wulff	Reimb	131.67	1

Updates on various boards/commissions/activities: Supv Keifer attended Veteran Affairs, Board of Health, North Cedar Aviation, Charles City Chamber of Commerce, and Communications Tower meetings. Supv Kuhn attended Floyd-Mitchell-Chickasaw Early Childhood Iowa, County Social Services Human Resources, Charles City Council regarding a water agreement with Vallero, and Iowa Public Information Board meetings.

Updates on Law Enforcement Center/Courthouse (LEC) Project: Supv Keifer intends to meet with Cory Spieker, Charles City Water Department, regarding the water softening issue. One bidders declined to move forward with a bid on a water softener system. Young Plumbing will be reimbursing custodians costs to repair a 4th floor wall and ceiling due to a seal leak in a water line. Johnson Controls should be onsite this week to consider options to control the HVAC unit in the Board Room.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to approve Res #05-24* Resolution Approving Voluntary Annexation of Property Into the City of Charles City, Iowa: Double Double U, LLC, applicant, owner, and legal title holder of property located in Floyd County in SESE 36-96-16 requested annexation of property into the City of Charles City, pursuant to Iowa Code 368.7(2) (100% Voluntary Annexation Not in an Urbanized Area) in accordance with an Application for Voluntary Annexation submitted to the City of Charles City; and the City Council approved the Application following public hearing and following notice to the public and to the Floyd County Board of Supervisors as required; and a filed copy of the Application for Voluntary Annexation and the Resolution of the Charles City City Council approving the same have been submitted to Floyd County; and the Application for Annexation of the Property conforms to Iowa Code and the Application for Voluntary Annexation should be approved. Be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors that: 1) it support the application for annexation; 2) the annexation of land into the City is approved. The Chair and Secretary of the Board of Supervisors are authorized to certify this resolution and to take further action deemed necessary to complete annexation of property into the City of Charles City. Roll call vote: Ayes-Jorgensen, Keifer, Kuhn; motion carried 3-0.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved to approve an Offer to Buy Real Estate and Acceptance (Nonresidential) between Stephen J. Schlader and Floyd County for the communications tower project. Motion carried 3-0.

Spencer Gruis, Omnitel Network Engineer, reviewed a contract for \$1,000 per month each for two circuits tying into the Iowa Statewide Interoperable Communications System in Mason City to the law enforcement center, one for a prime circuit and one for dispatch as a secondary connection, providing redundant dual connection to the new tower site on 215th St with dual fiber entrance and routers back to the LEC. There is also a \$25,000 non-recurring fee for construction and insulation of facilities in the contract. The contract date starts July 1 but could be pushed out depending on when the towers are ready; the \$2,000 per month could be prorated if the connection to Mason City is preferred to start earlier with the Charles City tower with the expectation that the 215th St tower would not be operable by July 1. Jorgensen/Keifer moved to table action on the communications tower agreement with Omnitel until the April 1 meeting for consideration of two separate. Motion carried 3-0.

Motorola maps identifying site plan for the tower on 215th St were reviewed. Jason Webster, Emergency Management Coordinator mention approval of this would give Motorola and Pyramid Towers the green light to start making more detailed drawing and applying for required permits. Keifer/Jorgensen moved to approve the Floyd County #2 Lease Exhibit for the communications tower project. Motion carried 3-0.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved to direct the Auditor to contact HRS and Jason Page for survey work related to the transfer of the Schlader property to Floyd County for the communications tower project. Motion carried 3-0.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved to approve Motorola Solutions Change Order #1 with credits totaling \$162,847.82 and new expenses of \$156,318, with a net credit of \$6,529.82. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board discussed the potential dates of a special election for the Emergency Medical Services levy to be held on September 10 or on the November 5 General Election. On February 27, the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) voted unanimously to recommend the election to be held on September 10. Jorgensen commented that the ballot issue would likely be more successful in passing in September and the expense of that election should be balanced with an unsuccessful passing of the issue in November to future costs for EMS services. Pat Lumley, EMSAC chair, commented there is a cost associated with having a September election but there will be less voter turnout in September where a voter would be more focused on the EMS levy on its own merit compared to a very crowded ballot in November. Lumley commented that knowing the election date helps the Council set in motion educating and communicating to the public on the issue. Kuhn provided voter turnout results for the 2020 General Election with 8,081 voters, 2022 General Election with 5,798 voters, supervisor district special election with 1,863 voter and the law enforcement center/courthouse renovation bond

special election with 1,787 voters and three reasons why he believes the EMS tax levy should be held in November: 1) imposing a tax levy of \$0.75 for 15 years should be considered by the higher number of voters, does not buy the argument that voters won't take time to understand the importance of the issue and would simply vote against increasing their taxes, and believes to reduce the number of voters needed to approve the levy sounds like voter suppression. The tax levy could raise nearly \$777,000 annually totaling up to \$11,655,000 over 15 years. Kuhn believes the voters need to know the total cost of establishing a municipal-owned ambulance services, the start up costs, who pays for it, and if the hospital will continue contributing to the service. 2) If the tax levy is approved by 60% of the voters, the next supervisors will be tasked with allocating the tax increase in the EMS trust fund of which how that money is spent should be a major issue of the upcoming general election campaign for supervisor. Candidates for supervisor districts 1 and 3 have until August 28 to file nomination papers. With a September election, those candidates won't have time to articulate their support for or against the levy, nor will voters have time to consider the candidate's positions. 3) Additional costs for a September election would be approximately \$12,000 but there would be no additional cost for a November election.

Keifer mentioned the county hasn't had an issue paying AMR's contract which could turn in to \$777,000 with the levy and that may not be enough to get a municipal ambulance started up; when considering the difference in voters, Keifer does not think the outcome would be different if it were a special or general election. Jorgensen commented he does not know what the best path would be for a successful passage of the levy; Kuhn makes good points and the EMSAC wants to get things going and thinks it has a better chance in September. Lumley commented the EMSAC's recommendation was never to suppress voters but was rather the best chance for the levy to pass; if the levy does not pass, the following conversation would be about funding obligations with ever-increasing costs to provide for services in the future. Gordon Boge commented the \$0.75 for EMS is outrageous, the rural community paying more for ambulance than fire protection is outrageous, and the election should be held in November. Becky Kreger commented the election should be held in November to better accommodate handicapped and elderly voters and due farmers who are busier in September. Lumley mentioned there were 1,434 calls for ambulance service in the county in 2023, 1,274 calls in 2021, and the population per number of calls supports the need for countywide services. Jorgensen will relay this discussion at the next EMSAC meeting.

The Board reviewed two Ahlers Cooney invoices, one for \$1,962.16 for Summit Carbon Iowa Utilities Board Permit Proceedings and one for \$340 for pipeline ordinances. Kuhn commented he is working with the firm on charges from February 2023 and would prefer to hold off approving the two new claims at this time. Kuhn/Jorgensen moved to table action on paying the Ahlers Cooney invoices until April 1. Motion carried 3-0.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved to reappoint Cathy McGregor for another 4-year term on the North Cedar Aviation Authority starting April 1, 2024. Motion carried 3-0.

Carr provided the FY25 proposed budget information for review. Jorgensen/Keifer moved to set the FY25 budget hearing for April 15 at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room. Motion carried 3-0.

The Board noted a Dismissal Order from the Iowa Public Information Board regarding Jeff Sherman's complaint alleging Kuhn and Keifer violated Iowa Code Chapter 21 Open Meetings regarding communications by e-mail, text and phone. The complaint was found to be insufficient to support the allegations. Kuhn commented it is important for the public to know that business is done in an open and transparent manner, conversations are not happening among supervisors, and the board's policy is reviewed and amended for compliance.

The Board noted the hiring of Katelyn Miller as a fulltime Jailer at \$20 per hour with a \$1 increase upon completion of the required 40-hour jail certification school and Vaalik Wachmann as a seasonal fulltime Conservation Aide at \$14 per hour, both starting March 25.

Future agenda items: pipeline update and county attorney legal services.

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

**This is a summary of the resolution; full text of resolutions may be inspected during normal business hours in the Floyd County Auditor's office and at www.floydcoia.org.*

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Carr

Mark A. Kuhn, Chair

Floyd County Auditor

Floyd County Board of Supervisors