

Floyd County Board of Supervisors Meeting  
 July 22, 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.

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

Public comment: none.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved to approve the July 15, 2024 minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to approve the claims presented: County #122-164, Eng/Secondary Roads #10770-10774 and Drain #15416-15417. Motion carried 3-0.

Alliant	Elect	329.19	2
Carquest	Parts	11.50	1
Centrl IA	Supplies	245.00	1
CenturyLink	Phone	120.77	3
CC Press	Notice	87.00	1
Charles City	Services	1089.32	6
Colwell	Service	78.08	1
EBS	FCEHPT	149923.14	1
FCMC	Medical	2670.00	1
Fox Rehab	Eval	2970.00	1
Gordon Flesch	Lease	82.11	1
Heartland	Ins	625.00	1
Heiman's	Inspect	15.00	1
H Adkins	Supplies	26029.00	1
Hy-Vee	Misc	283.77	1
ICEOO	Mtg	250.00	1
ILEA	Training	125.00	1
ISU	Training	900.00	1
LEAF	Services	293.64	2
Marco	Maint	142.68	1
Melrose Ins	Ins	617.00	1
Keystone	Tests	72.25	1
Mid Am	Util	554.23	1
NIACOG	Dues	442.62	1
Office Depot	Supplies	419.99	1
Pollard	Exterm	105.00	1
Powerplan	Parts	864.02	1
Pitney Bowes	Pstg	1500.00	1
B Schmidt	Reimb	79.87	1
T Schriever	Reimb	134.41	1
Schueth Ace	Hwd	33.98	1
Sec State	Notary	30.00	1
US Cellular	Phones	368.34	1
US Treasury	Fees	309.00	1
Verizon	Serv Fee	254.20	1
Visual Edge	Equip	26.95	1
Webster Co	Rent	1114.46	1
ACSTAR Ins	DD3-PayAp8	3600.00	1
Secondary Rds	WSW-P1	1305.37	1

Updates on various boards/commissions/activities: Jorgensen attended the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) meeting. Keifer attended Veteran Affairs and Board of Health meetings and sat in on the Ambulance Commission meeting. Kuhn attended County Social Services Human Resources Committee and Ambulance Commission meetings and had conversations with Wade Weis, Buchanan County Medical Center Chief Executive Officer, and John Kurtz, Buchanan County Board of Supervisor, regarding ambulance services. All three supervisors attended the Floyd County Fair.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to approve Res #21-24 Elected Officials Number and Appointment of Assistants and Clerks (County Attorney and County Auditor): Pursuant to Iowa Code 331.903.1, the number of deputies, assistants and clerks for each office shall be determined by the Board and the number and approval of each appointment shall be adopted by a resolution and recorded in the minutes of the Board; Res #14-23 approved on

April 3, 2023 allowed the Attorney to have one full-time assistant county attorney and two full-time clerk positions and Res #21-23 allowed the Attorney to add a part-time assistant county attorney position; Res #39-21 approved on September 26, 2021 allowed the Auditor to have one full-time assistant and two full-time clerks and Res #11-22 approved on March 7, 2022 allowed the Auditor to add a full-time equivalent shared position with the Assessor; Attorney Prichard and Auditor Carr have had staff changes and are now requesting consideration to share an equivalent full-time position between the two departments. Be it resolved by the Board that the Attorney's and the Auditor's request to share the equivalent of full-time position be granted and reaffirms the Attorney shall be permitted to have one full-time Assistant County Attorney and two full-time clerk-type positions and the Auditor shall be allowed one full-time Assistant and two full-time clerk-type positions; be it further resolved that the Board approve appointments and/or reappointments of the following staff: Attorney and Auditor shared position—Chelsey Wood, Administrative Assistant starting August 5, 2024, Assistant County Attorney—Full-time Randy Tilton, Clerk Positions—Full-time—Elizabeth Knecht, Secretary/Office Manager, and Allison Hocking, Administrative Assistant, and Auditor's Assistant—Full-time—Amanda Theilen, and Clerk Positions—Full-time—Jennifer Bauer, Clerk I, and Alexis Gallup, Clerk I. Roll call vote: Jorgensen, Keifer, Kuhn—Ayes, motion carried 3-0.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved to approve a pay increase for Allison Hocking, County Attorney Administrative Assistant from \$20 to \$20.86 effective August 1, 2024. Motion carried 3-0.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to set the starting pay for Chelsey Wood at \$20.25/hr and a 3% increase to \$20.86 following a successful 6-month performance review. Motion carried 3-0.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to set the FY25 County Budget Amendment on August 19 at 9:15 a.m. in the Board Room. Motion carried 3-0.

The recessed at 9:32 a.m. and reconvened at 10 a.m.

Kuhn provided an update on the Floyd County Medical Center Board of Trustee's and the Ambulance Commission's meetings held last week with respect to the County's proposal offered to secure ambulance services. Kuhn stated what was reported at the Commission meeting by Hospital Administrator Dawnett Willis on the Trustee's proposal and his position on their proposal: 1) The Trustees want to renege on the 28E agreement approved in April by not making their \$106,090 payment split between the city and county for the period of July 2025 to June 2026; the city and county would have to reduce expenditures or cut services for the \$106,090 loss of revenue while the hospital pays nothing. Section III Term and Termination, B of the original 28E reads amendments or modifications must be unanimously approved by all parties which Kuhn believes no member of the city council or supervisors would allow the hospital to back out of the agreement and lose the hospital's revenue. 2) If the Emergency Medical Services tax levy is voted successful, the Trustees will not make the \$106,090 payment for AMR services into the EMS trust fund for any year of an extended 3-year agreement with AMR; the 3-year loss of revenue would be \$318,270 in the city and county budgets, again forcing the city and county to reduce expenditures or cut services. 3) The Trustees proposal offers to pay one-third of any increase in a new 3-year contract with AMR that is greater than the \$450,000 tax levy and the city and county would each pay one-third of the increase. Kuhn provided three examples demonstrating the compounding negative financial effect of the Trustee's proposal on the city and county: a 3% increase of \$3,481 over \$450,000 would require each entity to pay \$1,160; a 13.5% increase of \$50,000 would cost each entity \$16,666.66 and a 25% increase of \$100,000 would cost each entity \$33,000. Kuhn reported the hospital depends on AMR to bring patients to the hospital for the treatment of medical emergencies and for hundreds of patient transfer to and from the hospital each year with his point being that the hospital should pay their fair share of cost of ambulance services during a new, 3-year agreement with AMR instead of proposing to shift the burden to the City of Charles City and Floyd County, and all of Floyd County property taxpayers.

Kuhn reported that besides Floyd County, AMR services are provided in Buchanan County and spoke with Buchanan County hospital and county representatives. The current 5-year 28E agreement between the City of Independence, the Buchanan County Health Center and the County obligates one third of the cost of AMR's services which is currently \$400,000 in year three and increases 2% in years four and five. Kuhn believes the same one-third split is fair and should be strived for in Floyd County, especially considering the percentage of calls AMR responds to made by the hospital, city and county where the hospital currently pays approximately 24% of the AMR costs.

Keifer commented that the hospital does not pay property taxes, they receive \$500,000 per year from taxpayers, the patients use AMR and the hospital benefits from patient services. Keifer cannot think of any reason the hospital should not have to pay one-third of the costs. Kuhn mentioned the Press article quoted Willis as

saying when the Trustees agreed in April to continue to contribute to the final two years of the current agreement, it was with the understanding that there would be planning for what could replace AMR. However, that may have been what the Trustees understood but there was nothing in the proposal that was talked about then or now.

Keifer questioned who the hospital would use for transfers to and from the hospital to care facilities. Brandy Molitor, EMSAC representative, responded that the patient, or their insurance, is billed for AMR's service and if AMR was not available there is a calling tree to reach out to other providers such as New Hampton, Nashua, Greene, Mason City. Kuhn commented that the number of calls for transport are available for review and it is a hard ask for the City and County to assume that cost if the Trustees walk away from it.

Keifer questioned the hospital's ending fund balance; Kuhn said he has reviewed that information and believes they appear to have adequate funds. Auditor Carr responded the FY23 balance was \$24,482,629 and the budgeted FY25 balance is \$23,464,347.

Jorgensen mentioned the EMSAC discussed the other ambulance service providers, such as Nora Springs Volunteer Ambulance, would need help in costs to replace vehicles and suggested a levy of \$490,000 instead of Kuhn's proposal of \$450,000. Kuhn proposed \$450,000 to cover the FY26 level of funding AMR's current contract of approximately \$440,000 and another \$10,000 to fund other county ambulance service providers and wanted to keep the amount as low as possible in order to get 60% of the votes.

Kuhn/Jorgensen moved to approval the proposal to: 1) the EMS Tax Levy question on the November General Ballot would ask voters to impose a property tax levy of \$450,000 per year on all the taxable property in Floyd County for a period of five years and 2) The Board of Supervisors request the Floyd County Medical Center Board of Trustees continue to contribute their annual \$106,090 payment in the final year of the recently amended 28E agreement plus any percentage increase charged annually by AMR for the three-year extension of the AMR Agreement from July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2029 up to a maximum of one-third of the total cost of the emergency ambulance services provided by AMR. Further discussion included Brian Chambers, Marble Rock resident, encouraging the Board to support Keifer's proposal of the hospital paying one-third of AMR's costs for the reason that his district is served by Greene ambulance area and Jorgensen's district is serviced by the Nora Springs ambulance area and those taxpayers are paying part of the \$500,000 hospital tax and if the EMS levy goes into effect, they will be paying on the levy even though the service level is going to stay very similar and it would be fairer for the hospital to contribute a more equitable amount. Kuhn and Keifer concurred that going with the proposed motion may be more obtainable than proposing one-third at this time. Motion carried 3-0.

Kuhn mentioned he has asked the Trustees to have a Zoom link for tomorrow's meeting. Kuhn also mentioned if Keifer and/or Jorgensen plan to attend tomorrow's meeting where Kuhn will be presenting today's proposal to the Trustees, he suggested a notice be posted at the courthouse per the Iowa Public Information Board's recommendation that they will be attending but will not be participating in the meeting.

Future agenda items: none.

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

ATTEST:

Gloria A. Carr  
Floyd County Auditor

Mark A. Kuhn, Chair  
Floyd County Board of Supervisors