
FOR THE YEAR 2007
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MINUTE BOOK
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA
MARCH 13, 2007

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, March 13, 2007 with Ron Wetherell, Dean Schmidt, Terry Graybill, Mark Leeds and Jeff Simonsen. Ken Ross of the *Chronicle Times* was present from the press. Guests were Dorothy Royer, Bev Anderson Zieman, Connie Mohn, Barry Goettsch, Lynde Lundquist, Jack Clark, Marty Jenness, Janet Cedar, Dr. Tom Gary, and Dave Ehler.

MSP Leeds, Simonsen to approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting.

9:05 a.m. MSP Graybill, Schmidt to open the Public Hearing for the 2007/2008 year proposed budget.

Bev Anderson Zieman asked to speak regarding removal of the Public Health Nurse department from the budget as a county agency. Zieman presented the Supervisors with a letter stating her concerns and objections to the Public Health issue. "Please consider replacing the revenue line item with \$524,520.00 and the expense line item of \$572,520.00 with tax money of \$48,000.00. This will not change the property tax in the budget at all. Questions raised – will there be the grant available for a private organization as there is for a governmental agency – will the citizens have a choice for services – what consideration and input has there been into this process? Supervisor Schmidt's comment; we owe the taxpayers of the county the best decisions for the tax dollars to be spent. Supervisor Graybill; at what dollar amount do the supervisors say enough when a department is costing the taxpayer more than we can afford. Supervisor Wetherell; Public health is very important to the county citizens that need the service, however the county fiscal management has got to stop the bleeding. Each year the county spends more than we take in and that has got to stop.

Jack Clark shared some suggestions to save money, go to a 3 person board, share a county engineer, do not pave or build new roads, full time county attorney.

No other comments from those in attendance.

MSP Simonsen, Schmidt to close the Public Hearing of the 2007/2008 proposed budget.

Acknowledge the letter received from Zieman and place it with the minutes of this meeting.

MSP Graybill, Schmidt to adopt the 2007/2008 budget as was published and presented at the Public Hearing. Voice vote: Schmidt aye, Graybill aye, Leeds aye, Simonsen aye, and Wetherell aye.

Sheriff Dave Scott and Barb Staver, L.E.C. secretary came to encourage the supervisors approve a resolution supporting repeal of the 2000 ft law and replace it with child safe zones. MSP Simonsen, Leeds to approve Resolution #2007-08 urging repeal of the residency requirement in Iowa Code section 692A.2A for sex offenders. The full text of the resolution can be seen in the Auditor's office.

Dave Whitehead and Gwen Peters representative of the Marcus Fair Board presented a 2005/2006 financial summary. Updates for the restrooms and kitchen for the historic church are projects being worked on now. Their request is the same as last year of \$5,000.00 from the county.

MSP Schmidt, Simonsen to approve the claims as they were presented. A full listing can be seen in the Auditor's office.

Shelly Allen, Marilyn Peck, Janet Sullivan, Bonnie Sleezer, Ken Jones, David Enderlin, Deb Jurgensen and Jamie Bowers joined the meeting.

Board of Health member Butch Sleezer and Kim Rupp, Public Health Nurse Administrator presented a proposal for a 2006/2007 amendment of \$55,942.00 to cover a grant

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for Family Circles funded through Empowerment and added expenses for Home Health Medicare clients, added phone expenses due to phone service changes, data processing charges and drug testing for DHS. Wetherell asked for the benefits that this Family Circles grant do for the citizens of the county? This is a support group that meets on Thursday nights once a month at the IC Church; this is a reimbursable grant to the county after expenses have been incurred. It comes through DeCat and Empowerment as a mentoring program for young families. This issue will be revisited at the next regular meeting on March 27, 2007 after the Supervisors have had a chance to review the income and expenditures of this amendment request.

Renee Braun of the NRCS, USDA office in Cherokee gave an update on a conference call they had regarding Ag environment and Congressional Earmark projects. Congress has pulled all funding which includes the Little Sioux Watershed area projects. Funding source for infrastructure has been eliminated and will have an adverse impact on Cherokee County.

Mr. Dave Ehler, district representative for Congressman Steve King was present for the presentation and will inform the Congressman of the situation for this area and the impact that this funding source has on the watershed projects.

11:00 a.m. County Attorney, Jamie Bowers requested a closed session with the Supervisors under IA Code 21.5(i) - "to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session." MSP Simonsen, Leeds to go into closed session with a roll call vote Schmidt aye, Graybill aye, Leeds aye, Simonsen aye and Wetherell aye.

11:45 a.m. MSP Simonsen, Graybill to close the session with roll call vote Schmidt aye, Graybill aye, Leeds aye, Simonsen aye, and Wetherell aye.

MSP Simonsen, Leeds to proceed with the course of action discussed by County Attorney Bowers.

Aimee Barritt, EH and EMS Director came to encourage the Supervisors attendance at a joint meeting on Tuesday, April 3 with the Northwest Iowa 12 County Economic Development group for a special Ag program at the NWICC campus. She also reported that there would be some grants available this summer for opportunities to apply for matching funds for EOC equipment. When the Public Health department moves from the courthouse she will need a refrigerator for certain samples she collects for Environmental Health.

Meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

Ronald Wetherell, Chairman

Attest: _____
Bonnie Ebel, County Auditor