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FOR THE YEAR 2007  
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK  
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA  
SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

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The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, September 4, 2007 with Ron Wetherell, Dean Schmidt, Terry Graybill, Mark Leeds and Jeff Simonsen. Ken Ross of the *Chronicle Times* was present from the press.

MSP Leeds, Schmidt to approve the amended agenda and minutes from the previous meeting.

MSP Graybill, Leeds to call for a closed session under IA Code 21.4(1)(c) at 9:05 a.m.– to discuss strategy with counsel in matters presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent. Roll call vote Simonsen aye, Leeds aye, Graybill aye, Schmidt aye and Wetherell aye.

MSP Simonsen, Graybill to go out of closed session at 9:35 a.m. Roll call vote Simonsen aye, Leeds aye, Graybill aye, Schmidt aye and Wetherell aye.

As a result of the closed session MSP Leeds, Graybill to authorize chairman Wetherell sign a letter drafted by Supervisors attorney.

Bob Hart, County Assessor and Deputy Assessor Nancy Nelson met with the Supervisors to discuss the 2007 equalization notice of valuation adjustments to actual values from the State. Hart explained overall adjustment is 21% increase in value for farmland but with the residential values yoked to farmland there will probably be a roll back on farmland like there is on residential property. Legislation is the only thing that can change the link between productivity of the land and the selling price.

Court orders and missed assessments were discussed and how these affect all of the taxing authorities. There have been some major valuation changes in the last few years that are making it hard for the schools, county extension function without the tax dollars they were hoping to receive.

Supervisors asked about land put in fruit and forest preserves and wetlands that are taken out of taxation. Wetland exemptions are applied for every year and are at the discretion of the Supervisors. Many counties do not allow wetland exemptions. Forest reserves must have at least 200 trees on an acre of land to qualify for the exemption.

Ryan Kolpin, County Attorney presented a draft of an ATV agreement that has been sent to the DNR for revision or approval. This is the last step in giving the County ATV Club the authority to use the gravel pit in Willow Township as a riding park. Need to consult with Conservation Director Walker so she can review the agreement and give any suggestions.

MSP Leeds, Graybill to approve the purchase of an equipment system for his office that would link to Law Enforcement agencies for better access and speed up the paperwork of cases. A grant is available to help with about 80% of the cost of a server, but everything has to be bought by the county in the month of September.

The purchase of a conference table for County Attorney office was discussed and suggested that Kolpin contact Prison Industries for quotes.

Chuck Nielsen of Network Vision, discussed the surveillance cameras used at the L.E.C. and the courthouse. Some adjustments are requested for better positioning. MSP Simonsen, Graybill to allow Nielsen to add 3 camera's and reposition several to obtain better vision for the Communication Center who monitor the courthouse and L.E.C. Instruction for those monitoring will also be included.

Larry Clark, County Engineer presented the Dept. of Transportation annual report for the Supervisors to examine. MSP Simonsen, Schmidt to accept the report.

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**MSP Leeds, Graybill to approve underground construction permits for Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative Willow Twp. 2 ½ miles North of Washta; 10 miles South of Cherokee in Diamond Twp. Under "R" Ave.; 10 miles South of Cherokee in Silver Twp.  
Meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.**

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**Ronald Wetherell, Chairman**

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
**Bonnie Ebel, County Auditor**