
FOR THE YEAR 2012
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA
JULY 17, 2012

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, July 17, 2012 with Larry Prunty, Dean Schmidt, Mark Leeds, Terry Graybill, and Jeff Simonsen present. Dan Whitney, *Chronicle Times*, Rick Mongan and Ernie Glienke were also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes - Simonsen, Graybill, Prunty, Leeds, Schmidt; Nays – none; Abstentions – none.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Simonsen to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Prunty to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Dave Shanahan, County Engineer, presented a utility permit for consideration and discussed ongoing construction projects. Bid letting for the Washta bridge replacement project will be held on August 21st at the DOT Office in Ames with possible construction to begin in September. Emergency personnel have been notified of the pending bridge closure to ensure that there are no interruptions in services due to an 18 mile detour around the closed Little Sioux River crossing.

Shanahan reported that the road crew is finishing up patching for RAGBRAI and they have done an excellent job of pouring concrete during extreme heat conditions. C38 will be open on Friday for weekend travel. The Engineering Aide has been surveying M21 south of Aurelia and Shanahan will be ordering additional core drilling to check the road base before resurfacing begins. The intersection of M21 and 590th Street creates a potential safety hazard with limited visibility. Cutting down a hill south of the intersection and raising the level of intersecting roads will be researched. Shanahan updated the supervisors on the status of two new trucks recently purchased. Equipment is being installed at the dealership so the trucks should be delivered in time to be tested before snow removal begins.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Graybill to approve an underground utility permit for Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative in Section 21 of Amherst Township. Motion carried.

Jeff Friedrichsen, Sheriff's Chief Deputy, explained a program that allows law enforcement agencies to partner with the Federal Marshall when property is seized during drug related arrests. Cherokee County did not receive any of these funds last year, but a partnership would provide funding if there was a drug related seizure involving the Cherokee County Sheriff's Department.

Motion by Leeds, seconded by Simonsen to authorize the chairman to sign an Equitable Sharing Agreement with the Department of Justice to qualify Cherokee County as an eligible partner to receive forfeited funds. Motion carried.

Rick Emswiler, Emswiler Architecture, reviewed designs and cost estimates for exterior improvements at the Law Enforcement Center. The cost estimate is higher than originally expected due to relocation of underground utilities and a poured concrete driveway on the south side of the current building. Street lamps similar to those along Main Street are an additional cost but would provide needed lighting around the building. The current steps and alley have created safety issues and will be renovated to comply with handicap accessibility regulations.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Leeds to approve a \$98,438 construction proposal from Emswiler Architecture, Missouri Valley, for exterior improvements at the Law Enforcement Center. Motion carried.

Graybill asked Emswiler to draft some options to improve the remaining portion of the vacated alley and sidewalk that connects the courthouse to the Sheriff's Office. The County's insurance carrier requested that the alley be closed until safety issues are addressed. Emswiler will provide options for the supervisors' consideration.

Hedgie Brandt, County Treasurer, presented reports showing June 30, 2012 cash balances. Simonsen asked what interest rate the treasurer has been able to negotiate for county funds. Brandt reported that a 15 month CD will earn .559% interest while others are as low as .15%. Brandt stated "Nobody wants our money. They would rather we borrow it." Simonsen asked Brandt if anything on the cash report stood out and Brandt assured him that everything looked fine. Graybill asked for clarification on other funds and how to interpret the reports.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Graybill to approve the Treasurer's June 30, 2012 Semi Annual Revenue Report and Cash Settlement Report including \$8,788,480.58 total cash on hand. Motion carried.

Dawn Jones Coombs, County Recorder, presented details of her June 30, 2012 Quarterly Revenue Report. Simonsen asked Coombs if there is anything out of the ordinary on the revenue report. Coombs confirmed that it is a typical quarterly report with business as usual. Coombs reported that the County Recorder's Office has passed a recent federal inspection of the passport process and only a couple procedures need to be corrected.

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Motion by Prunty, seconded by Graybill to approve the Recorder's June 30, 2012 Quarterly Revenue Report including \$21,173.35 of monies kept by the county and \$31,006.69 of state funds. Motion carried.

Ernie Glienke, rural property owner from Aurelia, complimented the supervisors on their past practice of holding the line on spending. Glienke noted that he has sensed the supervisors have had some recent frustration with some issues going on and have been confronted with a large number of requests for extra funds. Glienke was particularly upset when a group of employees wanted to have recreation (wellness) fees paid. Glienke added that the average taxpayer pays for their own expenses and emphatically stated, "They say they don't hear from the taxpayers. Well, you'll hear from this one! It's because of the past history of this board to hold the line and not just give in that Cherokee County is sitting in a good financial position and not on the verge of bankruptcy like many of the bigger cities across the country." Glienke continued, "You have been doing a good job and I encourage you to be the watchdogs for the rest of us who pay the bills. We need public employees and they do a good job, but they need to take some personal responsibility for their spending." Glienke concluded, "You never get thanks for the job you have been doing on holding the line on spending and saying no when it needs to be done. I am here today to tell you 'Thanks'. People are noticing this and talking about it even if they don't step forward to say it." The supervisors thanked Glienke for his comments and encourage all citizens to contact them with their questions or concerns regarding issues related to Cherokee County.

LeDen Pingel, Cleghorn Fire Department, requested financial support for a new 48 foot by 50 foot building with three bays to store fire trucks. Graybill asked if there was an architect involved and Pingel confirmed that it is a pre-engineered building that will be constructed by local contractors. Schmidt asked where the building will be located and Pingel reported the fire department has bought the café next door to the current fire station. They will demolish the building and do the dirt work for site preparation themselves. The total expected project cost is \$56,710 and the department has \$10,000 in savings. Pingel asked for \$40,000 from the county to assist with the project. Simonsen asked if the department will be holding any fundraisers to raise money for the project. Pingel said they hold several annual events and have had great response from direct mailings to residents in the fire district.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Leeds to give \$25,000 of Rural Betterment Funds to the Cleghorn Fire Department for their new building project. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Chairman Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 10:52 a.m.

All board agendas and minutes are available online at www.cherokeecountyiowa.com.

Attest: _____

Dean Schmidt, Chairman

Kris Glienke, County Auditor