
FOR THE YEAR 2012
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA
JUNE 5, 2012

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, June 5, 2012 with Larry Prunty, Dean Schmidt, Mark Leeds, Terry Graybill, and Jeff Simonsen present. Dan Whitney, *Chronicle Times*, Kristi Petersen and Ben Shuberg 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 Prunty, seconded by Simonsen to approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

David Driggs, Courthouse Maintenance, discussed bids for a new John Deere lawn tractor and attachments. The current 1993 lawnmower continues to break down and has been in for repairs three times this year. Prunty asked Driggs if he had checked prices for any other brands of lawn mowers. Driggs stated that he had only worked with Builders Sharpening for quoting lawn and snow removal equipment with estimated purchase costs of nearly \$20,000. Graybill asked about the possibility of purchasing a zero radius turn mower and contracting out for the snow removal. Prunty agreed that for the extremely high cost of buying and maintaining the equipment, contracting would make sense. Driggs expressed concern that if snow removal is contracted, then it wouldn't get done in a timely manner and cause problems with icy sidewalks. Simonsen reviewed all the attachments included in the quote and asked if a bagger is necessary with Prunty responding that the city doesn't like lawn clippings blown into the street. Simonsen suggested that the board wait to make a decision and research if there are other cost effective options.

Hedgie Brandt, County Treasurer, requested wage increases for three staff members due to their experience and ability to do all the different duties in the office. Graybill asked if any of the three employees have college degrees. Brandt confirmed that her newest hire has several degrees and proudly stated "You name it, he's got it!". Brandt continued to explain her wage request by saying "Degree or no degree, experience is just as good as a degree. My Motor Vehicle/Driver License clerk has 10 years of experience and there isn't anything in the office that she doesn't know or can't do."

Motion by Leeds, seconded by Graybill to approve wage increases for three Treasurer's Department employees including Jackie Dierenfield (\$1.00), Misty Daum (\$1.00), and Jacob Rosewall (\$1.85) with an effective date of May 28, 2012. This will be in addition to the standard 65 cent raise that all non-union hourly employees will receive at the beginning of the fiscal year on July 1, 2012. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Graybill to approve a \$14.78 wage authorization for Lisa Dame as full time jailer effective May 14, 2012 pending successful completion of a Physical Capacity Profile Test per the County's Personnel Policy. Motion carried.

Mark Buschkamp, CAEDC Director, requested the County's support for developing a Foreign Trade Zone to enable the Northwest Iowa Region to engage effectively in a wider global economy.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Prunty to authorize the chairman to sign a letter of support for Northwest Iowa Development's application to the U.S. Department of Commerce for the purpose of establishing a Foreign Trade Zone Grant of Authority under the Alternative Site Framework for the Northwest Region of Iowa. Motion carried.

The lack of Death Investigators in the County was discussed. The County has paid to train and certify several persons to act as investigators, however, the latest trainee has not responded to calls for service. Cherokee Regional Medical Center has requested permission to send another person through the training program to assist the County Medical Examiner with his on call duties.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Leeds to authorize Cherokee Regional Medical Center to send LeDen Pingel to a certified Death Investigator program with the County paying for the cost of the training and travel expenses. Motion carried.

Dave Shanahan, County Engineer, presented a utility permit and gave an update on current projects.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Simonsen to approve an overhead utility permit for Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative in Sections 10, 11, 15, and 22 of Rock Township. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Chairman Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

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

Attest: _____

Dean Schmidt, Chairman

Kris Glienke, County Auditor