
FOR THE YEAR 2016
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA
APRIL 26, 2016

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, April 26, 2016 with Dennis Bush, Rick Mongan, Gary Lundquist, Jim Peck, and Jeff Simonsen present. Ken Ross, *Chronicle Times*, represented the press. Dean Schmidt, Bill Gauthier, Robert Gauthier, and Justin Pritts were also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes – Simonsen, Mongan, Lundquist, Peck, Bush; Nays – none; Abstentions – none.

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

Motion by Lundquist, seconded by Mongan to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Peck, seconded by Simonsen to approve the claims for payment as presented. Motion carried. A complete listing is available for review in the County Auditor's office and online.

Brandon Billings, Assistant Engineer, presented utility permits for consideration.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to approve an underground utility permit for Cherokee Rural Water in Section 19 of Cedar Township. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Lundquist to approve an underground utility permit for Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative between Sections 24 and 25 of Marcus Township with the stipulation that the location be accurately described on the application. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Peck to approve a \$15.25 wage authorization effective April 25, 2016 for Kayla Blakeslee, Part-time Jailer, per the Law Enforcement Center union contract. Motion carried.

Motion by Lundquist, seconded by Mongan to acknowledge an \$11.00 wage authorization effective April 18, 2016 for Tony Morris, Seasonal Park Technician, as previously approved by the Cherokee County Conservation Board. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Peck to authorize the chairman to sign a certification of the 2014/2015 Cost Allocation Plan which provides reimbursement for expenses incurred by Cherokee County for DHS office space. Motion carried.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Lundquist to approve the 2015 Business Property Tax Credit applications as recommended by the County Assessor's Office. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to approve an additional \$10,000 payment to the City of Quimby well project from the Rural Betterment Fund with a total payment of \$15,000 in the 2015/2016 fiscal year. Motion carried.

A Memorandum of Understanding between Cherokee County and Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation (CAEDC) was tabled until the County Attorney is able to review the document.

Rick Angell, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield Representative, presented Cherokee County's annual health insurance renewal which reported two years of extremely high medical claims experience.

The supervisors discussed several options for county provided health insurance including: A) Continue five year average for self-funding risk pool contribution which results in a 27% premium increase for employer/employees or B) Absorb self-funding risk expenses from accrued cash balance in the self-funding pool which results in a 19.5% increase for single policies and 14% increase for family policies. Consensus of the supervisors was to absorb the self-fund risk for one year and hope that employee medical claims are reduced significantly in future years which may result in premium reductions.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to approve the July 1, 2016 renewal of Wellmark Plan 1Y5/1X9 Plus (\$4,000/\$8,000 deductible; \$6,350/\$12,700 out of pocket maximum; \$30 office visit co-pay) including a 34.98% premium increase and to administer the self-funding buy down of benefits to employees by using Option B. Motion carried.

Employee health benefit package effective for July 1, 2016 coverage that includes a \$1,000/\$2,000 deductible; \$2,000/\$4,000 out of pocket maximum; \$25 office visit co-pay; and 25/75 cost sharing as follows: \$687.68 single policy cost per month (\$171.92 employee/\$515.76 employer) and \$1,660.74 family policy cost per month (\$415.19 employee/\$1,245.55 employer).

In an effort to control annual premium increases and to maintain affordable health benefits for employees; Cherokee County purchases a higher deductible health insurance plan and partially self-funds a buy down of deductibles, out of pocket maximums, and office visit co-pay costs. Terms of the County provided health benefit plan apply to all employees including union, non-union, and elected officials.

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The supervisors provided committee reports and reviewed meeting schedules.
There being no further business, Chairman Bush adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.
All board agendas and minutes are available online at www.cherokeecountyiowa.com.

Dennis Bush, Chairman

Attest: _____
Kris Glienke, County Auditor