
FOR THE YEAR 2016
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA
NOVEMBER 22, 2016

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, November 22, 2016 with Dennis Bush, Rick Mongan, Gary Lundquist, Duane Mummert, and Jeff Simonsen present. Ken Ross, *Chronicle Times*, represented the press. Glen Cave, Ray Mullins, Sam Kooiker, Justin Pritts, Ron Goth, Stu Hogg, and Mark Murphy were also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes – Simonsen, Mongan, Lundquist, Mummert, Bush; Nays – none; Abstentions – none.

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

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

Motion by Mummert, seconded by Mongan 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.

Greg Eaton, Cherokee Fire Chief, requested a financial commitment from the county for funding for an aerial truck so that a unit can be ordered before the end of the year. A lengthy discussion centered around the need to bring all the local fire districts, cities and county to the table to agree on a long term funding method for maintaining and replacing critical fire equipment that benefits all county residents. Lundquist summarized that there is a definite need to replace Cherokee's aerial truck but there needs to be some long term planning that includes townships, cities, EMS, and the county instead of saying we need to purchase a million dollar truck today and who's going to pay for it. Bush stated that fire protection is the responsibility of cities and townships and there is no legal authority for the county supervisors to tax for fire support; however, the county can provide a contribution to assist with a project that is in the best interest of all citizens. Mummert added that input he has received from other fire departments include concerns that they are not going to be trained on it or able to use the truck when needed. Mummert stated that mutual aid is important to maintain fire service effectively in the county. Eaton explained that his intent is to have every fire department pick a building in their district to train on annually and when a mutual aid call is placed, a Cherokee fireman will respond with the aerial truck but will need assistance from local fire department personnel on location. Ray Mullins and Glen Cave represented the Cherokee Rural Fire Association and expressed concern that their group is the only fire department that is being asked to provide financial assistance for the new truck when all fire departments in the county should be investing in the truck replacement. Sam Kooiker, Cherokee City Administrator, stated that they decided not to pursue individual fundraisers that get small donations but to go the Board of Supervisors instead. Kooiker asked Mullins and Cave if the Cherokee Rural Fire Association would match a \$100,000 contribution if the county provided that level of financial support. Mullins commented that all fire fighters in the county understand and support the idea of upgraded equipment, but all fire departments are operating on limited funds which leads to the fact that the City of Cherokee will need to find a way to finance the new truck. Cave added that this is tax payers' money and it has to be spent wisely. Lundquist commented that people need to start looking at the big picture and come together to get things done, not only for fire protection, but everything in the county.

Motion by Lundquist, seconded by Mummert to provide \$100,000 of county funding toward the purchase of a new aerial truck by the Cherokee Fire Department with the stipulation that all fire districts in the county will be trained in its use. Motion carried.

Mongan requested that the Cherokee Fire Department seek donations from businesses who may benefit from the aerial truck. Simonsen suggested reaching out to neighboring counties that may benefit from a mutual aid agreement and ask their businesses for financial support as well. Mongan reiterated that businesses that signed letters of support for the new aerial truck should be contacted for contributions. Chief Eaton assured the supervisors that business and private donations will be sought to assist in financing of the new unit.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Lundquist to take \$50,000 out of the Rural Betterment Fund in FY17 and \$50,000 in FY18 for the county's contribution to the Cherokee Fire Department for purchase of a new aerial truck. Motion carried.

Mark Buschkamp, CAEDC Director, presented a resolution supporting an effort to pursue a public-private partnership called Home Base Iowa initiative launched by Governor Branstad.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to approve Resolution #2016-19 "Supporting the Home Base Iowa Initiative" *Now, Therefore, the Board of Supervisors of Cherokee County hereby proclaims its support for the Home Base Iowa initiative and encourages its residents to take whatever actions are necessary for Cherokee County*

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to become and continue to be a Home Base Iowa Community.” Roll call vote: Simonsen-aye, Mongan-aye, Lundquist-aye, Mummert-aye, Bush-aye. Motion carried and resolution adopted.

Motion by Mummert, seconded by Mongan to approve a step wage authorization for Joel Ehrig, Dispatcher, from \$15.59 to \$15.93 per Law Enforcement Union contract terms. Motion carried.

The supervisors reviewed Family Farm applications filed in the County Assessor's Office for credits applied to property taxes payable in 2017/2018.

Motion by Lundquist, seconded by Mongan to approve the 2016 Family Farm applications as presented and to disallow those that no longer qualify. Motion carried.

The supervisors provided committee reports and reviewed meeting schedules.

There being no further business, Chairman Bush adjourned the meeting at 10:31 a.m.

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

Dennis Bush, Chairman

Attest: _____
Kris Glienke, County Auditor