
FOR THE YEAR 2012
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA
JUNE 12, 2012

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 with Larry Prunty, Dean Schmidt, Mark Leeds, Terry Graybill, and Jeff Simonsen present. Dan Whitney, *Chronicle Times*, Dave Scott, Barb Staver, 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 Graybill to approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Jill Titcomb, Deputy of Elections, reviewed the June 5, 2012 Primary Election results.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Leeds to certify the canvass of the 2012 Primary Election results as presented. Roll call vote: Graybill-aye, Prunty-aye, Leeds-aye, Schmidt-aye, Simonsen absent. Motion carried with election results as follows: Cherokee County Election Turnout of 6.6% with 590 of 8938 registered voters casting a ballot (462 Republican ballots and 128 Democratic ballots)

U.S. Representative - District 4

Republican: Steve King – 417 votes	Democratic: Christie Vilsack – 117 votes
Scattering of write ins – 5 votes	Scattering of write ins – 3 votes

Senator - District 2

Republican: Randy Feenstra – 359 votes	Democratic: no candidate
Scattering of write ins – 0 votes	Scattering of write ins – 6 votes

State Representative - District 3

Republican: Dan Huseman – 420 votes	Democratic: no candidate
Scattering of write ins – 2 votes	Scattering of write ins – 5 votes

County Supervisor - District 1

Republican: Rick Mongan – 375 votes	Democratic: Dean Schmidt – 104 votes
Scattering of write ins – 1 votes	Scattering of write ins – 3 votes

County Supervisor - District 2

Republican: Dennis Bush – 376 votes	Democratic: Larry Prunty – 110 votes
Scattering of write ins – 3 votes	Scattering of write ins – 1 vote

County Supervisor - District 5

Republican: Darrell E. Nelson – 211 votes	Democratic: Marci Brown – 99 votes
Ginger Walker – 220 votes	Scattering of write ins – 2 votes
Scattering of write ins – 0 votes	

County Auditor

Republican: Kris Glienke – 381 votes	Democratic: no candidate
Scattering of write ins – 17 votes	Scattering of write ins – 4 votes

County Sheriff

Republican: Dave Scott – 409 votes	Democratic: no candidate
Scattering of write ins – 4 votes	Scattering of write ins – 10 votes

Jason Copple, Local 234 Union Representative, reported that it had been brought to his attention that non-union employees have been getting raises over and above what they were supposed to get. Copple added “I am requesting that the Sheriff’s Department and Secondary Roads Department get additional wages. In the last contract negotiations, the guys agreed to increased health insurance premiums and didn’t get much of a raise (3.3%). If the county has a lot of extra money that they are throwing around then the unions should get extra money.”

Graybill stated “One of the non-union employees who got a large raise this month was making \$10.65 per hour. I don’t think there is a single union employee who is making that small of a wage. And as far as the increased health insurance contributions by employees, well that was the choice of the union, and the non-union employees didn’t get a say in that decision but they got the increased deductions out of their paychecks.”

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Schmidt added "The Department Heads came in and explained that their staff has received additional certification and duties have increased because of changes in state requirements. We didn't give additional raises because we have a lot of extra money."

Copple replied "It's not right that Jill (Titcomb) doing elections makes more than a Deputy. People working in offices in the courthouse work from 8 to 5 and go home."

The supervisors collectively answered "That is not true of all offices."

Kris Glienke, County Auditor, asked Copple "Where are you getting your information about wage comparisons for Auditor's employees and Sheriff's Deputies?"

Copple replied "I'm reading a newspaper article that the Sheriff's Office sent me."

Glienke replied "When someone gives the newspaper wrong information and the newspaper prints it on good faith, it doesn't make the information correct. Did you read the union contract that you negotiated and signed?"

Copple responded "I haven't reviewed the contract. I'm just going off what I've been told and the article that they sent me."

Glienke stated "There is no way that any employee in the Auditor's Office has ever earned more than a Deputy Sheriff and they will not be earning nearly as much on July 1st. I don't understand why my office and my staff are continually being targeted with this misinformation. There are other positions in the courthouse that have recently been hired with higher wages and better benefit packages, yet no one is concerned about that."

Copple replied "Jill's base wage is higher than a Deputy's and that is not right. You cannot figure overtime into a Deputy's wage consideration because their overtime hours take them out of their homes and away from their families."

A copy of the Law Enforcement Center's Union Contract was reviewed.

Glienke replied "Mr. Copple, I'm looking at the Law Enforcement Center's union contract with your signature on it. Please tell me if I am figuring this wrong. I take the hourly Deputy wage that's listed in the contract, which is \$21.92 per hour, and then I multiply it times 2080 regular work hours in a year. This amount is \$45,593.60 which is the base wage of a Deputy. Am I figuring that right? That is the base wage before any overtime hours are added in."

Copple agreed that was the proper way to figure a base wage based on the union contract.

Glienke asked "Then how can you say that one of my employees who will begin to make \$42,000 per year on July 1st is making more than a Deputy Sheriff? When you add in the overtime that was budgeted on top of the Deputies' base wages, they will be making more than three elected officials in the courthouse." (Auditor, Recorder, and Treasurer will be earning \$49,750 on July 1st while Deputy Sheriff's wages and overtime are budgeted at \$52,000.)

Copple responded that all non-union employees will also be getting an additional 65 cent raise on July 1st.

Glienke responded "My department has the only employees that have been denied the extra 65 cent raise on July 1st, so again, I'm questioning why my department is always being attacked when my request for the additional raise was voted down and no one else's was. I did not complain and agreed to the wishes of the supervisors, but still continue to be the weekly target."

Copple stated that he was unaware of many of these details and was only making a request based on the information given to him from the local county union members.

Glienke asked Copple to report back to the union members with the correct information so that the facts could be known instead of the rumors that have grown out of control.

Copple agreed that he would report back to his members and asked the supervisors to consider giving additional raises to all union employees.

The supervisors replied that they would discuss wages with the unions during contract negotiations.

Lisa Langlitz, Community Services Director, presented two contracts with local providers for mental health services that included very minor rate changes. Langlitz explained that Plains Area Mental Health Center (PAMH) will no longer be providing an Elderly Peer Program which was a great service for some Cherokee County clients. Graybill, who is the County's representative on the PAMH Board, reported that Plymouth County discontinued their financial support for the Elderly Peer Program and PAMH cannot afford to offer the service to

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just a few clients. Graybill stated that he was surprised to learn about the very limited mental health services that are paid for by Plymouth County and is proud of the way Cherokee County has been taking care of their residents in need of services.

Motion by Leeds, seconded by Grabyill to approve a contract with Pathways Centers for Emotional Well Being for services in 2012/2013. Motion carried.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Prunty to approve a contract with Plains Area Mental Health Center for services in 2012/2013 pending clarification of changes in the updated contract which does not include an Elderly Peer Program. Motion carried.

Dave Scott, County Sheriff, discussed the completion of his hiring process to fill an open jailer position and to add an additional deputy position.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Prunty to approve wage authorizations for Darragh Jessica Denery (\$13.62) as part time jailer and Luke Selk (\$21.75) as full time deputy with both positions subject to the Law Enforcement Center's union contract and pending successful completion of a Physical Capacity Profile Test per the County's Personnel Policy. Motion carried.

Scott informed the board that he currently is advertising for an additional part time dispatcher for the 911 Communications Center. Graybill asked if it would be better to add a full time position instead of part time since the County spends money to train and certify a new employee and then they go elsewhere to find a permanent job. Scott replied that the part time was all that was needed to cover shifts for medical related leave time.

Simonsen joined the meeting at 9:56 a.m.

Scott returned after leaving the meeting and decided that he would change his part time ad to a full time position and would begin advertising for the additional position.

Kristi Petersen, Human Resources Director, presented a wage authorization and asked for verification of an employment ad that is in the local newspaper.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Simonsen to approve a \$15.31 step wage authorization for Keva Wolf, full time jailer, per the Law Enforcement Center Union Contract. Motion carried.

Petersen reported that the part time dispatcher ad that is currently in the paper was not approved and there was not a termination of a current employee so the Sheriff is adding another position without the board's approval.

The supervisors informed Petersen that they have already discussed the issue with the Sheriff and he is now going to be advertising for a full time dispatcher position.

Ben Shuberg arrived at 10:00 a.m. to observe the meeting.

Lindsay Bressler, Wellness Committee representative, gave an update of the Committee's latest meeting and ideas of how to monitor employees' usage of gym memberships so that it wouldn't be a waste of county money. Bressler stated that there has been good employee response to a survey designed to determine levels of interest in a variety of health related activities. Approximately 36 employees are interested in participating in wellness programs with kickboxing, boot camp, and a team 5K being at the top of the list. The committee is considering a monthly quota for using the gym as motivation for a reimbursed membership fee and would like to offer prizes for the highest gym attendance. Suggestions included the supervisors giving an hour of comp time, free lunches, or gift cards and to have regular healthy lunches provided to participating employees. Bressler has done a lot of research and feels that \$12,500 would pay for gym memberships for employees. It would cost \$300 to feed every employee a healthy lunch and the Committee would like to buy t-shirts for employees who are serious about the Wellness Program.

Bressler had previously asked Leeds what his employer provides for wellness incentives. Leeds said he had not checked on the exact details but the employees have to pay for their expense and then turn in a receipt to get reimbursed. Bressler said a single membership at the Cherokee Regional Medical Center costs \$24.58 per month and requested a budget of \$15,000 from the supervisors. Graybill suggested they wait to see what Leeds found out about his employer's wellness program.

Bressler replied "Will waiting for Mark to find information make a big difference in your decision? Government and private industry benefits are not the same."

Graybill responded "No they are not, you don't even want to go there."

Bressler added "We want to do incentives for all employees."

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Schmidt reported "The public is asking me why they pay for their own memberships and wonder why they should have to pay for county employees to have gym memberships."

Bressler suggested "You can send those people to me. We (committee members) don't hear the negative comments from the public and I can explain it to the taxpayers."

Graybill replied "It doesn't work that way. The taxpayers call us because we are the elected officials that are supposed to represent the wishes of the public."

Bressler concluded the discussion saying "We are worried about our health and reducing our health insurance costs."

No decision was made regarding the request for a \$15,000 Wellness Committee budget.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Leeds to approve an Agreement with Siouxland Regional Transit System for a \$27,461 contribution to support transit services in Cherokee County for fiscal year 2012/2013. Motion carried. The financial request was made during the budget process and is the same amount as prior years.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Graybill to approve Resolution #2012-09 Inter-fund Operating Transfer of \$742,500 from Rural Basic Fund to Secondary Road Fund. Roll call vote: Simonsen-aye, Graybill-aye, Prunty-aye, Leeds-aye, and Schmidt-aye. Motion carried and resolution adopted.

Leeds updated the supervisors on the Landfill Commission's effort to streamline the operation and additional reductions in staff as a cost savings measure. The Landfill was able to make its June bond payment without financial assistance from the County. Cherokee State Bank has been very supportive in assisting the Landfill Commission with creating a business plan to manage their loan payments and daily operating costs. The daily accounting process is being provided by Burkhardt and Dawson CPA's and it appears that the landfill will be able to pay its payroll and operating costs from dumping fee revenues. The Landfill Commission will be having a meeting with city representatives to discuss potential rate increases.

Motion by Prunty, seconded by Leeds 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.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Prunty to provide \$10,000 of Rural Betterment funds to the Marcus Historical Society for their Marcus Fair Village. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Chairman Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 10:58 a.m. and went to tour the Sheriff's Department Training Room which is the proposed Emergency Operations Center (EOC) location.

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

Attest: _____

Dean Schmidt, Chairman

Kris Glienke, County Auditor