

---

FOR THE YEAR 2013  
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK  
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA  
MARCH 5, 2013

---

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, March 5, 2013 with Mark Leeds, Dennis Bush, Rick Mongan, and Ginger Walker present. Jeff Simonsen was absent. Dan Whitney, *Chronicle Times*, represented the press. Marla Conley, Gary Otto, Gary Lundquist, Bob Donahoo, Greg Zarr, Nancy Nelson, Dan Winterhof, Hedgie Brandt, Dawn Jones Coombs, Myron Pingel, Paul Pingel, Chad Brown, Linda Burkhart, Jeff Friedrichsen, Dave Shanahan, Sandy O'Hearn, Dave Skou, and Mark Buschkamp were also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes - Mongan, Bush, Walker, Leeds; Nays – none; Abstentions – none.

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

Motion by Walker, seconded by Bush to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

At 9:00 a.m., a motion was offered by Mongan and seconded by Bush to open a public hearing for the proposed 2013/2014 fiscal year budget. Roll call vote: Mongan-aye, Bush-aye, Walker-aye, Leeds-aye. Motion carried. Chairman Leeds asked for comments from the public. Several tax payers questioned the amount of increase in property taxes and why some departments needed such large increases. Bush explained that the supervisors struggled with balancing the budget for next year and considered several options for funding critical services while maintaining a functional cash reserve. The General Fund continues to be the biggest problem since the tax rate has been at a \$3.50 maximum levy limit for several years, while standard operating expenses continue to increase. The supervisors have looked for other funding sources to finance expenditures that traditionally have been paid with General Fund dollars. Additional Sheriff's Deputy expenses were moved to the Rural Fund; a portion of economic development and ambulance support were moved to the Rural Betterment Fund; employee benefits, property/liability insurance, and election expenses were moved to the Supplemental Fund; and two positions were eliminated in the Courthouse as a cost savings measure. Since property tax revenues are not received until October, cash reserves need to be projected at a 25 percent minimum ending balance on June 30<sup>th</sup> to finance expenses in the first quarter of the next fiscal year. The cash reserves were drawn down last year due to unexpected expenditures; therefore the supervisors had to decide whether to raise tax levy rates or run the risk of a funding shortage which could cause the County to borrow money to pay bills. Bush reported the 2013/2014 levy rates will all be at the following maximum levels: General Fund (\$3.50), General Supplemental (\$1.43), Rural Fund (\$3.95), and Mental Health Fund (63 cents). Bob Donahoo, Farm Bureau representative, asked if the increase in taxes is a quick fix to maintain the County for one year or are the additional tax revenues projected to be a long term solution. Bush reassured those in attendance that taxes cannot be increased again due to state imposed levy maximums and increases in property valuations are limited to an annual 4% increase. The supervisors will need to look at making changes to bring expenditures to a budget neutral level. Walker reported that department managers have also questioned how the County will continue to pay for everything in coming years when the levy rates are at their maximum limits. Walker conveyed that the departments understand how conservative they need to be with their expenditures.

Hearing no further comments from the public, a motion was made by Bush, seconded by Mongan to close the public hearing at 9:45 a.m. Roll call vote: Mongan-aye, Bush-aye, Walker-aye, Leeds-aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Bush to adopt the fiscal year 2013/2014 budget as published and to certify it to the state. Motion carried.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Bush to adopt the County Compensation Board recommendations for 2013/2014 elected officials' wages as follows: Attorney \$88,250 (\$1,750 increase), Auditor \$51,500 (\$1,750 increase), Recorder \$51,500 (\$1,750 increase), Sheriff \$65,500 (\$2,500 increase), and Treasurer \$51,500 (\$1,750 increase). A recommended increase of \$1,000 for the Supervisor's positions was rejected and the salaries will remain at \$21,500 with a \$1,000 stipend for the Chairman. Motion carried.

Greg Zarr, County Assessor, presented applications from land owners who qualify for open prairie or forest cover tax exemptions. The applications are approved by the Cherokee County Soil and Water Conservation District before they are certified with the County Assessor.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Bush to approve the 2013 Slough Bill Applications. Motion carried. A complete listing of tax exempt properties is available in the County Assessor's Office.

---

FOR THE YEAR 2013  
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK  
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA  
MARCH 5, 2013

---

A construction application for hog confinement facilities was reviewed under DNR Master Matrix guidelines. The proposed site was inspected by the County Engineer and DNR with satisfactory results.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Walker to approve a DNR Master Matrix Construction Application for Paul Pingel, Pingel Farms, in Section 2 of Afton Township. Motion carried.

Dave Shanahan, County Engineer, reviewed a proposed five year construction plan, the 2013/2014 DOT Budget, and requested authorization to sign final construction payment vouchers on behalf of Cherokee County.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Mongan to approve Resolution #2013-05 authorizing Dave Shanahan, County Engineer, to sign final construction payment vouchers. Roll call vote: Mongan-aye, Bush-aye, Walker-aye, Leeds-aye. Motion carried and resolution adopted.

Motion by Bush, seconded by Mongan to approve the Fiscal Year 2014 Cherokee County DOT Secondary Roads Budget as presented. Motion carried.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Walker to approve the Fiscal Year 2014 Five Year Secondary Roads Construction Program for Cherokee County. Motion carried.

Brian Chamberlain, Warrior Entertainment, gave an informative presentation about a proposed entertainment district in Historic Downtown Sioux City that would be built around the current Warrior Hotel property. Renovations to the Art Deco building would include a casino, restaurants, theater, and retail business space. Warrior Entertainment is one of three developers who are actively seeking a gaming license in Iowa. Chamberlain requested an endorsement and letter of support from the supervisors. No action was taken.

Chad Brown, Conservation Director, requested \$45,000 of general funds in the current budget year to assist with construction of a twelve person cabin at Martin's Access. Brown reported that the supervisors already allowed \$35,000 in the Conservation Department's 2013/2014 budget for special projects and the Conservation Board would use \$22,000 of their land acquisition funds to complete the basic construction. Brown's staff would provide the labor to do the finish work with an expected completion date in Spring of 2014. No action was taken.

Gary Lundquist, Cherokee County property owner, added one bit of final advice by suggesting the supervisors hold the line on spending until they see where the economy is going to end up in the coming years.

There being no further business, Chairman Leeds adjourned the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

All board agendas and minutes are available online at [www.cherokeecountyiowa.com](http://www.cherokeecountyiowa.com).

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Mark Leeds, Chairman

Kris Glienke, County Auditor