
FOR THE YEAR 2013
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA
MAY 14, 2013

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 with Mark Leeds, Dennis Bush, Rick Mongan, Jeff Simonsen, and Ginger Walker present. Dan Whitney, *Chronicle Times*, represented the press. Dave Scott was also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes – Simonsen, Mongan, Bush, Walker, Leeds; Nays – none; Abstentions – none.

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

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

A County Department Meeting was held with the following departments represented: Assessor, Auditor, Conservation, Community Services, Engineer, GIS/IT, Sheriff, Treasurer, and Veteran Affairs.

Leeds explained to the departments that the supervisors want to hold regular meetings to keep the lines of communication open with county employees and encouraged questions from those in attendance.

Hearing no questions or comments, Leeds began with a review of the results of a recent State Appeal Board order to reduce the County's taxation for 2013/2014 by \$725,000. He further explained to the departments that the supervisors decided to take the reduction out of cash reserves and everyone will need to watch the spending in the next budget cycle.

Walker reported that she is the supervisors' representative on the EMS Commission and a meeting will be held soon to begin considering funding options for the agency.

Chad Brown, Conservation Department, reported that his staff is busy getting the parks ready to handle all the people that will be coming to visit; concrete work is complete on the Martin's Access cabin; they have some burning to get done yet; and the summer crew has started mowing.

Lisa Langlitz, Community Services, reported that she is still trying to figure out what changes will be happening to her department on July 1st; funding for mental health services is still unknown; and applications for a full-time case manager position have been very limited but she is hoping to receive resumes from additional qualified applicants.

Nancy Nelson, Assessor's Office, reported that the Board of Review held a hearing for seven property assessment protests, otherwise the procedures are normal in their office.

Dave Scott, Sheriff's Department, reported "business as usual".

Hedgie Brandt, Treasurer's Office, reported that her staff is getting ready for the annual tax sale held on the 3rd Monday in June.

Lindsay Bressler, reported on work being done on a server upgrade; new computer backup hardware will be installed today; and Microsoft 365 should roll out next week with a web application for emails so employees personal pc's or cell phones will have access to email but their personal devices won't be subject to open meeting laws or requests for business related messages.

Dana Evans, Veteran Affairs, reported on preparations for the annual Veterans Appreciation Day which will feature Civil War re-enactors, USAA Military Insurance, and the Wounded Warriors program. Evans asked the supervisors for a proclamation recognizing the appreciation event. Group counseling sessions are held weekly in the local Veteran Affairs Office with 12 members attending. A new group is being formed for veterans of the Gulf War and recent deployments to the Middle East. Evans is working with the County Auditor to complete a \$10,000 annual grant application from the Iowa Department of Veteran Affairs that is used for office expenses and outreach programs.

Evans did express concern and frustration that the postage machine in the courthouse is always broken when he tries to do mail. Bressler acknowledged that the unit has been out of service frequently and she is working on solutions to fix the problem or alternative options for county departments to process their mail.

Dave Shanahan, Secondary Roads Department, reported that the last snowplow was being removed; construction on a bridge in Tilden Township will begin in July on A Avenue south of 590th Street; he has started counting days on the Washta bridge to encourage the construction company to complete the project on time; after bid letting today, the diamond grinding on C63 can start this week; the roads crew is out there working hard and doing a great job of playing catch-up on the gravel roads due to weather and manure haulers; Bill Schwaller, Maintainer Operator, has received a great honor by being selected to be a motor grader trainer at the state level; the Engineering Staff are preparing plans for M21 south of Aurelia to get it ready to let for bids and they are keeping busy with plans for two other projects; the sign truck will be replaced and the current sign truck will be transferred

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to the engineering department; a new crack filling machine will be delivered next week; and spraying of county ditches has begun.

Leeds asked Shanahan if there would be any road closures that the supervisors need to be aware of. Shanahan reported that C63 east of Highway 59 will have a one lane pilot car beginning this week; M21 will be closed in June to do grading on 590th Street; A Avenue will be closed from July to October for a bridge replacement; and 500th Street will be closed in June for a bridge replacement.

Kris Glienke, Auditor's Office, reported that her staff is preparing for an annual audit in June; monitoring the County's budget for the June 30th fiscal year end; and making preparations to begin the new fiscal year on July 1st.

The County Attorney, Environmental Health/EMS, and Recorder's Office were not represented.

Leeds thanked the departments for their attendance and reports during the County Department Meeting.

Lindsay Bressler, GIS/IT Coordinator, reported on the progress of installing a new server and computer backup equipment, disposal of outdated technology equipment, and a wage authorization request.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to authorize Bressler to dispose of or auction outdated county technology equipment per her recommendation. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to approve a wage authorization from \$44,080 to \$45,947 for Lindsay Bressler, GIS/IT Coordinator, effective July 1, 2013. Motion carried.

Lisa Langlitz, Community Services Director, reported on a recent meeting with the Ida County Board of Supervisors regarding the possibility of creating a sharing agreement for the Central Point Coordinator (CPC) position to manage Ida County Mental Health Services. Simonsen and Langlitz attended the meeting in Ida Grove and determined that it would not be in the best interest for Cherokee County to take on the additional duties at this time. Langlitz will be available at a billable rate to assist Ida County in their transition of hiring an interim CPC if needed.

Dave Shanahan, County Engineer, reported that one bid had been received by his office for a local road grinding project. Shanahan confirmed that the bid was reviewed by his staff and meets the requirements including a contractor's bond.

Motion by Bush, seconded by Mongan to approve a \$238,433.67 bid from Iowa Erosion Control, Inc. of Victor, Iowa for Project #L-67-73-18 including 5 ½ miles of diamond grinding on C63 from Highway 59 east to the Maple River. Motion carried.

The supervisors reviewed bills turned in by county departments.

Motion by Bush, 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.

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

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

Attest: _____

Mark Leeds, Chairman

Kris Glienke, County Auditor