
FOR THE YEAR 2018
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA
FEBRUARY 6, 2018

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, February 6, 2018 with Dennis Bush, Rick Mongan, Gary Lundquist, Duane Mummert, and Jeff Simonsen present. Steve Peterson, *Aurelia Star*, represented the press. Stephanie Thill, Mark Murphy, Chad Brown, Kara Harpenau, Lisa Bringle, Stu Hogg, Justin Pritts, Ben Van Engelenhoven, Rick Angell, Jaci Van Wechel, and Becky Bloom were also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes – Simonsen, Bush, Lundquist, Mummert, Mongan; Nays – none; Abstentions – none.

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

Motion by Mummert, seconded by Lundquist to approve the minutes of the previous two meetings. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Bush to open a public hearing for the County's proposed 2017/2018 fiscal year budget amendment. Roll call vote: Simonsen–aye, Bush–aye, Lundquist aye, Mummert–aye, Mongan–aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Mongan asked for comments regarding the proposed amendment. Hearing no comments from the public, a motion was made by Simonsen and seconded by Mummert to close the public hearing. Roll call vote: Simonsen–aye, Bush–aye, Lundquist aye, Mummert–aye, Mongan–aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Bush to adopt the 2017/2018 fiscal year budget amendment as published. Motion carried.

Ben VanEngelenhoven, VanEngelenhoven Agency, and Rick Angell, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield Representative, presented Cherokee County's notice of health insurance renewal rates which include a 5.92% rate increase for coverage beginning July 1, 2018.

In an effort to reduce annual premium increases and to maintain affordable health benefits for employees; Cherokee County purchases a \$4000/\$8000 deductible (\$6350/\$12700 out of pocket) health insurance plan and partially self-funds a buy down of deductibles to \$1,000/\$2,000 and out of pocket maximums of \$2,000/\$4,000. Employees choose between a single or family policy and pay 25% of monthly premium costs while Cherokee County pays 75% of premium costs. Employees hired prior to 1991 are provided family coverage for 25% of the cost of a single policy. Terms of the County provided health benefit plan apply to all full-time employees including elected officials.

The supervisors reviewed the increased health insurance premiums and a five-year history of partial self-funding expenses. After consideration of the level of risk associated with reducing contributions to the self-funding pool, the consensus of the supervisors was to set the 2018/2019 self-fund contribution at 75% of the five-year average and hope that employee medical claims are reduced significantly in future years which may result in premium reductions.

Motion by Bush, seconded by Mummert to set monthly health insurance rates with no change in benefits for coverage beginning July 1, 2018 at \$799.67 for a single policy, \$1,977.06 for a family policy and continued 25% employee participation for cost sharing of premium costs. Motion carried.

Motion by Lundquist, seconded by Bush to approve ISG Field Services Invoice #C1297 for submission to Dakota Access Pipeline for payment of inspection services provided from December 31, 2017 through January 27, 2018. Motion carried.

Review of budgets for the 2018/2019 year continued. Departments will be asked to resubmit their budget worksheets with lowered health insurance rates and a 2.25% wage increase for employees not covered by the Cherokee County Compensation Board.

The supervisors reported on committee meetings with Jeff Simonsen stating that after serving as a Cherokee County Supervisor for 26 years, he will not seek re-election to the position.

There being no further business, Chairman Mongan adjourned the meeting at 10:04 a.m.

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

Rick Mongan, Chairman

Attest: _____

Kris Glienke, County Auditor