

FOR THE YEAR 2020  
 BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK  
 CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA  
 JUNE 23, 2020

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, June 23, 2020 with Dennis Bush, Rick Mongan, Gary Lundquist, Duane Mummert, and Wane Miller present. There were no representatives from the press. William Gauthier, Jerry Weiland, Gary Goebel, Kelly Puhmann, Steve Zarr, Sarah Tracy, Hedgie Brandt, Chad Brown and Stu Hogg were also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes – Lundquist, Bush, Mummert, Miller, Mongan; Nays – four; Abstentions – three.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Wane Miller, Veteran Affairs Commissioner.

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

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

Motion by Mummert, seconded by Mongan to approve the claims for payment as presented except for tabling two Conservation Department payments until proper documentation is provided. Motion carried. A complete listing is available for review in the County Auditor's office and online.

Claims Approved June 23, 2020:

Alliant Energy	Serv	108.33
Alpha Wireless Communications	Equip	22,146.48
Aurelia Lumber	Supp	5.40
Barco Municipal Products Inc	Supp	291.91
Bob Barker Company Inc.	Supp	201.52
Bomgaars	Supp	1,847.97
Brentwood Construction, LLC	Serv	16,120.00
Builders Sharpening & Serv	Parts	188.51
Alexander D Burditt	Reimb	11.50
Campbell Supply Co	Parts	88.56
Carroll Construction Supply	Parts	618.72
CenturyLink	Serv	12,464.26
Chase Card Service-Ink	Supp	546.61
Cherokee County Sheriff	Fees	4,200.00
Cherokee Depot	Rent	40.00
Cherokee State Bank	Flex/Self Fund	5,455.08
Cherokee Main Street Pharmacy	Medication	10.90
Cherokee Regional Medical Ctr.	Health Serv	607.00
Cherokee Regional Medical CTR	Contract	7,514.37
Chronicle Times	Publ	94.00
City of Cherokee	Serv	223.91
CJ Cooper & Associates	Serv	70.00
Clark Equipment Co.	Equip	15,594.80
Clay County Recorder	Dues	50.00
CML Telephone Coop	Serv	74.11
Eric J. Comstock	Serv	4,451.92
Counsel	Serv	90.71
Department of the Treasury	Fee	26.95
Des Moines Register	Ad	1,648.95
Don Groves Repair	Equip	2,255.39
Joseph W Draper	Per Diem	50.00
Don Drefke	Per Diem	50.00
Fareway	Supp	1,047.01
Filter Recycling	Serv	200.00
First Cooperative Association	Serv	14,115.10
FORCE America Distributing,LLC	Parts	147.80
Foundation Analytical Lab	Serv	28.75
Frontier	Serv	129.95
William Gauthier	Per Diem	50.00

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GeoComm,Inc.	Serv	23,039.00
Graham Tire Storm Lake	Parts	5,527.20
Jeannette Grant	Elect Hrs	25.00
GreatAmerica Financial Svcs	Serv	54.73
Hallett Materials	Gravel	28,559.43
Harrison Truck Centers	Parts	421.76
Heartland Paper Company	Supp	103.40
Highway Trailer Sales	Trailer	19,555.00
Malori B Hill	Reimb	14.36
Holzhauser Motors LTD	Serv	399.54
Iowa Commun Assurances Pool	Insur	136,468.15
IMWCA Iowa Municipalities	Insur	44,089.00
Iowa Dept of Natural Resources	Permits	375.00
Iowa Dept of Public Safety	Serv	7,176.00
Iowa Lakes Electric Coop	Serv	1,585.00
IA Lakes Regional Water	Serv	160.54
Iowa Law Enforcement Academy	Serv	6,650.00
Iowa Prison Industries	Parts	508.20
Janitor's Closet, Ltd	Supp	106.43
Jebro Inc	Supp	828.75
KCHE	Publ	160.00
Leon Klotz	Elec Hrs	25.00
Koenig Portable Toilets	Serv	147.00
Lawson Products Inc	Parts	46.68
Ludens Inc	Trailer	5,435.00
Mary Jane Lund	Elec Hrs	33.10
Mail Services, LLC	Postage	529.78
Marco Technologies LLC	Serv	735.20
Martin Marietta Materials	Supp	4,156.42
Mid American Energy	Serv	224.72
Mid-American Benefits, Inc.	Admin Fees	755.00
Midwest Lubricants, Inc	Supp	211.20
Midwest Wheel	Parts	742.16
Wane A Miller	Per Diem	50.00
Modern Heating & Cooling, Inc	Serv	175.00
Motor Parts Sales	Parts	311.64
Northside Tire	Serv	32.00
Nuvera	Serv	545.60
Gary Olsen	Per Diem	250.00
One Office Solution	Supp	1,902.02
Michelle K. Pedersen	Per Diem	50.00
PJ Greufe & Associates	Serv	1,500.00
Prestox	Serv	127.00
Rees Mack Sales & Service	Parts	1,102.77
Reliance Telephone Systems Inc	Serv	100.00
Ricoh USA, Inc.	Serv	26.65
Jean Rupp	Per Diem	125.00
Sanitary Services Inc	Serv	104.40
Rhonda Saxon	Elec Hrs	25.00
Schmillen Construction Inc	Serv	9,994.36
Schoon Corporation	Parts	47.70
Schumacher Elevator Co	Serv	1,322.40
SHI International Corp	Supp	9,485.18

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Solutions, Inc.	Serv	35,770.45
Stevenson Family Tree Service	Serv	450.00
Tapper Livestock Express, LTD	Serv	7,560.00
The Master's Touch, LLC	Serv	476.62
TNT Sales & Service	Serv	1,650.00
U.S. Postal Service	Postage	4,400.00
Valley Glass & Framing Co	Serv	2,961.00
Verizon Wireless	Serv	178.93
VFW	Supp	20.00
Randy Walker	Land	13,400.00
Larry L Walker	Land	13,400.00
Wellmark BCBS Of Iowa	Insur	92,973.62
WesTel Systems	Serv	852.61
Wiese Oil & Supply	Fuel	1,485.85
David Wilberding	Per Diem	250.00
Janice Witcombe	Elec Hrs	25.00
Woltman Trucking	Serv	5,617.50
Xerox Financial Services	Serv	76.23
Ziegler Inc	Supp	877.14
Grand Total		\$611,415.89

Hedgie Brandt, County Treasurer, presented two wage authorizations for consideration.

Motion by Mummert, seconded by Mongan to approve a \$48,562.50 (75% of Treasurer's salary) wage authorization for Jackie Dierenfield, Drivers License Deputy, effective July 1, 2020. Motion carried.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Bush to approve a wage increase to \$19.32 per hour (25 cent increase) for Debie Stevenson, Treasurer's Clerk, effective June 22, 2020. Motion carried.

Kris Glienke, County Auditor, presented election audit results and wage authorizations for consideration.

Motion by Miller, seconded by Mummert to certify the 2020 Primary Election Post-Election Audit results of the hand count of 142 ballots cast in the Cherokee Ward 1 Precinct for the office of U.S. Senate; which exactly matched the results tape of the ballot tabulating machine on election day. Motion carried.

Motion by Bush, seconded by Mummert to approve a \$45,325.00 (70% of Auditor's salary) wage authorization for Jodi Mongan, Payroll/Accounting Manager, effective July 1, 2020. Motion carried with Mongan abstaining.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Mummert to approve a \$45,325.00 (70% of Auditor's salary) wage authorization for Kaitlin Letsche, Accounting/Elections Manager, effective July 1, 2020. Motion carried.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Bush to approve a \$45,325.00 (70% of Auditor's salary) wage authorization for Nissa Renken, Real Estate/Voter Registration Manager, effective July 1, 2020. Motion carried.

Motion by Bush, seconded by Mongan to approve a \$18.00 per hour wage authorization for Tom Whittaker, Election Technician, effective July 1, 2020. Motion carried.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Mummert to approve a separation of employment and \$9,651.92 final payout of hours worked, vacation, comp hours and severance for Stephanie Thill, Deputy Auditor, effective June 16, 2020. Motion carried.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Miller to approve a separation of employment and \$480.00 final payout of hours worked and severance for Lynn Winterhof, Auditor's Part-Time Clerk, effective June 16, 2020. Motion carried.

Gary Goebel, Construction Manager, presented utility permits for consideration.

Motion by Bush, seconded by Miller to approve an application for underground construction on the county road right-of-way for WesTel Systems in Sections 20, 29 and 30 of Silver Township; Section 13 of Rock Township; and Sections 18, 19 and 20 of Pilot Township. Motion carried.

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Motion by Mummert, seconded by Miller to approve an application for underground construction on the county road right-of-way for Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative in Sections 20 and 29 of Grand Meadow Township. Motion carried.

Sarah Tracy, Zoning Administrator, discussed recent changes in laws which now require appointed members of local zoning boards to live in the unincorporated areas of Cherokee County. The supervisors will need to replace one member on the Zoning Board and one member on the Board of Adjustments to comply with the new law. Public notices will be published and applications taken to fill these positions.

Sarah Tracy, County Engineer, and Kelly Puhmann, Assistant Engineer, reported on the status of the F Avenue Grading/Paving Project and asked the supervisors to make a final decision whether the project should move forward. Tracy recommended not moving the project forward due to increased costs, land acquisition issues, low traffic numbers, transferring additional traffic to other county roadways that were not designed to carry heavy truck traffic, and future budget concerns resulting from reduced gas tax revenues. It was also noted that road stabilization on F Avenue has been greatly improved by the wind turbine project and could be safely maintained to accommodate additional truck traffic to the ethanol plant.

Lundquist summarized the issue stating the project is estimated to cost six million dollars, however, the ethanol plant has committed one million dollars to the project and \$500,000 of TIF revenues will directly reduce the total cost to the county. Lundquist agreed there is currently a low traffic count but that would increase once the road was paved and he also concurred with Tracy that the current road is in excellent shape and there are land acquisition problems, but the county signed a contract with the Little Sioux Corn Processors Board of Directors and the project needs to move forward as agreed. Lundquist stated that he wished some terms in the contract could be changed but it can't be done, and he understands that it would be welcome to other land owners to use that money to replace bridges or culverts elsewhere in the county.

Mongan cautioned that the affects of COVID-19 on reduced fuel tax revenues are not going away very soon and he is concerned about how many bridges are going to have to be shut down if the county goes ahead with this road project. Seven years ago the county had 37 deficient bridges and now there are over 60 deficient bridges in Cherokee County. Mongan stated that he had voted for the project but conditions have changed and the supervisors will be looking at closing roads that impact numerous farmers in all areas of the county.

Mummert concurred that the state has notified cities and counties that gas tax revenues will not be there for an undetermined number of years. Mummert expressed concern that if the supervisors use six million dollars of secondary roads funds on one three mile road and then have to start shutting down roads in other areas of the county because there are not enough funds to replace bridges, it would directly hurt several farm operations.

Bush added that shutting down roads in the county does not just impact farmers, but emergency services such as fire and ambulance in addition to school district bus routes would all suffer from increased travel times as a direct result of fewer rural roadways. Bush stated that he is in the same position as Lundquist in that he wishes a different contract had been drafted, but since he shook hands on the original contract, he cannot go back on his word and supports moving forward with the project.

Miller stated that the project was already under contract when he started on the Board of Supervisors, but the total estimated cost has doubled and it has priced itself out of what the county can financially afford to do. Miller added that this has been the one issue he has received numerous calls about and tax payers are not in favor of continuing this road paving project.

Motion by Mummert, seconded by Mongan to not go forward with the F Avenue Project at this time and remove the project from the current Five Year Construction Plan. Chairman Lundquist called for a roll call vote: Mongan-aye, Bush-nay, Mummert-aye, Miller-aye, Lundquist-nay. Motion carried.

Chad Brown, Conservation Director, questioned the supervisors' decision to table a payment for land purchases that he had authorized. Lundquist reviewed the form submitted by Brown and stated that they were insufficient to meet audit standards and in the very least, unprofessional since it was a handwritten note on copy paper that wasn't dated or signed. Brown contended that the Conservation Board had approved the payment and the supervisors had no authority to deny the claim for payment with conservation funds. The supervisors assured Brown that they were not against the project, however, appropriate documentation to support issuance of county funds should be provided. Bush asked if there was a purchase agreement signed that would support the amount of payment

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and terms of the land acquisition. After a lengthy discussion, Brown agreed to provide additional supporting documents and the supervisors consented to authorize immediate payment since closing of the sale is scheduled prior to the next regular payment of county bills.

Motion by Mummert, seconded by Miller to authorize payments to Larry Walker and Randy Walker from the Conservation Land Acquisition and Improvement Fund for purchase of property in Section 31 of Willow Township as previously approved by the Cherokee County Conservation Board. Motion carried with Bush and Lundquist voting nay.

Motion by Bush, seconded by Mongan to approve Amendment #4 to a Facility Lease Agreement between the Cherokee Mental Health Institute and Cherokee County Board of Supervisors for office space provided by the County for DHS Child Welfare Social Workers. Motion carried.

Motion by Mummert, seconded by Bush to approve Amendment #5 to a Facility Lease Agreement between the Cherokee Mental Health Institute and Cherokee County Board of Supervisors for office space provided by the County for Third Judicial Probation Officers. Motion carried.

Motion by Mummert, seconded by Bush to reappoint Wane Miller as Veteran Affairs Commissioner for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Motion carried with Miller abstaining.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Mummert to reappoint Michelle Pedersen as Veteran Affairs Commissioner for a three-year term ending June 30, 2023. Motion carried with Miller abstaining.

Motion by Bush, seconded by Miller to appropriate the 2020/2021 fiscal year budget at 100% for all departments. Motion carried.

Motion by Mummert, seconded by Mongan to approve Resolution #2020-08 "2020/2021 Salary Resolution" setting salaries and wages of all employees of Cherokee County effective July 1, 2020. Roll call vote: Mongan-aye, Bush-aye, Mummert-aye, Miller-aye, Lundquist-aye. Motion carried and resolution adopted.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Bush to go into closed session per Iowa Code Chapter 21.5(1)(c) "*To discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation.*" Roll call vote: Mongan-aye, Bush-aye, Mummert-aye, Miller-aye, Lundquist-aye. Motion carried and session closed at 10:36 a.m. Regular session resumed at 10:55 a.m. Motion by Mummert, seconded by Mongan to proceed with the 2020 Courthouse Sidewalk Project and to authorize Ryan Kolpin, County Attorney, to contact the contractor's attorney to verify contract terms. Motion carried.

The supervisors provided committee reports and reviewed meeting schedules.

Lundquist called for comments from the public and none were offered.

There being no further business, Chairman Lundquist adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

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

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Gary Lundquist, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kris Glienke, County Auditor