

MINUTES OF SIOUX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 24, 2021

- 1) The Board of Supervisors of Sioux County, Iowa, met pursuant to adjournment at 9:00 a.m. with Chairman Jerry Muilenburg presiding. Members present were Jerry Muilenburg, Al Bloemendaal, Mark Sybesma and Carl Vande Weerd. John Degen was absent.
- 2) Minutes of the meeting held on August 10, 2021 were submitted, motion by Bloemendaal and supported by Vande Weerd to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried, one member absent.
- 3) Motion by Bloemendaal and supported by Sybesma to approve the claims for August 24, 2021 as submitted by the County Auditor. Motion carried, one member absent.
- 4) Chairman Muilenburg introduced the agenda item regarding the service contract with Mid-Sioux Opportunity. This contract is required in order for the county to legally fund private non-profit organizations and the funding will be used according to the request proposed in December of 2020. Motion by Bloemendaal and supported by Sybesma to approve the service contract between Sioux County and Mid-Sioux Opportunity. Motion carried, one member absent.
- 5) Chairman Muilenburg introduced the agenda item regarding the Northwest Iowa Housing Trust Fund Pledge Letter. Due to the passage of SF 619 which in part increases the award maximums for the Local Housing Trust Funds (LHTF). The Iowa Finance Authority has concern about the ability of the LHTF partners to meet Local Match requirements and plans to propose an amendment to the administrative rules to help address those concerns. The Iowa Finance Authority proposes to keep the 25% Local Match requirement but would start with a reduced Local Match requirement in FY2022. A request to complete two pledge letters was made in order to be prepared for the two funding schematics. Motion by Sybesma and supported by Vande Weerd to approve the two funding pledge letters. Motion carried, one member absent.
- 6) Evan Del Val, Civil Engineer with ISG, called into the meeting to discuss the proposed Midwest Carbon Express pipe line which would move liquified carbon dioxide from ethanol plants to North Dakota. ISG is requesting that the Board approve a letter of intent to perform the required pipe line inspection. The format for billing works the same as it did from the Dakota Access project in that ISG bills the county for the inspection expense, the county then bills Midwest Carbon Express and when the county receives payment, the county in turn pays ISG. The expense is completely offset by the revenue and is no cost to the county.

A public meeting regarding this pipe line project is being held on September 15, 2021 at 6:00 PM at the Terrace View Events Center in Sioux Center.

Doug Julius, Sioux County Engineer, expressed concerns about the lack of communication the county received from ISG during the Dakota Access project and if the Board approves the letter of intent, would request at minimum, weekly updates from ISG.

Del Val discussed the letter of intent and stated that this is not a binding contract so if the project does not happen or ends prematurely, the county will incur no costs. The letter of intent is simply a way for ISG to properly staff their company in order to perform the

inspection. The Board declined to sign the letter of intent at this time and will gather more information at the public meeting on September 15 before a decision is made.

- 7) Abby Rook, Sioux County HR Director along with Adam Buss from New York Life, reviewed the life insurance proposal for county employees. Rook distributed two options to the Board, one for \$50,000 and the other for \$25,000 life insurance policies for full-time county employees. The Board can choose to fund either of those options at 100% or have employees contribute to the plans. Employees can also buy up in coverage if they would like a larger benefit amount. If one of the options is approved, the benefit will be effective 7/1/2022.

Supervisor Vande Weerd liked offering the \$50,000 county-paid plan as anything less is not much of a benefit considering the costs of a funeral.

Supervisor Sybesma asked if the plan is portable if the employee were to leave employment and Buss stated that the plan can transfer.

Supervisor Bloemendaal would like to go with a lesser amount, maybe \$10,000 county-paid plan for employees.

Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Sybesma to approve the \$50,000 county-paid life insurance plan. Voice vote: Sybesma, Yes; Vande Weerd, Yes; Bloemendaal, No; Muilenburg, Yes. Motion carried, 3 in favor 1 opposed.

- 8) Doug Julius, Sioux County Engineer,

- Reviewed three permit agreements from Rock Valley Rural Water System with the Board. 1) Section 3 of Rock Township to place a water line for a new home, 2) Section 26 of Lincoln Township to place a water line for a new home, and 3) Section 9 of Settlers Township to place a water line for a new home. Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Sybesma to approve all three permit agreements. Motion carried, one member absent.
- Distributed a letter to the Board regarding pricing of new truck equipment for a new truck that was previously purchased. The price increased by approximately 6% from the last truck equipment that was purchased. The increase was primarily due to the increased steel costs. The Board received the letter for information.
- Updated the Board on secondary road activities.
- Reported that the stoplight bridge near Hudson will be closed Tuesday through Thursday as borings take place in preparation for a new bridge.
- Reported that the contract has been sent out regarding the asbestos abatement for the county home and will present that to the Board when the contract is returned.

- 9) Committee Reports:

- **Vande Weerd** – 1) Reported on the YES Board meeting. The agency is working on adding a crisis center for youth in Cherokee, which would be a good thing for our region. The State is behind the project and could allow more space to be used in the state-owned facility in Cherokee. 2) Reported that he was appointed to two NACo committees, the first is the Health Steering Committee, particularly the mental health portion and the second is the Rural Action Caucus. Reported that the State of California recently passed legislation for

how livestock can be raised in order for it to be sold in their state. This could have a big effect for livestock growers.

- **Bloemendaal** – Reported on the recent RIDES meeting. The agency is doing more transports and a financial update was provided by CEO, Hugh Lively. The agency is attempting to hire more drivers but the response has been low.
- **Muilenburg** – 1) Attended the recent Airport Board meeting. A sign was approved to be placed along highway 75 which required a lease from the landowner. The cost of the sign is just under \$70,000. 2) Attended a Landfill meeting. 3) Attended the Northwest Iowa Workforce Development meeting. The agency approved the Northwest Iowa Local Plan and the Northwest Iowa Memorandum of Understanding. A fiscal agent for the Ticket to Work Funds was also approved.

10) Motion by Sybesma and supported by Vande Weerd to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried, one member absent, and the meeting was adjourned at 10:23 a.m. until Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Jerry Muilenburg, Chairman
Sioux County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Ryan Dokter
Sioux County Auditor