

MINUTES OF SIOUX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 11, 2022

- 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, John Degen, Mark Sybesma, Al Bloemendaal, and Carl Vande Weerd.
- 2) Minutes of the meeting held on September 27, 2022 were submitted. Motion by Bloemendaal and supported by Vande Weerd to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) Ryan Dokter, Sioux County Auditor,
 - Requested Board approval for an agreement for software services with InTech Software Solutions, Inc. (Modus Elections). Dokter explained that his office received a \$10,000 cybersecurity grant from the Secretary of State's office and this software qualifies as a use of this funding. The software is used to manage election workers, election training, payroll automation, tracking election equipment, and the overall planning of elections. The cost of the software is \$5,362 plus \$3,500 for installation for a total of \$8,862. Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Degen to approve the agreement for software services. Motion carried unanimously.
 - Requested Board approval for an ARPA application to replace the tabulator election equipment. Dokter reported that the current tabulators are end of life and would like to use ARPA funding to replace the equipment in early 2023. The request totaled \$93,860, which included a \$12,000 reduction in price for trading in the old equipment. Motion by Bloemendaal and supported by Sybesma to approve the ARPA application. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Degen to approve the claims for October 11, 2022 as presented by the County Auditor. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5) Chairman Muilenburg initiated discussion regarding a \$600 funding request letter from the Iowa State Association of Counties, which has to do with an analysis that will allow for the development of procedures and standards to assist in the mitigation of soil compaction on agricultural lands caused by utility construction occurring on wet soils. Iowa State University will conduct the analysis which will cost an estimated \$54,000 and all counties in Iowa were asked for funding.

The Board discussed that this analysis may aid in the agreement property owners make when agreeing to allow a utility through their property, but others stated that when construction begins, they will not stop construction due to wet weather and leave the site for a week or two until the ground is dry again, therefore making this analysis unnecessary.

Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Degen to approve the \$600 funding request. Voice vote: Sybesma, No; Degen, Yes; Bloemendaal, No; Vande Weerd, Yes; Muilenburg, Yes. Motion carried 3 in favor 2 opposed.

- 6) Brian Van Engen, on behalf of the Sioux County Trails Committee, updated the Board on the status of the Destination Iowa Grant the committee has applied for, which will connect the trail from Sandy Hollow to Orange City, as well as enhance the trail systems in Sioux Center and

Orange City. Present for this discussion were Daryl Ten Pas, Scott Wynja, Earl Woudstra, Mitch Aalbers, Rob Klocke, Gordon Pottebaum, Joel Sikkema, and Tom Kunstle.

Discussion ensued over the proposed Sioux County Recreation Trail 28E Agreement. Some key points of the agreement are that the county will hold the easements for the trail and hold the insurance but the cities would reimburse for the insurance, the county will contribute \$100,000 towards the project contingent upon the funding of the grant, and county conservation will maintain a portion of the trail.

The group discussed other items that need to be addressed due to the route of the proposed trail, which include the gun range at the Sheriff's Office and how that may need to be altered, as well as addressing the use of county right-of-way if easements with property owners cannot be obtained.

Tom Kunstle, County Attorney, stated that the county cannot grant what we may not have in regards to the county right-of-way and further research will need to be done.

Scott Wynja stated that in order for the grant to proceed, the committee needs some assurances from the county which are laid out in the 28E agreement, so the finer details can continue to be worked on while getting approval of the 28E.

Kunstle stated he is comfortable with the proposed 28E agreement. Motion by Sybesma and supported by Degen to approve the 28E agreement upon the recommendation of the County Attorney. Motion carried unanimously.

7) Joel Sikkema, Sioux County Engineer,

- Requested Board approval for a gravel crushing contract with Keith Hagedorn at the Chatsworth Pit. The cost is \$2.85/ton for an approximated 115,000 tons. Motion by Degen and supported by Sybesma to approved the contract as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Updated the Board on the PCC overlay project on B46. The project is 98% complete and anticipates seeding being done late this week or early next week and road painting next week.
- Updated the Board on personnel matters. Gerald Gradert will be promoted to Foreman at the Hawarden Shop and will need to hire another employee at that location to fill Gradert's position. Advertising for that position will close October 19.

8) Tom Kunstle, Sioux County Attorney,

- Requested Board approval of the termination of easements for the former Sioux Center Airport property to ensure a clean title. Motion by Sybesma and supported by Vande Weerd to approve the termination of easements. Motion carried unanimously.
- Reported that he continues to research the RNG pipe line project to determine whether or not this is a public utility. Factors to determine this have been provided to the Zoning Director and County Engineer. Kunstle stated this determination may need to be made by the Iowa Utilities Board in the end. Chairman Muilenburg stated that the City of Sioux Center is looking to have a public utility approved for the north/south route of the pipe line and the farms involved are working to get private easement for the east/west route of the proposed pipe line.

- Recommended to the Board to have a survey done on the property the county purchased for relocating Public Health. After reviewing aerial photography, it appears that a mobile home may be on the county property and an easement may be needed to address that situation. Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Bloemendaal to conduct a survey of the property. Motion carried unanimously.
- 9) Chairman Muilenburg initiated discussion on the proposed projects to remodel county office spaces. Present for this discussion was Roger Buys. Muilenburg asked the County Attorney which space on third floor he would prefer, either the current IT offices or the space freed up by scanning the Clerk of Court records. Kunstle stated that both spaces would work very well for his office needs, and that along with that, he would like to still modify the office space/desks in his office area as part of this project.

Supervisor Vande Weerd updated the Board on the status of the new Public Health building as a door is still needed and a short-term exemption has been granted from the City of Orange City for a firewall, but the hope is to have Public Health in the new space at year end.

The Board reviewed the plans developed by CMBA Architects. The Board discussed the need to keep this process moving and would like to proceed with getting bids on remodeling the north half of the annex building to be used for the Treasurer's Office, and then to remodel the current Treasurer's Office for DHS to occupy. Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Sybesma to approve the plans for relocating the Treasurer's Office and DHS and authorize Roger Buys to get specifications and prepare to obtain bids for these projects. Motion carried unanimously.

- 10) Motion by Bloemendaal and supported by Vande Weerd to approve the FY2023 Service Contract with RIDES. Motion carried unanimously.
- 11) Motion by Bloemendaal and supported by Vande Weerd to approve the following resolution for operation green light. Roll call on vote: Sybesma, Yes; Degen, Yes; Bloemendaal, Yes; Vande Weerd, Yes; Muilenburg, Yes. Motion carried unanimously.

2022-53

Supporting Operation Green Light for Veterans

WHEREAS, the residents of Sioux County have great respect, admiration, and the utmost gratitude for all of the men and women who have selflessly served our country and this community in the Armed Forces; and

WHEREAS, the contributions and sacrifices of the men and women who served in the Armed Forces have been vital in maintaining the freedoms and way of life enjoyed by our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Sioux County seeks to honor these individuals who have paid the high price for freedom by placing themselves in harm's way for the good of all; and

WHEREAS, Veterans continue to serve our community in the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans, and other Service Organizations, religious groups, civil service, and by functioning as County Veteran Service Officers in 29 states across America to help fellow former service members access more than \$52 billion in federal health, disability and compensation benefits each year; and

WHEREAS, Approximately 200,000 service members transition to civilian communities annually; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 20 percent increase of service members will transition to civilian life in the near future; and

WHEREAS, studies indicate that 44-72 percent of service members experience high levels of stress during transition from military to civilian life; and

WHEREAS, Active Military Service Members transitioning from military service are at a high risk for suicide during their first year after military service; and

WHEREAS, the National Association of Counties encourages all counties, parishes and boroughs to recognize Operation Green Light for Veterans; and

WHEREAS, Sioux County appreciates the sacrifices of our United State Military Personnel and believes specific recognition should be granted; therefore be it

RESOLVED, with designation as a Green Light for Veterans County, Sioux County hereby declares from October through Veterans Day, November 11, 2022 a time to salute and honor the service and sacrifice of our men and women in uniform transitioning from Active Service; therefore, be it further

RESOLVED, that in observance of Operation Green Light, Sioux County encourages its citizens in patriotic tradition to recognize the importance of honoring all those who made immeasurable sacrifices to preserve freedom by displaying a green light in a window of their place of business or residence.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 11th day of October, 2022.

/s/Jerry Muilenburg
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: /s/Ryan Dokter, Sioux County Auditor

12) Committee Reports:

- **Degen** – Attended a recent conservation board meeting and reported that the recent Halloween Hike at Oak Grove was well attended with over 850 participants.
- **Vande Weerd** – 1) Reported that he was in contact with Rick Sandbulte and LeAnn Englin regarding the formation of a committee for the county fair project. John Degen will serve on this committee as well as working with the city economic development employees. Sandbulte and Englin will be overseeing the propane tanks and taking care of the grass as well. Requested that the County Attorney review the lease agreement for the home being rented at the former airport. 2) Reported that Brenna Koedam has started as CEO of the Sioux Rivers Mental Health Region and will be getting into her office as soon as some IT work has been completed. Shane Walter will be used for consulting through the end of October.
- **Muilenburg** – 1) Reported on the recent Wellness Committee meeting. The county obtained enough participation in the wellness program to obtain a 5% discount on health insurance premiums. 2) Sold the county grain at \$7.03/bushel for corn which had approximately 11,000 bushels, and the soy beans at \$13.40/bushel with approximately 2,100 bushels.
- **Sybesma & Vande Weerd** – Attended a Sioux Rivers meeting on September 27.

13) Motion by Degen and supported by Bloemendaal to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. until Tuesday, October 18, 2022.

Jerry Muilenburg, Chairman
Sioux County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Ryan Dokter
Sioux County Auditor