

MINUTES OF SIOUX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 1, 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 October 18, 2022 were submitted. Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Degen to approve the minutes as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.
- 3) On behalf of the Boyden Area Fire Department and Ambulance Members, Galen Blankers and Angela Paulsen requested funding for a new fire station. This building is currently under construction and will be shared with Boyden-Hull CSD as part of it will be a bus barn. The cost of the structure is approximately \$650,000 and an investment group will match contributions up to \$250,000. Motion by Sybesma and supported by Degen to approve \$15,000 in funding for the project to be paid over three years, starting in fiscal year 2024 which begins July 1, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.
- 4) Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Bloemendaal to approve the claims for November 1, 2022 as presented by the County Auditor. Motion carried unanimously.
- 5) Chairman Muilenburg initiated discussion for filling the county auditor vacancy, which will be vacant starting December 24, 2022. The Board discussed the need to advertise for the position. Motion by Degen and supported by Vande Weerd to begin advertising for the position starting the week of November 7. Motion carried unanimously. The Board instructed the County Auditor to work with the Human Resources Director to get the advertisement compiled and distributed.
- 6) Ryan Dokter, Sioux County Auditor, began a discussion on the options for the financial accounting of the property acquired for the relocation of the county fair. Dokter reported there are two options since the County owns the property, 1) to let all of the finances for the project run through the Youth Fair Board, then have the County's audit firm gather all of the financial detail from the Fair Board, or 2) have all of the finances for the project run through the County, and the County pay expenses related to the project. Option 2 is similar to how the County managed the nature center project. Dokter also reported that ultimately it would be in the County's best interest to turn the property over to the Fair Board in the future for administrative and insurance purposes. Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Degen to run the finances for the county fair project through the County for the time being. Motion carried unanimously.
- 7) Adam Fedders, City of Sioux Center, initiated discussion with the Board regarding the West Branch RNG pipe line project and distributed a proposed map of the route. Present for this discussion were Murray Hulstein, Aaron Maassen, Lee Maassen, and Junior Hoogland. Fedders provided a summary of the project which is that dirty gas from the BRD Dairy and Maassen Dairy farms will be sent to the Hoogland Dairy to be scrubbed and prepared for injection into the Sioux Center pipe line. Fedders also reported that the proposed pipe line is for clean gas only and will service Sioux Center customers.

Fedders purpose of the discussion was to request the use of County right-of-way for the placement of the pipe line as the City of Sioux Center is a public utility, and this pipe line is classified as a distribution line, therefore does not need permitting from the Iowa Utilities

Board (IUB). A formal opinion will be provided from the IUB and Fedders will provide that to the Board once it has been received.

The Board relayed concerns about the legality of using the County right-of-way for the project and want to be absolutely sure this can be allowed before giving approval.

Fedders provided a document from the Ahlers & Cooney law firm which affirms that the City of Sioux Center's gas department is a public utility under Iowa Code 476.1(3)(a).

The Board will revisit the issue at hand once the IUB provides their formal review.

8) Joel Sikkema, Sioux County Engineer,

- Requested approval of plans for projects STP-S-C084(177)—5E-84 (K42 PCC Overlay) and FM-C084(176)—55-84 (B40 PCC Overlay). Motion by Sybesma and supported by Bloemendaal to approve the plans as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Requested approval of two utility permit agreements, 1) NIPCO Electric in sections 9 and 10 of Nassau Township and 2) Premier Communications in sections 16 and 17 of Holland Township. Motion by Bloemendaal and supported by Vande Weerd to approve both permit agreements as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
- Reported that the B46 PCC overlay project is now complete, project LFM-175—7X-84 and FM-C084(174)—55-84.
- Initiated discussion regarding the purchase of a Western Star 47X tandem-axle truck. The truck purchase will follow the regular schedule of truck replacement, however the timeline to take delivery is delayed if the county does not commit to the purchase earlier than normal. Sikkema reported that he intends to sign the purchase agreement with IState for the truck even though the bid price is slightly higher as the IState bid, meets all of the specifications of what is needed for the truck.
- Reported that the new side dump trailer will be delivered November 2 and the new Western Star truck is currently in transit.
- Updated the Board on personnel status. Interviews are being conducted for the operator position in Ireton.
- Updated the Board on secondary road activities which include preparing equipment for the winter season.
- Reported that the Safety Committee is working on a county-wide seat belt policy for insurance purposes. The committee is also working through required OSHA trainings.

9) Nate Huizenga, Sioux County Sheriff Chief Deputy, reported that two people have recently completed training and certification as medical examiner-investigators. The Board had previously approved expending funds to put two people through the training as the County Medical Examiner has limited time to address every situation that arises and having other individuals assist in the process is needed. Huizenga requested that the Board appoint Darin Vande Kamp and Evan Post and County Medical Examiner-Investigators. Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Degen to appoint Vande Kamp and Post to these positions. Motion carried unanimously.

10) Jamie Van Voorst, Sioux County Sheriff initiated discussion on the idea of adding a second School Resource Officer (SRO) to the county. Present for this discussion were Deputy Waylon Pollema, Deputy Jessica Dorhout, and Chief Deputy Nate Huizenga.

Van Voorst explained that as the county's population has grown, the Sheriff has maintained the same number of staff, but due to the demand in the schools for the SRO, a second SRO is needed. Currently Deputy Pollema provides the SRO service to 10 schools and an additional 4 schools have requested services. Van Voorst also provided statistics regarding call volume of issues in schools as well as the growing drugs and mental health issues kids are experiencing in their homes.

Deputy Dorhout has assisted in the SRO program and has the basic SRO training. She also has training with mental health and trauma issues.

Van Voorst also reported two other counties have implemented a mental health deputy and has begun discussion with the Sioux Rivers Mental Region about this possibility as part of the jail diversion program. He also shared the idea of having a therapy dog in schools as well, which is a pretty low-cost thing to do.

Chairman Muilenburg instructed Van Voorst to put these requests in the FY2024 budget so the Board can make a determination at that time.

11) Rob Klocke, Sioux County Conservation Director, requested direction from the Board regarding the beaver bounty program as trapping season begins November 5. Last year Conservation was the point of contact for beaver bounties and for the beavers that were intact, provided \$35/beaver with a cap of \$7,500. Motion by Vande Weerd and supported by Bloemendaal to continue with the beaver bounty program with the same parameters as last year. Motion carried unanimously.

12) Committee Reports:

- **Bloemendaal** – Reported on the RIDES meeting from October 20. The agency met in the new Spirit Lake facility and reported that the finances are doing well.
- **Vande Weerd** – 1) Reported that the goal is to have the new Public Health building completed by December 1. 2) Updated the Board on Operation Greenlight to light up the east side of the courthouse in green for Veterans.
- **Muilenburg** – Reported on the recent Safety Committee meeting and the group is working on a seat belt policy.
- **Degen & Vande Weerd** – Reported on work being done to form an advisory committee for the county fair relocation project and fundraising for that project.
- **Sybesma & Vande Weerd** – Attended the October 25 Sioux Rivers Mental Health meeting.

13) Motion by Bloemendaal and supported by Vande Weerd to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m. until Tuesday, November 15, 2022.

Jerry Muilenburg, Chairman
Sioux County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: _____
Ryan Dokter
Sioux County Auditor