

September 26, 2024

The board met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present Jeff Tindle, Diana Dawley and Jason Roudabush. Also present Simone Bates, The Record publisher.

Moved by Roudabush, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tindle to approve agenda. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Roudabush, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tindle to approve September 19, 2024 board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Tindle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roudabush to approve September 27, 2024 payroll for \$318,499.26. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

9:00 a.m. Board received sealed bids for snow removal for Public Safety Building, Montezuma, and County Services Building, Grinnell. Bids received were as follows:

- Taylor's Snow Removal & Lawn Service for removal of snow at Poweshiek County Public Safety Building, 4802 Barnes City Rd, Montezuma – Bid for \$145 per 24-hour period snow removal parking lot & \$145 per time of sanding parking lot, no sidewalks are included in this bid
- Lacaeyse Snow Removal for removal of snow at County Services Building, 200 4<sup>th</sup> Ave W, Grinnell – Bid for \$225 per 24-hour period snow removal for upper & lower parking lots, sidewalks, & all entrances into the building and \$112.50 per 24-hour period for salting the parking lots, sidewalks, & entrances

It was moved by Tindle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roudabush to accept the bids from Taylor's Snow Removal & Lawn Service and Lacaeyse Snow Removal. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Tindle stated he attended the Emergency Management meeting this week where there was discussion about possible FEMA funding for two more outdoor warning siren projects for Montezuma and Grinnell.

9:10 a.m. Chris Nolte, Veterans Affairs Director met with board for monthly meeting. Discussion was held on office location, funding veteran services and the annual budget.

9:30 a.m. Public auction held for cash rent of county-owned farmland located:

The Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW ¼ SW ¼) except .41 acres; Northwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NW ¼ SW ¼) except 9.52 acres; Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (NE ¼ SW ¼) except Parcel A & Parcel B; Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW ¼ SE ¼), all in Section 7, Township 78, Range 14 West of the 5<sup>th</sup> P.M., Jackson Township.

Present were Murlin McCain, Jared McCain, Elliott Scheck, Don Kriegel, Neal Kriegel, and Sammy Kuntz.

Supervisor Dawley opened the bid at \$250.00 per acre. Bidding on this property were Elliott Scheck and Don/Neal Kriegel. Bid was increased by \$10.00 increments and final bid was at \$340.00 by Elliott Scheck. No further bidding received so bid was awarded to Elliott Scheck for \$340.00 per acre.

Lease agreement was prepared and signed by Supervisor Chair Dawley and Elliott Scheck and 5% down payment accepted. Per agreement further payments will be made 45% by March 1, 2025, and 50% by December 1, 2025.

10:00 a.m. Randy Johnson as well as other legionnaire members, veterans, and family members; Gail Johnson, Steve Shaffer, Diane Shaffer, Carol Dale, Larry Webber, Ron Brown, Dean Fisher, State Representative, and VA Director Chris Nolte met with board. Johnson's purpose today was to follow up from the August 5 meeting to see if the board has come up with a plan for additional staff at the VA office. Roudabush stated the budget is set for VA and not sure there is room for additional wages and benefits. Dawley inquired if there is anyone to volunteer help. Nolte stated he could have volunteers but they are limited on what they can do because they can't have access to medical information so basically they could answer the phone and take limited information. They would not be able to assist with VA claims. Johnson stated the veterans are bringing a lot of money into the county from the benefits being received and feels the board needs to consider that and doesn't feel money should be an issue. Johnson said getting someone to volunteer is a temporary fix and nothing permanent. Dawley stated the board needs to meet with the VA Commission and discuss the issues of additional staff and office location. Roudabush stated this should be something to look at during budget time and have a plan submitted with the budget. Dawley asked Dean Fisher what the legislation is planning for counties this term. She stated there has been talk about cutting LOST funds and

the county relies on these funds to pay bond debt for the building of the public safety building. If LOST is taken away, where would those funds then come from. Fisher stated he has not heard this talk and stated there hasn't been any discussion of county funding yet. Dawley stated the board worked hard to get Home Base Iowa and there are 2 applicants and the county budgeted \$10,000 to use toward incentives for veterans coming to the county. Johnson stated the Home Base Iowa does add more work to the VA Director and another reason to add another part-time employee to that department. Roudabush stated the board did look at utilizing a current employee to assist part-time with VA but again there are not any funds budgeted in VA budget for additional wages.

10:30 a.m. Bart Klaver, County Attorney, met with board to discuss Opioid settlement funds. Klaver provided the board with a listing of allowable expenditures of the settlement funds. Board inquired if there was a deadline for expending the funds and Klaver stated there was no deadline. Klaver stated there is reporting to be done on how the funds are expended and Auditor Eilander is the one that submits those reports. Klaver stated that 75% of the funds need to be spent on the core strategies listed and he stated 2.5% could be spent for administrative services. Everything needs to be related to opioid use disorder in some way. Auditor Eilander inquired about establishing an opioid committee and who would be on said committee. The board decided to establish the committee with the county attorney, law enforcement representative, county auditor, public health representative, board of supervisor representative. Eilander stated she would like another employee from her office to be on the committee as well to assist with the administration of the funds. Auditor Eilander will reach out to the individuals and schedule the first meeting. The committee will discuss appropriate uses of the funds and ways to get information provided to the necessary individuals about accessing this funding.

11:21 a.m. Moved by Roudabush, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tindle to adjourn. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

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Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor

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Diana Dawley, Chairman