

January 9th, 2018

The Des Moines County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the Court House in Burlington at 9 AM on Tuesday, January 9th, 2018 with Chair Jim Cary, Vice-Chair Tom Broeker and Member Bob Beck present.

Unless otherwise noted, all motions passed unanimously.

Meet with Department Heads: Maintenance Supervisor Rodney Bliesener reported his department was keeping busy removing recent snow and ice. The heated front steps work great removing any ice or snow. Sheriff Mike Johnstone reported everything was quiet during the recent snow event. There have been several burglaries along Tama Road area. He praised the county road crews for their work and the public for staying off the roads. County Engineer Brian Carter reported the ice was a hit and miss in areas. His crews worked most of Sunday. Conservation Director Chris Lee reported they are still progressing on the Nature Center. He praised the county road crews for their work. The new chair for the Conservation Board is Jim Steer. City/County Safety Director Angie Vaughan warned everyone to be careful in this weather. She has contacted the members of the Animal Control Board and trying to schedule their first meeting. County Attorney Amy Beavers reported her office is busy. She thanked Rodney for taking care of her office building and clearing the snow and ice. She also thanked the county road crews. Jail Administrator Doug Ervine reported they are implementing changes at the jail and working well. Current jail population is 75. CDS Director Ken Hyndman stated his office is busy. He thanked Rodney for de-icing his facility. He reported there are several SEIL meetings tomorrow. He is working on his budget and the pending spend down of money in his budget. County Auditor Terri Johnson stated budget hearings will start January 15th and run through January 23rd. Her office is preparing for the June Primary and the political parties will hold their caucuses in February.

Correspondence: Chairman Cary read a letter into record from the City of Burlington. They will hold a public hearing on January 15th on the sale of city owned property at 424 North 3rd Street. Beck stated he talked to Mike Norris with SEIRPC and they will take care of any county land use issues until a new Land Use Administrator is appointed.

Payroll Claims Reimbursements in the amount of \$269.66 were approved upon motion made by Beck and seconded by Broeker.

Contractor's Performance Bond for Flint River Trail Contract ID 29-CO29-076 was presented by Conservation Director Chris Lee. He stated this is the next step in the contracting process. Broeker motioned to approve the bond. Beck seconded.

2018 Board Committee Assignments. Assignments will remain the same. Broeker motioned to approve. Beck seconded.

The Board received and filed a letter from the Des Moines County Pioneer Cemetery Commission. The Commission elected the following officers: Herb Price - Chair; Steve Stoller - Vice-Chair; Wendell Biggs - Secretary/Treasurer for 2018. The terms of Michael Allen, Paul French and Kenton Klenk were approved for three years, expiring in January 2021. Matt Schuler will serve out the remainder of an open member term until January 2020. Included with the letter is a membership list for 2018.

Personnel Actions: Conservation – Brayden Crew, Day Hire. New rate \$11.50 hr., effective 1/8/2018. Zach Hunter, Day Hire. New rate \$9.50 hr., effective 1/8/2018. Day hires is a program started last year, employees are approved each year. Broeker motioned to approve. Beck seconded. Correctional Center – Alexander Elliott, Kitchen Asst. Cook. 3-month step increase, new rate \$8.62 hr., effective 1/17/2018. Alexis Stephenson, Part-time Correctional Officer. 12-month step increase, new rate \$13.89 hr., effective 1/3/2018. Broeker motioned to approve. Beck seconded.

Reports received and filed in the Auditor's Office:

Recorder's Report of Fees Collected, December 2017

Veterans Affairs Reports, December 2017

Jail Stats, November 2017

Beck motioned to approve minutes for the Board meeting held on January 2nd, 2018. Seconded by Broeker.

Committee Reports. Broeker attended a Jefferson County Board meeting yesterday. They requested Broeker to attend the meeting to explain Southeast Iowa Link and how things worked.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:28 AM.

Following the meeting was a work session with the Board of Supervisors and County Attorney to discuss the Opioid Litigation. The ISAC Board is encouraging member counties to support nationwide litigation to hold certain pharmaceutical firms responsible for the Opioid crisis. The statewide and nationwide litigation effort is being led by the Crueger Dickinson and Simmons Hanly Conroy litigation team. They will take on this effort on behalf of counties on a contingent fee basis. The firms will cover all costs, there will be no out-of-pocket expenditure for Iowa counties to join the effort. The Board and County Attorney discussed if the County wants to join this class action lawsuit. The Attorneys will talk to the Health Department and Sheriff's Office for information on the effect of Opioid's in the county. If there is a settlement, we should benefit. ISAC provided a resolution template to the counties. This will be added to next week's agenda.

Another work session followed the meeting with the Board of Supervisors, County Assessor, County Attorney and Harmony Bible Church. Russ Reed, Chairman of the Elder Board, Tim Svoboda, Treasurer and Director of Ministry and Clay Baker, Burlington Campus Pastor represented Harmony Bible Church. The Church received their tax bill and assessment and were concerned about the cost. They are aware they missed the February 1st deadline for filing for tax exempt status by two weeks, therefore the exempt status will start for the 2018 values. The Church is requesting a \$44,000 leniency on taxes. Use of the building is not in question according to the County Assessor. The Church purchased the building in August 2016 and held a baptism and prayer service before the City notified them that they were violating the occupancy codes. The first Church service was held in April 2017. The portion of the building which DHS rents is still required to pay taxes. This will be added to next week's agenda.

This Board meeting is recorded and kept on file for two years. The minutes are posted on the county's website www.dmcounty.com

Approved January 16, 2018
Jim Cary, Chairman
Attest: Terri Johnson, Auditor