

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MITCHELL COUNTY, IOWA

Tuesday, April 23, 2024

The Board of Supervisors convened at 8:30 a.m. with all members present. Also, present were Aaron Murphy, Greg Beaver, Rich Brumm, Tom Rolfes, Al Winters, Ryan Stephen, AJ Stone, Cathy Penney, Stan Walk, Lindsey Falk, Shannon Paulus, and Amanda Baer. The meeting was made available by video via "Go to Meeting". Motion by Mayer, second by Hartogh to approve the agenda. All voted aye.

Motion by Wherry, second by Frein to approve the minutes of the April 16th meeting and claims. Roll call: all voted aye.

County Attorney Murphy sent an email this morning regarding the wind ordinance. Murphy will be looking into a few questions he has on the ordinance. Attorney Murphy has a jury criminal trial for Worth County next week that will be needing a lot of preparation this week.

County Sheriff Beaver provided a draft of the contract for jail services with Worth County. Beaver would like a contract signed as soon as possible so services can begin.

Auditor Foster received a comment from a citizen that would like a park added to Toeterville for kids to play on.

County Engineer Rich Brumm received quotes from John Deere and Mark's Tractor for a new mower tractor. Brumm will be moving forward with Mark's Tractor and hopefully receive it by December. Brumm had a surveyor stop in looking for a possible vacation of a right-of-way. Brumm will spend some time looking into this matter.

The chair opened the public hearing for FY25 County Budget at 9:00 a.m. Auditor Foster verified the budget was published in the proper newspapers and available the Auditor's Office. Wherry, Mayer, and Hendrickson received a few comments on the proposed budget. Auditor Foster shared concerns of the Urban Renewal projects not being legally done. Foster said the County needs to create debt to use TIF funds. Supervisor Mayer stated he found out this same information a while back and no one chose to listen to him. Hartogh, Frein, and Wherry asked Foster a number of questions regarding the TIF funding process being proposed, and a TIF funding process that would work for her office. Wherry told Foster that this is the process we have been working on, and that she has been on board with the process. Foster replied she originally felt they were telling us the right thing. Wherry asked Foster what we need to do to make this work for her office. Foster replied that in order to create debt, we need to do a G.O. Bond, get a Bank Loan, or do an Internal Loan. Foster also replied that the Urban Renewal Plan Amendment is not the problem, the process to fund the Urban Renewal Plan Amendment is in question and she does not support that process. Hartogh and Wherry clarified (again) with Foster that we can proceed with the Urban Renewal Plan Amendment (if approved) as long as the funding source is either done by a G.O. Bond, Bank Loan, or Internal Loan. Foster said that is correct, and the problem is funding cannot come out

of the budget line item as is listed. Stan Walk addressed the housing issue in Mitchell County. Al Winters asked if the County would be reimbursed for the work PlanScape Partners has completed, along with giving false information. Wherry replied that PlanScape did work by research and creating documents, including advice provided to the Board. Wherry also noted that PlanScape did not tell the Board how to do the funding process. PlanScape gave the Board options on how to fund what is being proposed. One of those options was what is currently being proposed. Other options were to take out a loan, or an internal loan. The Board picked the option being discussed today. Cathy Penney discussed the process needed if a change in the TIF funding process is approved. County Engineer Brumm mentioned that funding of his projects will only start when and after the project funding process has started. Wherry said that today we are discussing the Budget, next week will be when a majority of the Board either approves or does not approve the Urban Renewal Plan Amendment. The chair closed the public hearing at 9:21 a.m.

Motion by Mayer, second by Hendrickson to approve Resolution #1211-24 adopting the proposed budget for FY25 with removing \$4,027,396 from the TIF fund. Supervisor Frein questioned the licenses and permit revenue, which vary by year for Secondary Roads. Roll call vote: all voted aye.

AJ Stone discussed pump replacements in the 28E Agreement for the Carpenter Sewer. Stone would like to start replacing five pumps a year as the system starts to age. There are currently fifty-eight houses, with fifty-six pumps being used. Stone will work with Auditor Foster when funds are available to purchase pumps. Stone will get an agreement put together with the City of Carpenter for future services.

Supervisor Hendrickson has been working over a year on getting quotes for a solar project on the St. Ansgar Secondary Roads shop. Paul Kreidermacher was available on Go to Meeting to discuss having panels on the ground or on the roof. The Board of Supervisors would like to investigate their options next week and discuss them more at the next meeting.

Motion by Hartogh, second by Frein to approve liquor license for Sunny Brae Golf and County Club. Roll call vote: all voted aye.

Wherry reported on NIACOG, and North Iowa Juvenile Detention, Mayer reported on Master Matrix for Greg Fox, and Frein reported on Mitchell County Economic Development Commission, and FMC – Early Childhood. Cathy Penney asked if there has been talk on an ordinance for the carbon pipeline, which is currently on hold until the wind ordinance is complete. Supervisor Mayer suggested everyone does their own research on items like an Urban Renewal Amendment.

Hendrickson adjourned the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

Rachel Foster – Mitchell County Auditor

Mark Hendrickson – Chair Board of Supervisors