

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MITCHELL COUNTY, IOWA

Tuesday, November 19, 2024

The Board of Supervisors convened at 8:30 a.m. with all members present. Also, present were Penney Morse, Tom Rolfes, Ryan Stephen, Rich Brumm, Greg Beaver, Aaron Murphy, Mike Miner, Jenny Backer, Keith Horgen, Amanda Baer, Lucy Sanders, Joe Hogan, Ray Avila, Terry Johanns, and Nancy Theis. The meeting was made available by video via "Go to Meeting". Motion by Hartogh, second by Frein to approve the agenda. All voted aye.

Motion by Wherry, second by Hartogh to approve the minutes of the November 12th meeting and claims. Roll call vote: All voted aye.

County Attorney Murphy discussed having paperwork ready for a deed if the sale of property were to be passed later on the agenda.

County Sheriff Beaver explained back in 2021 his office found the state was not giving appropriate fees back to the County. Mitchell County was shortened \$75,000 over the last few years and does not expect to be reimbursed.

Mike Miner gave a Conservation update after last week's monthly meeting. Miner gave a damn repair update and is hoping to finish the repair by the first week of December. Miner stated there is an equipment sale and a donation display opportunity for Conservation. January's meeting will be moved to the 7th due to budget sessions. Miner explained there was a closed session on a possible land acquisition, but he cannot give any more details at this time.

County Engineer Rich Brumm walked through the process of an Echo Avenue bridge that was in FY24 had to be moved to FY25. Motion by Wherry, second by Frein to approve Secondary Roads CFYP Version .1. Roll call vote: all voted aye. Next week Brumm will bring a professional service agreement for approval of 2024 bridge ratings.

The chair opened a public hearing at 9:00 a.m. on the sale of property in New Haven to St. Peter's Cemetery Association for \$4,300. Wherry received positive comments. Hartogh has been working with the cemetery board. Mayer had questions on why this property was not put up for public bid. Hendrickson received positive comments, as well as the same question posed to Mayer. Frein only received positive feedback. Auditor Foster received no public comments. Lucy Sanders questioned why this wouldn't have been open to public bid. Sanders stated the property was in a good location and an opportunity for an investor to make money. Supervisor Wherry stated the best public interest is for the County to sell the property to the cemetery. Supervisor Frein added since 2019 citizens have been on board with the plan for the Cemetery to purchase the property. Attorney Murphy clarified that the Board of Supervisors does not have to take bids on the property and there are other considerations the board took besides making money. Keith Horgen added the best thing for the Board of Supervisors to do is allow the neighbors of the property the opportunity to take over the property that they have had to look at for years. Jenny Backer added the safety of the community with semi traffic and current parking. The chair closed the public hearing at 9:14 a.m.

Motion by Frein, second by Hartogh to approve Resolution # 1251-24 which approves the sale, approval of deed, execution of deed, and attendant matters for the sale. Roll call vote: all voted aye.

Wherry reported on NIACOG, Mayer reported on Conservation, Hendrickson reported on Heartland Insurance, and Frein reported on FMC Early Childhood. Hartogh had nothing to report.

Penney Morse asked for the Board of Supervisors to ask other counties for their feedback on bitcoin mining. Keith Horgen asked what regulations the state has put on these bitcoin locations. Amanda Baer commended Penney on her research and reminded the public this is a decision the Board of Adjustment makes, not the Board of Supervisors.

Hendrickson adjourned the meeting at 9:30 a.m.

Rachel Foster – Mitchell County Auditor

Mark Hendrickson – Chair Board of Supervisors