

**October 17, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Doug Sorensen. Present were Doug Sorensen, Rick Thompson, Heath Hansen, Lisa Frederiksen, Chassity Musfeldt, Ben Linde, Tyler Thygesen, Todd Johnson, Jared Hershberger, Holly McCoy-Nelson, Cliff Barker, Kelsey Vanderberg, Lindsey Wilson, Miranda Bills, Deb Campbell, Bruce Haag, Brandon Hardy, Peggy Smalley & Gary Olson. Motion- Thompson Second- Hansen to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion with APEX. Vote-all in favor. Sheriff Johnson brought two hiring resolutions for as-needed deputies. He said they are both currently employed full time with the City of Audubon but would like to have them be available for as-needed shifts with the County. Motion- Hansen Second- Thompson to approve the hiring resolutions #2023-61 and #2023-62 for Leonardo Nava & Sean Staples for as-needed Deputy Sheriffs effective October 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023 as follows. Vote-all in favor.

**RESOLUTION 2023-61**

Be it hereby resolved by the Audubon County Board of Supervisors, that Sean Staples be hired as an as-needed Deputy Sheriff for the Audubon County Sheriff's Office effective October 17, 2023. His wages will be \$25.00 per hour and this position will follow the Union Contract.

Dated at Audubon this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023, with the vote thereon being as follows:

Ayes: Sorensen, Thompson, Hansen

Nays: none

Audubon County Board of Supervisors:

/s/Doug Sorensen  
Chairperson

Attest: /s/Chassity Musfeldt  
Audubon County Auditor Clerk

**RESOLUTION 2023-62**

Be it hereby resolved by the Audubon County Board of Supervisors, that Leonardo Nava be hired as an as-needed Deputy Sheriff for the Audubon County Sheriff's Office effective October 17, 2023. His wages will be \$25.00 per hour and this position will follow the Union Contract.

Dated at Audubon this 17<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2023, with the vote thereon being as follows:

Ayes: Sorensen, Thompson, Hansen

Nays: none

Audubon County Board of Supervisors:

/s/Doug Sorensen  
Chairperson

Attest: /s/Chassity Musfeldt  
Audubon County Auditor Clerk

Motion- Thompson Second- Hansen to approve the meeting minutes from October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Hansen to accept/file the Clerk of Court fees collected from September 2023. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Hansen to accept/file Annual MMP Update for Moonlight-Sunburst Valley Farms LLC #64179. Vote-all in favor.

Department Heads met for discussion on Courthouse usage of a colored printer. IT Director Ben Linde said getting an additional, centrally located smaller color printer would be the best solution to fit everyone's needs. Deb Campbell inquired on what budget all the printers and toners should come out of. Linde said he would research and price out some options.

At 10:15 Lindsey Wilson & Kelsey Vanderberg with Family Crisis Centers gave an overview on the services they provide to Audubon County. They offer homicide and violent crime support, as well as a statewide crisis line

call center. It is free and confidential to utilize the services.

Jared Hershberger and Holly McCoy Nelson from APEX Clean Energy, along with Cliff Barker from JCG Land Services briefly talked with the Board about the potential wind turbine project in SW Audubon County. McCoy-Nelson said they have had a lot of positive response from the public. She said APEX does tremendous amounts of studies before any constructing takes place. They will be opening an office in Audubon eventually. They would like the County to keep the positive responses in mind while reviewing setbacks for the turbines. The current in-house setback through APEX is 1250 feet, while Audubon County has a 1000-foot setback. The County is still looking into a temporary moratorium on this.

At 10:30 Conservation met to discuss the plan for the tree removal along the bike trail. Conservation Board members Peggy Smalley and Gary Olson joined Bruce Haag and Brandon Hardy to discuss their solution. They believe the best plan is to go out this winter and start cutting down all the marked trees. Haag said his department should be able to do the work themselves. They showed a few visual examples of the tree width size and most of them are on the smaller side. They plan to use cables when dropping the trees so they can control where they land. They want to focus on the areas between the trail and highway first. Doing this during the winter will comply with the Indiana Bat Law and the trail usage is minimal during this period. Sorensen said he has had inquiries from the public wanting to come in to cut up the fallen trees for firewood use. Haag said they would probably need to figure out a liability form and permit for this. Haag gave an update on his current projects including the new playground equipment and cabins.

Engineer Mitch Rydl gave the Secondary Roads maintenance and construction updates. He said he had a recent resignation and would like to advertise the job opening soon. Motion- Thompson Second- Hansen to approve the advertisement of the Full-Time Secondary Roads worker position. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Hansen to approve the utility permit for Casey Mutual Telephone Company (Viola Township). Vote-all in favor.

Motion- Thompson Second- Thompson to approve claims as submitted by various departments as listed below in the amount of \$227,920.98. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Hansen Second- Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 11:38 am. Vote-all in favor.

/s/Doug Sorensen  
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

/s/Chassity Musfeldt  
Audubon County Auditor Clerk