

**November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present at the meeting were Heath Hansen, Doug Sorensen, Rick Thompson, Chassity Musfeldt, Jarrod Beckstrom-APEX, Gareth-APEX, Deb Campbell, Miranda Bills, Tyler Thygesen, John Hansen, Jim Richardson, Mitch Rydl, Kent Grabill, Todd Johnson, Ben Linde, Bruce Haag-phone, Lisa Frederiksen, Coby Gust, and Chris Swensen.

Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the agenda with the addition of discussion/approval of as-needed Assessor. Vote-all in favor. Discussion was held on having a past Assessor come in and help fill in the void until a replacement is hired. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve Janell Bluml as an as-need Assessor Assistant. Vote-all in favor. The Conference Board will meet at 1:00 pm today to approve this as well. Auditor Frederiksen provided the TIF Debt Certifications to Supervisors along with the backup to check the figures with. Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to approve/sign the TIF Debt Certification. Vote-all in favor. Public comment was opened at 9:17 am. Jarrod Beckstrom and Gareth represented APEX Clean Energy. They will be hosting an upcoming Feather Party at the VFW. Land owned by Audubon County in Brayton was discussed. There had previously been a lease to an individual, but that lease has expired. Supervisors will converse with the County Attorney on what steps to take next. There have been concerns that the previous lease holder is still utilizing this land. Recorder Bills suggested having the Engineer's Office survey the ground to see where the County owned part starts and stops. Chairman Hansen stated that next year he would like to go through all of the County owned ground and see if there are any other ways to utilize those areas in a productive manner.

At 9:30 am the monthly Department Head meeting was opened. Recorder Bills gave a Wellness Committee update and said that there were 6 Department Heads who did not complete/meet the exam deadlines. It was suggested that in the upcoming year there should be a reevaluation of the insurance premiums paid by employees since they are not meeting the exam deadlines, making it an increase on the County side. To keep the insurance rates down, Employees are urged to get these exams completed and submitted in a timely matter. Engineer Rydl had concerns on the deadlines set to have these exams done. Conservation Director Bruce Haag phoned in and said they will be hosting an Open House at the Littlefield Cabins this Saturday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, from 1-4 pm. At this time and moving forward, they will have three cabins available to rent. They are still waiting for the well driller to show up before they can rent out any more of the cabins. Haag said if anyone has any dishes/plates/glasses they would like to donate, they would be greatly appreciated for use in the new cabins. HVAC updates on the Courthouse were discussed. Chairman Hansen said he walked through the building yesterday and they currently have some painting in progress. Custodian Hansen said the Top Floor Vault painting is complete, and they are working on installing a few suspended ceilings today. There will be some flooring starting to be installed next week. The move in date for most of the Courthouse Offices is still looking to take place around February 2025. EMA Director Thygesen moved back into his office over the weekend, and Dispatch is looking to move back to their office on December 9<sup>th</sup>. Supervisors and Department Heads will need to do a thorough walk through of all offices as the project nears completion to create a final punch list of concerns that need addressed by the construction/engineering companies. Custodian Hansen met with a second company yesterday to get a quote to clean the Courthouse. More discussion will follow. Auditor Clerk Musfeldt reminded Department Heads that Flex/HSA forms are due to Auditor's Office by Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>.

At 10:00 am Audubon City and Audubon County Supervisors had a joint meeting to discuss the possibility of consolidating the City and County Law Enforcement. Jim Richardson spoke on behalf of the City and presented several informative handouts regarding the topic. Two weeks ago, Sheriff Johnson, Police Chief Gust, Andrew Grabill, and Jim Richardson met and were all in favor to move forward with this consolidation. Richardson suggested forming a committee to get this process started. The potential committee will include one Supervisor, Audubon City Mayor, two City Council members, and Sheriff Johnson. This committee will need to determine how many hours the City of Audubon would like to have covered by law enforcement per week, and what the hourly rate would cost to have this service. Richardson presented a copy of Harlan's 28E agreement to get an idea of what Audubon's would look like. Sheriff Johnson said he believes unifying the forces will be best for Audubon and is the right direction to go. Johnson said if this consolidation takes place, he believes that a minimum of two officers on duty will be necessary at all times to cover the entirety of the County. Johnson said that it is important that the

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Public can have input on this and would like to make sure they are able to voice opinions during a meeting/meetings. Johnson asked if Attorney Swensen would be interested in being on the committee or attending them. Swensen said he can attend the meetings. Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to appoint Supervisor Hansen and Sheriff Johnson to the Consolidation of Law Enforcement Committee. Vote-all in favor.

Engineer Rydl gave Secondary Roads construction and maintenance updates. Rydl said there is a current job opening for Weed Commissioner starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 due to the current Weed Commissioner Kent Grabill being elected as County Supervisor. Rydl would like Grabill to be involved in the process of hiring a replacement for his position. Rydl gave the clearance to allow Grabill to come to upcoming Board of Supervisor's meetings during preparation for the FY26 budget. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the Utility Permits for Casey Mutual Telephone Company for the following areas: 200<sup>th</sup> St (Lark Ave and Nighthawk Ave); 215<sup>th</sup> Street ( ¼ mile East of Lark Ave); 220<sup>th</sup> St (between Lark Ave & Nighthawk); 200<sup>th</sup> St (between City of Audubon 7<sup>th</sup> Ave to Kingbird Ave); Kingbird Ave between 200<sup>th</sup> St & 215<sup>th</sup> St & 215<sup>th</sup> St (between Lark Ave to Kingbird). Vote-all in favor. Fort Dodge trucking company has been busy hauling rock for Audubon County. Secondary Roads have been out laying rock and shaping up the gravel roads after the recent rainfalls.

The status of the Audubon County Economic Development's FY23/FY24 income/expense reports, the non-profit certification and FY25 and upcoming FY26 budget were discussed. These reports have been previously requested but have not been received. Supervisor Sorensen will reach out to ACED regarding these. Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to accept/file Auditor's Month End reports for October 2024. Vote-all in favor. Supervisor's Month End Reports were discussed and reviewed. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the meeting minutes of 11-6-24. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to approve claims as submitted by various departments in the amount of \$39,940.64 and published in a separate publication at the end of November 2024. Vote-all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.

/s/Heath Hansen

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Chairman, Board of Supervisors

/s/ Chassity Musfeldt

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Attest: Audubon County Auditor Clerk