

December 10th, 2024

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:02 am by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present at the meeting were Heath Hansen, Doug Sorensen, Rick Thompson, Chassity Musfeldt, Diana Munch, Mitch Rydl, TJ Jacobsen, Kent Grabill, Rob Welch, Todd Johnson, Deb Campbell, Miranda Bills, John Hansen, Meg Andersen, Stacey Harris-Molina, Craig Williams, Jason Schultz, Tyler Thygesen, Chris Swensen-Zoom, Dave Lake and Megan Nielsen.

Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the agenda. Roadside Manager/ Weed Commissioner Kent Grabill introduced the new hire for his position starting January 1st, 2025. TJ Jacobsen will be transitioning to this position from his current position at Secondary Roads as a Road Crew Equipment Operator. Jacobsen has been with Audubon County since 2013. Grabill presented the Annual Weed Commissioner Appointment certificate for Jacobsen. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to accept Jacobsen's Appointment certificate as Weed Commissioner and to approve Resolution 2024-53 to hire TJ Jacobsen as Roadside Manager and Weed Commissioner as follows.

Resolution 2024-53

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Audubon County Board of Supervisors, that effective January 1st, 2025, Theodore Jacobsen will be promoted to Roadside Manager/Weed Commissioner, hourly wage to be set at \$27.00 per hour, with benefits as per the contract between Audubon County and Public, Professional and Maintenance Employees, Local Union #2003, excluding longevity. In addition, after obtaining a certified pesticide license, hourly wage will increase to \$27.50 per hour.

Passed and approved this 10th day of December 2024.

Board of Supervisors

Audubon County, Iowa

/s/Heath Hansen

Chairperson

ATTEST: By: /s/Chassity Musfeldt

Auditor, Clerk

Engineer Rydl discussed the Safety Action Plan for Audubon County and said he had applied for a grant and had been accepted. The first meeting regarding this will be in March 2025. Rydl asked Supervisors to review the documents he provided regarding the plan for the grant. Public Comment was opened at 9:18 am. No comments were given. Rydl provided copies of the recent Board of Adjustments meeting held on 12-3-24. The two items discussed at the meeting included the request for a variance on landowner's lot area for a private family burial plot and the special exception use request from Natural Fertilizer Products Inc (Abe Sandquist) to build a compost facility at 1341 Heron Ave. The Board of Adjustments approved both items. Rydl explained to Supervisors that they can not change the decision of the Board of Adjustments, but they can send them back to the BOA to be reviewed again if they did not agree with the decisions made. Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to approve the decisions of the Board of Adjustments. Rydl had concerns on the amount of semi-truck traffic on the roads leading to the potential compost facility site and had voiced them at the BOA meeting. Sandquist stated that he could provide free trucking with his trucks of road materials, such as rock/gravel, to offset some of the County's cost.

The monthly Department Head meeting was held at 9:30 am. Sheriff Johnson said they were busy getting the dispatcher's moved back to their office. They still have no heat on that floor but are continuing to work through it by dressing warm and using portable heaters. Custodian John Hansen gave HVAC project updates. They will hopefully be starting up the boiler tomorrow, so they should have heat soon. The leak in the new HVAC system has still not been located. Sheriff Johnson and Custodian Hansen explained that the County's IT Director had said he would be getting the wiring ready ahead of the moving date for Dispatchers, but he did not get it done in a timely matter, so they had to hire out some of the wiring work. Hansen said he spoke to Twin Construction, and they should be able to get the Courthouse windows installed by the end of January 2025. Sheriff Johnson said his staff and Custodian Hansen have been very busy cleaning and getting everything prepared for the Dispatch move. Recorder Bills inquired about a Potluck for County employees. She said they could host it at the Armory on

December 20th and will send out an email regarding details.

At 10:00 am a joint meeting was held with State Senate District Representative Jason Schultz and State House District 11 Representative Craig Williams. Both Representatives spoke on topics they felt would be the most concerning in the upcoming year. Schultz said the number one upcoming topic involves energy. He wants to look out for the district regarding the energy policy before it becomes concerning. Williams said some of the most concerning issues for him are the property taxes, property insurance, and local nursing home closures. Audubon County expressed their major concerns on the Motorola Communications tower. Schultz said that the injustice was noted but there were too many built-ins already. He is hoping to push for some sort of reimbursement to counties like Audubon, such as bonding expenses. Supervisor Sorensen said it is very important that our "local" issues are taken to the State level by our Representatives. Sorensen expressed his concerns on the rural counties versus the larger ones on the tax rates received for hog buildings and such. It is hard for smaller counties to receive enough revenue to maintain roads to keep the animal units running. Engineer Rydl said one problem for Audubon County is that we do not have a local rock quarry, so the costs to haul/purchase rock from other counties is a tremendous expense in the County budget. Meg Andersen, Exira City Clerk, expressed major concerns on the HF718 and how it is catastrophic to the smaller cities. Another concern she expressed was the rumor of the Local Option Sales taxes going back to the State. Regulations on rural water and the issues it is creating for local cities was discussed. Chairman Hansen was concerned that the longer the smaller cities/counties are being picked apart because of the lost population, the faster it is creating ghost towns. Property taxes and eminent domain are some of the most concerning topics. Schultz & Williams will meet again at the January 7th 2025 Board of Supervisors meeting.

At 11:30 am Dave Lake and Megan Nielsen from Community Insurance met to discuss a bond and the ICAP FY26 insurance rates. Liability is set to increase by 5-6% on all liability lines. Auto had no changes to the Auto Physical Damage line unless loss experience is not good. Property was flat on rate, but inflation guards could allow for a 3-5% increase in property values and increase to the contribution. ICAP has retained a vendor that is going to re-evaluate county buildings over one million dollars, but they will not be able to get here until 2026. Audubon County currently has \$250,000 of coverage for cyber/ransomware attacks, but there will be an option to up the coverage to one million if the county is interested.

Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to approve Darrell's Place liquor license renewal effective 1-2-25. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve Resolution 2024-52 for Auditor Clerk Chassity Musfeldt to move to full-time as follows. Vote-all in favor.

Resolution 2024-52

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, by the Audubon County Board of Supervisors that effective December 9, 2024, Chassity Musfeldt be moved from part-time to full-time Auditor Clerk. Benefits will continue to follow the Audubon County Handbook accordingly.

Dated at Audubon County, Iowa this 10th day of December 2024.

/s/Heath Hansen

Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

Audubon County, Iowa

ATTEST

By: /s/Lisa Frederiksen

Audubon County Auditor

Supervisor reports for November 2024 month end were reviewed. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to accept/file the Recorder's Report of Fees collected for November 2024. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to accept/file the Auditor's month end reports for November 2024. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to set the additional reading/approval dates for the EMS Essential Services for Audubon County for 12-17-24 and 12-23-24. Vote-all in favor. Statuses of the 28E agreements and the recodification of ordinances were discussed. Chairman Hansen will be setting dates in 2025 to work on updating the 28E agreements and polices. He will be talking to Simmering Corey on the recodification status. Attorney Swensen spoke via Zoom and said his office had checked into some of the 28E agreements that are located on the Secretary of State's website. They noticed some of the 28Es weren't valid and reached out to the SOS to have them

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cleared up. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the meeting minutes of 12-3-24. Vote-all in favor.
Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to approve claims submitted by various departments to be paid in the amount of \$262,782.36 and published in a separate publication at the end of December 2024. Vote-all in favor.
Meeting adjourned at 12:23 pm.

/s/ Heath Hansen

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

/s/Chassity Musfeldt

Attest: Audubon County Auditor Clerk