

**December 17<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, Lisa Frederiksen, Chassity Musfeldt, Miranda Bills, Don Mosinski, Kendra Bladt, Frank Olsen, Kyle Hinners, Ben Linde, Corey Eberling, Linda Bills, Meg Andersen-Zoom, Nathan Wahlert- Zoom, and Chris Swensen.

Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the agenda. Frank Olsen, Kendra Bladt, and Kyle Hinners (Veteran's Affairs Commissioners) met with Supervisors to discuss the Veteran's Affairs Department. The resignation letter of the current VA Director Stacey Harris-Molina was presented. Concerns were discussed involving the high turnover rate of this position within the last few years. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to accept/file the resignation letter of VA Director Stacey Harris-Molina effective 12-31-24. Vote-all in favor. Commissioners discussed the next steps to take for this position, and what needs to be done in the meantime. The phone line for Audubon County Veteran's Affairs is ringing to the desk in the office and going to a voicemail. Bladt asked if she could return all the voicemail calls to give updates. IT Director Linde said he can help get the voicemail password reset so the VA Commissioners can access it. The next step is to advertise the position. Mosinski stated that the Commissioners need to start reaching out now to start working on the Audubon County claims. Hinners inquired about who they should contact. Mosinski said he will get them a person of contact from Camp Dodge. The office space for the VA was discussed. Commissioners said they had agreed to have office space in the Exira location while the Courthouse HVAC project was taking place, but never planned to move the office permanently. Supervisors said they are aiming to have offices in by the end of January 2025, so the VA Commissioners are going to hold off on temporarily using the Exira space.

IT Director Ben Linde presented quotes to the Supervisors for a cyber security training/phishing test software. Linde would like the County employees to have regular training on these topics in the future, and this software would provide adequate training for everyone. Public comment was opened at 9:19 am. Secondary Roads Office Manager Linda Bills presented the 2025 Fuel Bid notice. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the 2025 Fuel Bid notice to bidders for Publication. Vote-all in favor. Corey Eberling with APEX spoke during public comment and said they are looking into offering sponsorship grants to area schools.

Exira City Clerk Meg Andersen spoke via Zoom regarding the IRA Tree Planting Grant. Andersen is working with area cities to get trees planted throughout the County. Supervisors will draft her a letter of support to include with the grant application. Andersen suggested having a Community Day event to have volunteers of the County get together and plant trees to relieve the Conservation Department of the workload it would create. The grant would also help cover watering supplies.

Nathan Wahlert spoke via Zoom regarding different boards that the Supervisors have a place on to represent Audubon County. He wondered if some of those positions are strictly reserved for a Supervisor to fill, or if another community member could represent the County to help take some workload off the Supervisors, especially if it was a board they were very passionate about. Chairman Hansen explained that the spots are generally filled with Supervisors, and the newly elected Supervisors usually step in to fill the void of the ones that leave. Wahlert said he would love to help if he can.

The second reading of the Resolution 2024-51 to Declare EMS to be an Essential Service in Audubon County took place. Chairman Hansen read the document out loud. Role Call Vote: Hansen: Aye, Thompson: Aye; Sorensen: Aye.

Supervisors received the initial collective bargaining proposal from PPME and provided the County's initial collective bargaining proposals to PPME- Iowa Code 20.17(3). Discussion was held on running payroll bimonthly or every two weeks. Questions were asked about employee deductions with the more frequent payroll, the cutoff dates, and the difference between bimonthly and twice a month. Hansen reached out to HR Attorney Galloway to get in touch with the Auditor's office to help answer some other questions regarding this topic. Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to accept/file the Clerk of Court's Report of fees collected for November 2024. Vote-all in favor. Discussion was held on coding items to HVAC. If the item being coded to HVAC is an expense that would be paid regardless of the HVAC project, it needs to have a Journal Entry to remove from HVAC. Claims and minutes

were reviewed. Auditor Frederiksen noted that Supervisors can review these prior to the meetings to be prepared in advance. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve claims as submitted by various departments to be paid in the amount of \$36,764.83 and published in a separate publication at the end of December. Vote-all in favor. Motion Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the meeting minutes of 12-10-24. Vote-all in favor.

Attorney Swensen joined the meeting to give updates from his department. Discussion was held on the upcoming move in dates to the Courthouse. Swensen will need to know the actual date in order to schedule out Court cases and send appropriate notices. Swensen said the Attorney's Office Legal Assistant is at the end of her probationary period. He will have a Resolution on next week's agenda for a pay increase. It was noted by Chairman Hansen that in the upcoming year, Supervisors will be reviewing the County owned land, policies, ordinances, and 28E agreements.

/s/ Heath Hansen

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Chairman, Board of Supervisors

/s/ Chassity Musfeldt

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Attest: Audubon County Auditor Clerk