

**September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024**

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present were Heath Hansen, Rick Thompson, Doug Sorensen, Lisa Frederiksen, Chassity Musfeldt, Rob Welch, Brenda Muzney, Mitch Rydl, Shelly Sindt- phone, Miranda Bills, Ben Linde, David Frank- zoom, Alicia Bluml, Mike Hugerich, Tyler Thygesen, and Meg Andersen.

Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the agenda. Vote-all in favor. Shelly Sindt with Elderbridge was called to discuss finding a new representative for Audubon County to be on the advisory board. Sindt said the advisory board meets four times a year (February, May, August and October), and would like to have someone appointed by the October meeting. Supervisors will get back to Sindt after finding a new representative for the Elderbridge board.

Public comment was opened at 9:15 am. Rob Welch with APEX was present and said the APEX Wind Turbine landowner dinner will be held next Tuesday evening at the Exira Event Center. The Veteran's Affairs office space was discussed. Supervisors will be reaching out to Beth Watson and Stacey Harriss-Molina with more questions regarding the need to move the VA offices to newly renovated and shared space with Guthrie Public Health in an Exira office. Questions and concerns included the need for relocating the office, the cost, and the reasoning why the office space in the Courthouse location isn't adequate. Supervisors gave updates for the meeting they attended in the month of August. Hansen had no August updates. Thompson said Wesco is currently having some issues with competition in the industry, Landfill had no new updates, Board of Health updates were recapped last week with Jotham Arber, and Heart of IA is currently still in the process of grouping counties into territories. Sorensen attended ACED meeting and said the new housing development had some delays. Nishnabotna Watershed and Hungry Canyons meeting will be held this month. Discussion was held on having weekly or every other week meetings with Graphite Construction via Zoom on Tuesday's regarding the Courthouse HVAC project. Quotes were presented from Prenger's Flooring for the Treasurer and Recorder's office and vaults. Discussion included the need for the flooring and price. Overall decision was that if this project were to be done in the future, it would cause more closures for the offices and increased prices of materials/labor, so it makes sense to do it now while the Courthouse is vacated. Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to approve the quote for the flooring/vault in the Recorder's and Treasurer's offices. Vote-all in favor.

David Frank with ArcaSearch joined the meeting via Zoom to show a presentation of the digital archiving services offered. This would protect, preserve, and give the public easier access to transfer/record books, documents, old minute books, maps and anything else that Audubon County would like to have archived. Customers would have the ability to go in and word search making it fast and easy to locate information. Quotes were presented for the services. No decision was made at today's meeting.

At 10:00 am the Joint Municipalities meeting for the Cities of Audubon County was held. Audubon, Brayton, and Kimballton were not present. The City of Gray was represented by Mayor Alicia Bluml. The City of Exira was represented by the Mayor Mike Hugerich and City Clerk Meg Andersen. This joint meeting provides the opportunity for Cities to express their concerns, questions, and give updates of recent happenings. The City of Exira inquired about the status of the Wind Turbine project. Andersen said she has been busy writing several grants for the City including a no match grant for \$10,000 to add new trees to the Bike Trail area by Exira. Exira's National Night Out had an excellent turnout with residents from across the County. The 28E agreement for fire/emergency services was also discussed. Tyler Thygesen said he has talked to all of the city fire chiefs, and they are currently waiting on the County Attorney to review the agreement. Some townships had questions regarding the amount they pay towards these services. Some townships choose to allocate only a certain amount towards this service, while others allot the full amount. Other topics Exira discussed included the upcoming projects on E Washington Street, a water main project, and Edgerton Street bridge. Supervisors discussed the Library Allocations to the Cities and explained that at this time they will not be changing the amounts that were budgeted for the FY25 allocations, but these amounts will most likely be revised in the next fiscal year. Attorney Swensen is still looking into the allocation amount that was sent towards the Kimballton library earlier in the year after the closure of the library. Recent discussion with Gail Richardson regarding cities that do not have a library was brought up. If

the incorporated city does not have a library, they are required to pay towards a city with a library, so residents have access. This can be done through a 28E agreement. The City of Gray currently has no agreements with any library, so this will need to be addressed. Auditor Clerk Musfeldt said she would forward the information to Bluml from the State of Iowa Library. Gray City Mayor Bluml inquired about a company that would be willing to do some patchwork within Gray, as they have not had luck finding one to come in. Meg Andersen said she would send the information over to Bluml for who the City of Exira contracts with. Bluml inquired about the bridge in Gray that is in poor condition. It is currently chained shut and closed but people are bypassing it, moving the chains, and still utilizing it which is concerning as it is an accident waiting to happen. Engineer Rydl said that since it is located within the City of Gray, Gray would be the one responsible for the removal of the bridge. Bluml said that Gray cannot financially afford to fund the removal and asked about options for the removal. If the bridge is not the only means to access the land across from it, it needs to be removed. Bluml said there are other access point to the land, not involving the bridge, so that is not a problem. The landowner needs to be contacted if the bridge is coming out, but Bluml said they have had no luck in receiving a response from them. Supervisors suggested that Bluml speak with Attorney Swensen on how to proceed. If the County were to step in and help with the removal, they would need to have approval with written permission passed through the City of Gray. More discussion will follow on this topic in upcoming meetings.

Engineer Rydl gave Secondary Roads and Maintenance updates. The City of Brayton was not present for the municipality meeting, but Rydl was hoping to speak with them regarding the Brayton Road project. The project is currently at a standstill until they get a few answers back to Rydl. Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to approve the utility permit for Casey Mutual Telephone for Viola Section 34, Melville Sections 3,5,6,8,9,10,15,16, & 17 and Leroy Sections 1 & 2. Vote-all in favor. The 100<sup>th</sup> Street project just has painting and resealing left and is currently \$4000 less on the contract price. Audubon 24 will be done in a couple of weeks. There were questions on the Secondary Roads month end expense reports. It was noticed that there were amounts left in the payroll clearing that had been missed from February and the Auditor's Office inquired if they were looking at the month end reports or if they needed to start sending them out to the SR roads department, as they have been told in the past that SR will run their own month end.

Motion- Sorensen Second- Thompson to approve claims as submitted by various departments to be paid in the amount of \$291,878.41 and published in a sperate publication at the end of September. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Hansen Second- Sorensen to approve the meeting minutes from 8-26-24. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Thompson Second- Sorensen to approve the meeting minutes from 8-27-24. Vote-all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 11:32 am.

/s/Heath Hansen

Attest: /s/Chassity Musfeldt

Chairman, Board of Supervisor

Audubon County Auditor Clerk