

January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2025

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:00 am by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present at the meeting were Heath Hansen, Kent Grabill, Don Mosinski, Lisa Frederiksen, Diana Munch, Chassity Musfeldt, Chad Jensen, Cathi Menter, Rob Welch, Corey Eberling, Lou Herbers, Linda Bills, Mitch Rydl, Frank Olsen, Kyle Hinners, Tyler Thygesen, Ashley Madsen, Wendi Barnett, Todd Johnson, Ben Linde, Deb Campbell, Miranda Bills, John Hansen, Chris Swensen, Kendra Bladt, and Michelle Kilmer.

Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to approve the agenda. Vote-all in favor. New Opportunities was represented by Chad Jensen & Cathi Menter to discuss the FY26 allocation from Audubon County and give updates. Jensen & Menter went over the services that New Opportunities provides for Audubon. Brochures and informative information were passed out and reviewed. Jensen requested the same amount as last year for an FY26 allocation. The general relief policy for assistance for those in need was discussed.

At 9:15 am public comment was opened. Corey Eberling with APEX said they recently awarded a Community Grant of \$5,000 to the Good Neighbor Center.

Lou Herbers met with the Supervisors to discuss the Airport Authority Board and FY26 budget. Herber's number one issue is finding enough members to serve on that board. He would like to get the board to move from a 7 member to a 3 member in order to have a quorum. He has discussed this in the past but has not had any response in how to achieve this. Right now, only three members are active on the board, which doesn't provide a quorum for any decisions. Supervisors will discuss this with the County Attorney. Herbers said they currently have no debt but the terminal building will be needing some work on the floors and drywall soon. The weather station for the airport is going to need to be replaced soon. It is outdated and the parts to keep fixing it are becoming impossible to find. Supervisor Mosinski asked if they would be willing to consider bring back the Flight Breakfast. Herbers said the Chamber of Commerce was the one to host that in the past, but he could speak for the Airport Authority and they would not be opposed to a group putting one on in the future. Herbers is requesting the same allocation for FY26 as last year.

Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to accept/file the Clerk of Court report of fees collected for December 2024. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to sign/approve the end of contract with B & L Storage as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 for the rental of the storage unit on site at the Courthouse. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to sign/approve the DOT Closing Statement for project #NHSN-071-4(56)-2R-05 Parcel No.1. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve Melissa Thygesen's appointment for Civil Process Server. Vote-all in favor. No appointment was made for a third member to represent Audubon County on the Executive Board of Region XII. Audubon County will be reaching out to a few people to see if they are interested. Motion- Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve the MMP Annual Updates/Changes for the following: Handlos Steffes East-6A #61952; Handlos- Home East #59727; Ed Wiederstein Farm #58869; Handlos- King #61964 and Kent Grabill #59727. Grabill abstained from voting.

At 10:00 am Department Heads met with Supervisors for the regular monthly meeting. Chairman Hansen told everyone that ETI would be on site at the Courthouse today to go over final punch list items and encouraged all Department Heads to go over and thoroughly look at the offices to see what needed addressed with ETI. Sheriff Johnson said the heat was still running on the back. Custodian John Hansen said that Iowa Prison Industries will only be available to help move Monday and Tuesday the last week of January but are still planning on being in Audubon January 21 for the week. Sheriff Johnson stressed that if customers are needing assistance with offices that have already moved into the Courthouse before the official re-opening day, they need to have the office employee escort them since it is still a construction zone. Chairman Hansen discussed the need to contact the newspaper to let the public know that the re-opening day will be January 31<sup>st</sup> for the Courthouse and to call ahead if they need assistance in the offices that have moved back prior to that day. Employee insurance rates were discussed with Department Heads. The majority agreed that insurance is a huge benefit to County employees and one of the factors that brings good employees to work for the County. There were concerns that if the employee contribution amounts for insurance are raised that workers would leave, and it would be harder to find good employees. Chairman Hansen went over his 2025 proposed goals for Audubon County. Baseline Government,

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Building Systems, and Basic Expectations outlined those goals. Hansen explained each one and stressed the importance of them.

Mark Nissen met with Supervisors to represent the Audubon County Compensation Board and give updates from last week's meeting. Nissen explained the process and the formula they use to calculate the recommendation they give to Supervisors regarding the County fiscal year wage increases. They use a formula that compares surrounding counties and comparable sized counties to calculate an average for Audubon County. It was recommended to have a max of 2.5% increase for FY26 by the Compensation Board.

Linda Bills explained how the time entry ESS process works for Secondary Roads. Hansen discussed this and the twice a month payroll for Audubon County.

Kendra Bladt, Kyle Hinnners, and Frank Olsen (Veteran's Affairs Commissioners) met with Supervisors to discuss the VA Director position that is currently open. They said most counties have their director working at least 30 hours a week, and Audubon is only a 20-hour position. They stressed the importance of increasing the hours of the VA Director in order to provide the additional outreach and still maintain the office hours to adequately serve Veterans. No decisions were made at this meeting. They will look over the VA FY26 budget, as the Director would normally be the one to do that. Discussion was held on how to help Veterans during the in between period of not having a VA Director. Surrounding counties are able to help with most questions/needs, but if a Veteran is needing financial assistance, Audubon County would be the one's to approve that. IT Director Linde will get the information to the VA Commissioners so they will be able to access the VA email and get responses to those in need.

Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to approve Resolution 2025-4 for Deputy Treasurer Amanda Kommes FY25 salary as follows. Vote-all in favor.

**Resolution 2025-4**

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Audubon County Board of Supervisors, that Deputy Amanda Kommes, full time employee of the Treasurer's Office, salary be increased to 78% of the Treasurer's annual salary retroactively effective July 1, 2024.

This increase will bring her annual salary to \$54,770.97

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

/s/Heath Hansen

Audubon County Board of Supervisors

Attest: Chassity Musfeldt

Audubon County Auditor Clerk

Motion- Grabill Second-Mosinski to approve Resolution 2025-5 for MV Deputy Treasurer Courtney Nelson's FY25 salary as follows. Vote-all in favor.

**Resolution 2025-5**

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, by the Audubon County Board of Supervisors, that MV Deputy Courtney Nelson, full time employee of the Treasurer's Office, salary be increased to 77% of the Treasurer's annual salary retroactively effective to July 1, 2024.

This increase will bring her annual salary to \$54,068.78.

Dated this 14<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2025.

/s/Heath Hansen

Audubon County Board of Supervisors

Attest: Chassity Musfeldt

Audubon County Auditor Clerk

Discussion was held with County Attorney Chris Swensen on the actions needed to move the Airport Authority Board to a three member from the current required seven-member board. Swensen recommend that they will need to use a private attorney for this matter, as Swensen represents Audubon County, and since Audubon County allocates to the Airport Authority Board it may be a conflict. Swensen also discussed the decommissioning of the Soil and Water structure that was on last week's agenda. He will be reaching out to the Soil and Water Commission for more information.

Engineer Rydl brought to the Supervisor's attention that the appointments of Alka Swanson to the Board

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of Adjustments and Chris Hemmingson to the Planning & Zoning Committee will not work because both are residents within City limits, and by law to be on those boards, they must be rural residents. Supervisors will have to discuss and readvertise these positions.

Linda Bills, with Audubon County Wellness Committee, met with the Supervisors to discuss the Wellness agreement. Discussion was also held on ways to get employees to complete their annual physicals and online assessments in order to keep the Counties rates lower. If employees are not getting these done, the County is docked points, which results in paying more. Currently the family insurance contribution rate is 5% and the single plan is 0%. The idea of either giving employees an extra personal day or increasing insurance rates but having them fall back down to the 5% family and 0% was proposed if employees complete both physical and online exams was proposed. Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to approve the Wellness Agreement for 2025 and to be included in that agreement, the increase of employee insurance contribution rates of 1%, resulting in family insurance rates being 6% and single rates being 1%, but being discounted back to the 5% for family and 0% for single if both physical and online assessments are completed by July 1<sup>st</sup>. This would go into effect for next year's rates. Vote-all in favor. Sheriff Johnson inquired about how this would work with the Sheriff's Union employees. Supervisors will have to check in to that. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve a rotation schedule of offices to take turn heading the Wellness Committee for Audubon County. The Wellness Committee will get the rotation schedule drafted. Vote-all in favor.

Engineer Rydl gave Secondary Roads' construction and maintenance updates. They have been busy cutting down dead ash trees. The new plow truck has arrived. Rydl would like to schedule a joint meeting with the Brayton City Mayor, a Councilperson, and one Supervisors regarding the Brayton Road project.

Chairman Hansen was in contact with John Danos regarding the GO Loan. Danos will be available to discuss this over the phone at next week's meeting. The cash count process with the County was explained to Grabill and Mosinski. Hansen will be in contact with Simmering-Corey regarding the status on the recodification on the ordinances. Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to approve claims as submitted by various departments to be paid in the amount of \$158,034.20 and published in a separate publication at the end of January. Vote-all in favor. Meeting was recessed at 1:00 pm to go into the Conference Board meeting. Meeting reconvened at 1:32 pm. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve the meeting minutes of 1-7-25 and 1-9-25. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to accept/file the Supervisor's December Month End. Vote-all in favor. Motion-Grabill Second-Mosinski to accept/file the Auditor's December Month End. Vote-all in favor. Meeting was recessed at 2:00 pm. Meeting reconvened at 2:30 pm for a budget work session. Auditor Frederiksen answered questions regarding the Supervisor's FY26 budget. Meeting adjourned at 4:34 pm.

/s/ Heath Hansen

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Chairman, Board of Supervisors

/s/Chassity Musfeldt

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Attest: Audubon County Auditor Clerk