

Approved Minutes Emmet County Board of Supervisor Minutes

October 3, 2017

Regular Meeting

Board Room, Courthouse

Present: Bev Juhl, Chair
John Pluth, Vice-Chair
Jeff Quastad
Roger Hash
Tim Schumacher

Absent:

Juhl, Chair, called the meeting to order. Motion was made by Pluth, seconded by Quastad, to approve the minutes from last week's meeting, also approving them for publication. All ayes, motion carried.

During public forum, Juhl noted that Vickie Jurens has informed the Board that the Treasurer's office will be closed on Wednesday, October 11, 2017 at 3:00 and be closed all day on Thursday, October 12, 2017 to attend DOT's 3rd Annual Conference in Des Moines. DOT takes care of all meals and motel costs.

Juhl discussed with the Board Mental Health issues. She believes there will be big decisions to make about what region we will belong to, or we may not have a choice. Currently 22 counties are in the region, with talk that five or six counties may be leaving. The Mental Health Group thinks CSS is too big. The Group believes the money the Counties are putting in; they are not spending that money on their clients. Juhl stated that money spent on a client and or clients could change year to year.

Walter Davis-Oeth, Emmet County Engineer presented a utility/construction permit to the Board for Iowa Lakes Electric for boring underneath the road (A-33) in Center Township. It was moved by Schumacher, seconded by Hash, at the recommendation of the Engineer, to approve the utility permit. All ayes, motion carried.

Davis-Oeth also asked the Board for approval of a seasonal hire, starting on October 9, 2017, at the rate of \$19.42 per hour. He asked for approval to hire seasonal employee, Garrett Henriksen. It was moved by Pluth, seconded by Quastad to approve the hiring of Garrett Henriksen. All ayes, motion carried.

Davis-Oeth, also stated that at a recent Speak Easy meeting held with Secondary Roads, he asked his people how they can become more productive at their jobs. He relayed a couple of ideas that the men had. The first being, extending the 4-10 hour days that they work during the summer from two weeks before Memorial Day to two weeks after Labor Day. Pluth stated he believes you are more productive with 10-hour shifts.

The second idea Davis-Oeth stated is more of a benefit. Employees of secondary roads suggested the idea of carrying over their comp time, maximum of 80 hours, for one year, carrying over to the next year. Davis-Oeth stated it is a downside to having to use comp time in May or June of each year, this lessens his working staff. Pluth asked about the previous idea from a prior meeting of extending their deadline to use comp time to November 15 of each year. Davis-Oeth stated his employees stated that other counties do the carry over with comp time to the next year. Davis-Oeth and Pluth both agreed that this allows Secondary Roads a more workable factor during the summer. Schumacher stated that then we do not have peak efficiency in the summer? Davis-Oeth stated that the mandatory time of being here has always been in the winter.

Davis-Oeth stated that we have to be careful here, the Union Contract has been negotiated and is in effect for another 1 3/4 years. His suggestion to the Board would be to have the Union representative come in and talk with you. He stated you have to all mutually agree before you can open up a contract. Juhl asked Davis-Oeth if these two above things are negotiable. He stated with the new law that no they are not. Only salaries are now negotiable. Schumacher stated that he feels the Board needs to have some conversations on this. He also stated that he feels the County offers some good jobs. It was stated that the two benefits or ideas mentioned would be for next fiscal year. Juhl stated that we need to listen and consider these requests. Davis-Oeth ended with it would be a nice benefit to have the June and the July periods back.

The Board held a weed spraying meeting, with the the Engineer, Dan Burton, Assistant to the Engineer, Roxanne Christensen, Emmet County Weed Commissioner joined by telephone, and Alan Madden from the public. Davis-Oeth stated that he had called most of the northwest counties to get their process of weed control in their own county. Some counties do not do much weed control, some do more of a spot spraying technique, some do intense treatment on part of their county and spot spray the rest, do a rotation each year to their other land with the intense spraying, some employ an Integrated Roadside and Vegetation Manager (IRVM). Davis-Oeth and Board members agreed that if the County would take over that the costs would be much higher than we have now, due to buying of equipment and hiring additional people.

Christensen stated that there are quite a few IRVMs in the State. Christensen stated that she too, was not satisfied with the weed control for Emmet County this year, especially noting the weeds on N-52. Pluth stated that this was a disturbed ditch this year and he believes from now on, when ditches are disturbed that they should be sprayed with milestone chemical the full length of the ditch or on the shoulders of the road or maybe both from this point forward.

The question of landowners spraying the ditches was discussed and Quastad stated that you cannot mandate landowners to spray their ditches. Some Board members have been dissatisfied with our current weed spraying program. The Board thought that our contracted sprayer for the County, B & W Control Specialists, Don Reffer, did not perform his job to capacity this year.

Davis-Oeth stated that his personal belief is that he does not see the cost benefit of switching from the contractor to the County. Christensen stated that there are outfits in Des Moines that spray. There were various weed complaints this year, although none of these complaints were on right-of-ways. There were two spray complaints that affected crops. Davis-Oeth is also concerned if the County were to take this on, that there would be too many liabilities involved. The Board and Christensen agreed that they need to get the sprayers that drive the trucks to slow down and concentrate on what they are doing. Schumacher stated that we need to have our expectations written down of what we expect to see and have this agreed upon beforehand. He stated that the level of importance differs to individuals. We have a whole lot of parameters here.

Christensen stated that she would make a list of all expectations that she feels we need and present to the Board by next spring. The Board can then review that list. Schumacher stated that then we, as a Board, can agree with what we are expecting. Christensen stated that weed control is a top priority to her. She stated that weeds spread and are very invasive. Pluth stated that he believes this is a no win situation here and that he is concerned if the county takes this weed spraying job over, the liability issues it may involve. Alan Madden stated that we need to communicate and sit down with our objectives that we want from Don and his Company.

Pluth stated that Davis-Oeth had done his research and Juhl feels we need to make a decision. Schumacher stated that he would appreciate Christensen putting some expectations together for next spring and she stated that she would.

A motion was made by Quastad to hire our own sprayer for the County. The motion died for lack of a second. The Board will proceed with plans to have Christensen get some ideas written down and get a hold of some other contractors.

Amy Sathoff, Emmet County Auditor, brought before the Board a FY18 request from NW Regional Housing Trust for \$112 over the original amount budgeted. It was moved by Schumacher, seconded by Hash, to have Chair sign the letter of funding request for \$5,112 for FY18, which includes the additional \$112. All ayes, motion carried.

Continued discussion was held with the Board, concerning Mental Health and CSS. Some counties are leaving the Region, and Emmet County could become an island in the Region. Juhl was asking other Board members if they want to stay with CSS. The consensus of the Board is that they would like to stay in this Region. Juhl stated that there have been many changes within CSS. She stated that there is nothing in the laws that says you can start or form a new Region, but you can leave the Region. Juhl stated that they would have to review the rules and laws to see if a County can be an island or does it have to be contiguous to another county in the Region. Juhl will attend another meeting on October 19.

The Board reviewed the Nutrient Management Plan for Scott and Lynn Park, Facility Name, SLP Finisher, Facility ID #64057, located in the SW ¼ of the SE-2017 ¼ of Section 34-R98N,R34 of Twelve Mile Lake Township. A MMP for Christensen Farms, Facility Name and number, Christensen Farms F003, Facility ID# 58494, located at 2535 480th Ave, Graettinger, IA 51342. A MMP for Clayton Eggers, Clayton Eggers Finisher, Facility ID# 68159 at 3998 270th St, Graettinger, IA. Also an MMP annual update for Dustin Tirevold, Farm 182-Dustin Tirevold, Facility ID #64087 at 5533 120th St, Armstrong, Iowa.

A motion was made by Quastad, seconded by Hash, to adjourn the meeting at 10:57 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Colleen Anderson, Assistant to the Auditor

Bev Juhl, Chair