

Approved Minutes Emmet County Board of Supervisor Minutes

November 21, 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. A motion was made by Hash, 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 stated that she had attended the County Social Services (CSS) meeting yesterday.

Walter Davis-Oeth, Emmet County Engineer, Travis Fredericksen, Lucas Oleson and Larry Kirchner all secondary roads employees, came before the Board for discussion about a couple of changes proposed to help increase production by secondary roads employees. Davis-Oeth stated this is a continuation of a conversation that he held with the Board about a month or so ago.

The first proposal is extending the summer hours. This change would be to implement summer hours of 10-hour days to two weeks prior to Memorial Day and then to two weeks after Labor Day. Secondary roads employees feel that they are more productive as a whole unit with these ten-hour days. Davis-Oeth stated that this would be voted on at the spring quarterly meeting. It was moved by Schumacher, seconded by Pluth to move to approve the adding of the additional weeks of the ten-hour days. All ayes, motion carried.

The second proposal was for the possibility of carrying over compensation time earned, which now has to be used by the end of June. Secondary roads is asking to extend that time- period to November 15 of each year. By having to use it by the end of June, their staffing is low and they are not getting a lot of production that way. Davis-Oeth stated that he does not feel everyone will carry over time, but some will. A real advantage to secondary roads would be more staffing to work on roads during the summer, instead of the fall when farmers begin to use the roads. Schumacher asked the question of what happens if this does not work the way we would have hoped it would for you. Davis-Oeth stated this is not in the union contract, so it is not a negotiable item. Therefore, if it does not work out, the Board can reverse their decision. Davis-Oeth stated that as the compensation rules go now, his employees really only have about three-month window in which to use it. It was moved by Pluth, seconded by Hash to move forward with compensation time being carried over to the date of November 15 of each year. This would apply to secondary roads only. All ayes, motion carried.

Nancy Danielson, representing Iowa Communities Assurance Pool (ICAP) presented information to the Board on the last Fiscal Year of claims paid and claims that are still open. She stated the premium for this year is \$67,492.71. Danielson stated that the premiums are staying right in there. She stated that Emmet County has been with ICAP since 2013. ICAP specializes in government entities. She stated that they have \$1000 grants available to each entity each year, which Auditor; Amy Sathoff has taken advantage of. Danielson also stated the ICAP offers three hours of legal advice free each year. She is informing the Board of the renewal of ICAP insurance for the County for another year. The County is currently at 6 million dollars of coverage.

Danielson also discussed Workmen's Compensation insurance with the Board. She stated work comp renews July 1 of each year. She stated that the County's continued work with Mike Raner, Safety Shield Coordinator, has been a very good thing for this County. Danielson stated that she has enjoyed working with all department heads at the County and that it is going very well.

Vickie Jurens, Emmet County Treasurer, met with the Board to discuss property in Ringsted. Cathy Wikert, City Clerk of Ringsted, sent a letter to the Board stating that there is a house that is dilapidated and has been abandoned for at least 10 years within the city limits of Ringsted. The City of Ringsted would like to acquire title to this property so that the City can demolish the house and sell the lot to someone interested in buying it. There are processes that need to be followed. At the current time, the Emmet County Treasurer has a County held Tax Sale Certificate on this property.

There are a couple of options that could be taken. County could assign the certificate to the City of Ringsted, City would then have to notify people involved, and there is a 90-day waiting period. Then hold discussion between the City and County about possible abatement of back taxes, which today totals \$4,226 with penalties.

Another option is to go through a lawyer and the court system for the abandonment process. Usually all taxes are abated when you go through this process. Jurens stated that this property has been on tax sale for about ten years. Either option, the City of Ringsted would need to have legal advice. The Board asked Jurens to contact Wikert to see what process the City of Ringsted would like to take. Jurens will get back to the Board with this information.

Mike Martens, Emmet County Sheriff, asked for approval from the Board of replacing the current medical examiner for Emmet County, Dr. Anthony Cook, who has moved out of State. He requested the Board's approval for the appointment of Dr. James Creech

as medical examiner effective today, November 21, 2017. He has talked with Dr. Creech and he has agreed to assume this position. Martens stated that Iowa Code states that the medical examiner is to be appointed by the Board of Supervisors. It was moved by Quastad, seconded by Hash, to have Dr. James Creech assume the remainder of the Medical Examiner's term, which will end on December 31, 2018. All ayes, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Manure Management Plans & Plan Updates for Michael Nowicki, operation name Pig Palace Feedlot in the NE ¼ of the NW ¼ of Section 19-100-30 of Eagle Township in Kossuth County. Also reviewed by the Board was the letter of authorization from the DNR authorizing the use of the new swine finishing confinement building, Facility ID #69231-Farm 266-Erickson Site.

A motion was made by Quastad, seconded by Schumacher, to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Colleen Anderson, Assistant to the Auditor

Bev Juhl, Chair