

Unapproved Minutes Emmet County Board of Supervisor Minutes
December 12, 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 Schumacher, seconded by Pluth, to approve the minutes from last week's meeting with a correction, also approving them for publication. All ayes, motion carried.

During public forum, Juhl stated that she had attended a County Social Services (CSS) meeting last week. She stated that things seem to be going better. The contract has been approved with Avera Hospital in Sioux Falls, allowing Emmet County to provide services and place emergency mental health individuals in Sioux Falls now. Quastad attended a Seasons Center meeting last week. Quastad and Hash also attended a drainage meeting last week.

Tedd Gassman, State Representative, met with the Board for a continuation of discussion of hog confinements. Also present was Dave Johnson, Senator from Ocheyedan, IA, who helped write the original law for the matrix back in 2002. Many area residents were present also. Gassman stated that he has done some research since the last time he was here in August of this year. He stated that when researching he has become aware that in 2002 there was a change in Packers & Stockyards Act and they can own hogs now. He stated that the Producer gets the matrix ahead of time and studies it so they know ahead of time of what they want to do. Gassman stated he has talked with legislators in Des Moines and to open up the matrix would be a big deal and could take a great amount of time. He stated that no one grows corn or soybeans like the American Farmer.

He had a few ideas of what he would like to see done. First being, the planting of trees surrounding confinement sites to act like a buffer to help keep in the smell. Second item he would propose would be using a soybean oil mist within the buildings; a Producer in Belmond, Iowa does this now. Thirdly, using wheat straw on top of the pits seems to control the odor; this is being done in Thompson, Iowa currently. Lastly, a suggestion would be to inject the manure and mounding the injection site to help control the smell. Gassman stated that the fertilizer from these confinement sites is the best fertilizer money can buy. He stated that he really doubted that it would ever go back to local control. He wants to contact Iowa State University (ISU) to see what they are doing in research to control the smell.

Chuck Gardner, a concerned Emmet County resident, asked Gassman when is the right time to review the matrix and who can or will get it started. Gassman believes that the residents would have to do this. In Des Moines, when a bill is presented, there are usually many amendments to it. Reiterating again, that this would take up a lot of time. He believes the review and or proposed changes to the matrix would have to come outside of the legislative body.

The nuisance law was also discussed. Jim Boyer, a resident present, stated that if we open back up the nuisance law, it would open up everything. He stated that this is Iowa, an agricultural state. If we start opening up the law, anyone can sue.

Senator Johnson, was given permission to speak by the Board Chair, Juhl. Johnson helped write the original matrix law back in 2002. He stated that the matrix is not working anymore; it is an unworkable document now with all the hogs we have. He stated the producers get to pick what they want to score. They do not have to tell their neighbors, but if they do, they can get points for it. He stated that organizations and farm groups do not want local control. He stated that the separation distance needs to be changed. Johnson stated that 21 counties in Iowa are asking for a review of our laws. In conclusion, Chair, Juhl, thanked everyone for attending the meeting.

It was moved by Pluth, seconded by Schumacher, to appoint Rick Olesen and Bryan Kruse as the Board's Compensation Board members for 4-year terms. All ayes, motion carried.

The Board discussed a proposed resolution received from the Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) regarding the challenges relating to the growth in the number of individuals who have become addicted to opioids and the impacts of that addiction. The letter accompanying the resolution stated there is a potential for litigation against certain pharmaceutical companies to hold them responsible for their role in creating the opioid epidemic. The Board discussed the issue, realizing that the opioid epidemic is of great concern, but unsure if this is the right way to handle the situation. Quastad stated that he feels this is a criminal matter. Schumacher has attended a meeting concerning this problem and does not want to support this particular resolution as is written. It was moved by Quastad, seconded by Pluth to deny signing of the Resolution. Ayes, Quastad, Pluth & Schumacher Nays: Hash and Juhl. Motion carried.

It was moved by Quastad, seconded by Hash, to approve the County's claims as listed in the claims register. All ayes, motion carried.

It was moved by Schumacher, seconded by Pluth, to approve the drainage claims as listed. All ayes, motion carried.

It was moved by Hash, seconded by Quastad, to approve the results of the recent City of Estherville Run-Off Election, held on December 5, 2017. All ayes, motion carried. Kenny Billings won the election for a 2-year term. The results are as follows:

Kenny Billings 270 Cindy Hood 173

Arvin Druvenga and David Schmidt, Winther, Stave & Co., LLP presented the FY2017 audit for Emmet County. It was moved by Quastad, seconded by Schumacher, to accept the audit for 2017. All ayes, motion carried.

It was moved by Schumacher, seconded by Hash, to approve the certified cost of the City Run-Off Election, held December 5, 2017, for the City of Estherville for the Mayor position. Total cost for the election is \$3,808.23. All ayes, motion carried.

The Board Chair signed the two joint bills for EK4. One is for Line 58 for \$250.00; one is for Line 22 for \$357.50. Bills are from Anderson Tiling LLC from Armstrong. It was moved by Quastad, seconded by Pluth to approve the joint claims. The bills will be forwarded to control county, Kossuth, for signing and payment.

A motion was made by Pluth, seconded by Hash, to adjourn the meeting at 11:18 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Colleen Anderson, Assistant to the Auditor

Bev Juhl, Chair