

Floyd County Board of Supervisors Meeting
August 14, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

The Floyd County Board of Supervisors met at Floyd County Courthouse Board Room with the following in attendance: Supv Mark Kuhn, Supv Dennis Keifer and Supv Jim Jorgensen.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Public comment: Tom Treharne, Nextera Energy representative, introduced himself and informed the Board on Nextera being one of the largest producers of renewable energy in the world, currently having 13 projects across the state, and initiatives for installation of turbines in the Rudd area. Supv Kuhn mentioned there have been some concerns brought to board members and there will be a future agenda item with discussion on the county's ordinance regarding turbines.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved to approve the August 7 and 8, 2023 minutes. Motion carried 3-0.

Jorgensen/Keifer moved to approve the claims presented: County #267-350, Secondary Roads 10083-10100 and Drains #15389. Motion carried 3-0.

Updates on various boards/commissions/activities: Supv Keifer attended FMC landfill and Charles City Main Street meetings and met with Judicial representatives regarding updates to courtrooms. Supv Jorgensen had calls with the Ambulance Commission Vice President and calls from concerned rural residents regarding road rock. All three supervisors attended the Summit Carbon Solutions/Absolute Energy meeting regarding the new proposed route from Mitchell County south into Floyd County to connect to the proposed line near Rockford.

Updates on Law Enforcement Center/Courthouse Project: Work continues with punch list items. Other discussion included door dragging issues, a sewer drain issue, and status of the bollard at north entrance. Auditor Carr will provide a recap of costs of the project at next week's meeting.

Erin Casella, Dept of Health and Human Services representative, and the Board discussed usage of the DHHS building. Casella commented that the department will pay 100% of certain bills for the 1206 S Main that previously were split between County Social Services and DHHS and hopes to find a partner to utilize unused space. Casella referenced the department's current staff occupancy, remote work options, shortage of staff, and a new case load study reflecting a need to grow staff at the office. Casella does not believe the south half of the first floor of the courthouse would accommodate staff and future growth of the department is unclear. Board members commented on financial reasons to relocate, underutilized space at both locations, responsibility to taxpayers, opportunity to sell the building, potential use of American Rescue Plan Act funds, and goal to relocate. Casella concurred with financial constraints, recognizes the benefits to relocate to the courthouse, and hopes office space issues could be worked out. Keifer will be the lead person to keep this moving forward along with Auditor Carr and Casella bringing her people to the table to talk more.

Adam Sears, Weed Commissioner, Jacob Page, County Engineer, and the Board discussed weed issues. Sears commented on the Henderson property being mowed after thistles had gone to seed and is concerned this will happen again next year and would like to have a plan cover costs to fund a weed abatement issue. Iowa Code Chapter 317 requirements were reviewed, including a 5-day written notice to the landowner delivered personally or by certified to abate the weed issue and if not abated, the county can go in to abate the issue and the costs can be assessed to the landowner. Jorgensen questioned if Secondary Roads has the equipment to mow the weeds; Page said they do have the equipment, but crews may not be able to drop other county work to work on private property and thinks it would be best to hire the work out. Kuhn suggested a policy be developed but in the meantime would like Sears to send a letter to Henderson stating he has met with the board, reference the code requirements and if the same happens next year with the weeds not timely attended to that it will be taken care of by the county and assessed to the property. Other discussion included right-of-way weeds not being sprayed timely, weeds need to be sprayed several times through the year, the county is falling behind in weed control management, many Secondary Roads employees having permits to spray and possibility of having crews carry a sprayer in their equipment to spray areas when needed, Sears' appointment as weed commissioner ending next February, availability of Living Roadway Trust Fund for counties who have Integrated Roadside Management programs, and two people, at least one being a board member, attending the Roadside Conference in Cedar Falls in October.

Keifer mentioned to Page that he has had complaints from people about ditches not being mowed. Page responded that the department has three mowers that are being used and crews are also busy blading roads with the rock resurfacing project.

The Board discussed additional appointments to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. Discussion included having a five- or seven-member board and two application for review. Jorgensen/Keifer moved to appoint Dawn Staudt to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council. Motion carried 3-0. Kuhn moved to appoint Brandy Molitor to the Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council; the motion died for lack of a second.

Matt Garber, President of Clapsaddler-Garber Associates, Inc, presented information on providing pipeline inspection services. Handouts of the firm’s profile and an example of a project process were provided. Garber’s full-time and retired staff will sufficiently cover the project and would be able to do so should construction of both pipelines occur at the same time. If a contractor does not cooperate with the land restoration and easements, the Iowa Utilities Board has procedures such as the inspector contacting the contractor and escalating up to a written notice and then the IUB if not compliant. Garber commented Clapsaddler-Garber has not had any contractor issues, but should there be any, they would be prepared if work was blatantly against the project, they would be able and prepared to stop the project if necessary. Kuhn suggested Garber review the recently released Iowa State University’s study on ground compaction. Garber commented that Lee Gallentine, CGA staff, is keeping up with IUB proceedings. CGA’s firm has not had a relationship with either of the pipeline companies other than possibly surveys for Summit hog confinements which were unrelated to the pipeline project. CGA does have a fee if services are not payable in 30 days but could set it up to 60 days if the pipeline was not prompt at paying the county for inspection services. Code 479. If the county is interested in CGA’s services, they will provide a letter of intent. Franklin, Hardin, Co.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved to approve the liquor license prior to October 10, 2023.

Future agenda items: Drainage District #3 specifications, selection of pipeline inspector, drainage utility procedures/resolution, Nextera and Invenergy wind turbine projects, and wind turbine ordinance consideration.

Keifer/Jorgensen moved to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0.

ATTEST: _____
Gloria A. Carr
Floyd County Auditor

Mark A. Kuhn, Chair
Floyd County Board of Supervisors