

HARDIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES – JUNE 10, 2020
WEDNESDAY - 9:00 A.M.
COURTHOUSE LARGE CONFERENCE ROOM

Chair Lance Granzow called the meeting to order. The meeting was held electronically due to COVID-19 public health risks. Also present were Supervisors BJ Hoffman and Reneé McClellan; and Becca Junker, Curt Groen, Del Johnston, Justin Ites, Cindy Allen, Angela De La Riva, Dave McDaniel, Donna Juber, Bob Juber, JD Holmes, Machel Eichmeier, Tifani Eisentrager, Lori Kadner, Connie Mesch, Matt Ring, Julie Duhn, Seth Wengert, Brent Tripp, Cheryl Lawrence, Thomas Craighton, Wes Wiese, Richard Gehrke, Michael Pearce, Darrell Meyer, Taylor Roll, Jessica Sheridan, and Angela Silvey.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to approve the minutes of June 3, 2020. Motion carried.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to approve the June 10, 2020 claims for payment. Motion carried.

Utility Permits:

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to approve Hardin County Utility Permit Applications UT-026, submitted by Midland Power Cooperative; UT-20-027, submitted by Interstate Power and Light Company, d/b/a Alliant Energy; and UT-20-028 submitted by CenturyLink. Motion carried. All three permits are on file in the Engineer's Office.

County Engineer Taylor Roll advised his crew had finished with culverts on the Hubbard-to-New Providence blacktop and will be moving to S75 by Whitten.

Discussion was held on a request for engine ordinance signs on S75 in Whitten. It was determined Whitten must pass its own City engine ordinance and be reminded it has no road and sign maintenance agreement with the County. Granzow, recounting earlier complaints, requested ideas for a County engine brake ordinance be brought before the Board. He and McClellan agreed the ordinance should be spot-specific. No action was taken.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to appoint Al Kadolph to fill a vacancy as ex-officio member to the County Conservation Board. This term ends December 31, 2020. Motion carried.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to approve the South Central Iowa Workforce Area Chief Elected Official Shared Liability Agreement. Roll Call Vote: "Ayes" Hoffman, McClellan, and Granzow. "Nays" None. Motion carried.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to acknowledge receipt of the Animal Feeding Operation Construction Permit for 110 Pork Shop Site, Section 6, Alden Township. Motion carried.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to set June 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m., in the large conference room and via Zoom, for the public hearing on the Animal Feeding Operation Construction Permit for 110 Pork Shop Site, Section 6, Alden Township. Motion carried.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to recommend approval of the Animal Feeding Operation Construction Permit Application for Tri-B Site Section 8, Section 8, Alden Township. Motion carried.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to recommend approval of the Animal Feeding Operation Construction Permit Application for Ferris Pork Site, Section 16, Ellis Township. Motion carried.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to approve the Medicare supplement benefit through Iowa Governmental Health Care Plan. Motion carried.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to adopt coronavirus-related distributions with Nationwide 457 plans. Roll Call Vote: “Ayes” McClellan, Hoffman, and Granzow. “Nays” None. Motion carried.

COVID-19 Update:

Emergency Management Coordinator Thomas Craighton advised he and Rocky Reents are working with nursing homes to start baseline testing; he is working on a regional stockpile of PPE for fall; the county saw a surge of new cases over the weekend, but numbers have leveled off; and Hansen Family Hospital is administering 10-30 tests per day. Craighton also mentioned that the IDPH may be misinterpreting patient ZIP code data, resulting in county case count discrepancies.

Public Comments:

Donna Juber asked which regions and counties make up the South Central Iowa Workforce Area. Juber also commented on coronavirus incidence versus test data and protecting the elder population, as well as measuring separation distance between a CAFO and well.

Julie Duhn commented on monies spent on the Courthouse security guard presence.

County Attorney Darrell Meyer thanked local law enforcement agencies, officers, and jail staff for their professionalism in the face of dangerous and difficult work.

Other Business:

Hoffman commended the Auditor’s Office staff and poll workers for a job well done during an abnormal primary election.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

At 10:38 a.m. Chair Granzow reconvened the meeting for a real estate matter. Also present were Supervisors Hoffman and McClellan; and Darrell Meyer; Taylor Nederhoff, representing Ellsworth Neighborhood Investment Group, LLC; and Angela Silvey.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5(1)(c) to discuss possible litigation. Roll Call Vote: “Ayes” Hoffman, McClellan, and Granzow. “Nays” None. Motion carried.

Taylor Nederhoff exited the room.

Following discussion, Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to exit closed session. Roll Call Vote: “Ayes” Hoffman, McClellan, and Granzow. “Nays” None. Motion carried.

Nederhoff rejoined the meeting and explained his client’s position: Ellsworth Neighborhood Investment Group is requesting abatement of taxes payable FY 2019-2020 due to an erroneous 2018 assessment which resulted in unfinished condo units being assessed as completed units. Nederhoff claimed that the tax payment made in September 2019 would be equal to a full-year payment had the assessment been correct. Further, Nederhoff stated, assessments for taxes payable FY 2020-2021 have already been adjusted downward to reflect the unfinished units.

It was mentioned that any abatement would affect the various levying authorities and each of these entities would be required to make budget adjustments.

It was agreed that Assessor Don Knoell and Auditor Jessica Lara should collaborate to calculate actual taxes owed for FY 2019-2020.

Nederhoff requested his client have penalty and interest forgiven should a determination be made after the June 25 property tax extension deadline.

At 11:30 a.m., McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

At 1:00 p.m., the department heads/elected officials meeting was called to order. The meeting was held electronically due to COVID-19 public health risks. In attendance: Supervisors Granzow, Hoffman, and McClellan; and Becca Junker, Dave McDaniel, Machel Eichmeier, Linn Adams, Thomas Craighton, Wes Wiese, Don Knoell, Jessica Lara, Angela De La Riva, John Zimmerman, Matt Jones, Jody Mesch, Taylor Roll, Jessica Sheridan, Darrell Meyer, Bernie Koehrsen, Lori Kadner, and Angela Silvey.

Discussion was held on the limited reopening of County buildings. It was decided that admittance will remain by appointment only, and department heads will meet in two weeks to reevaluate.

Topics then turned to appropriations and salaries. Granzow gave permission for department heads to award wage increases of 1.3% or as otherwise presented to the Board during budget work sessions. However, Granzow advised, with the change in insurance, there may be excess monies in the budget. He cautioned department heads not to spend all funds appropriated to them, as those funds may be needed for COVID-19 relief or for carryover.

Department heads were reminded to complete their employees' performance reviews.

Other Business:

Treasurer Machel Eichmeier noted her staff is having difficulty hearing through the glass panels installed at her counter.

Veterans Affairs Director Bernie Koehrsen advised he received \$12,000 in grant money which will allow him to convert the VA's van to accommodate wheelchair-bound patients.

Engineer Roll proposed a fundraiser for an employee whose house burned down.

Auditor Jessica Lara requested that department heads submit their salary sheets to Becca Junker, Payroll and Benefits Manager, by June 12, 2020, to compile and forward to the Board for approval.

Conservation Director Wes Wiese thanked Craighton for his help with readying campgrounds with masks and disinfectant.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Lance Granzow, Chair
Board of Supervisors

Jessica Lara
Hardin County Auditor