

HARDIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
MINUTES – MAY 13, 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 in attendance were Supervisors BJ Hoffman and Reneé McClellan; and Seth Wingert, Brent Tripp, Justin Ites, Curt Groen, Dave McDaniel, Thomas Craighton, Tifani Eisentrager, Becca Junker, Jessica Lara, JD Holmes, Donna Juber, Bob Juber, Dave Dunn, Mindy McLeland, Matt Tripp, Kris Johnston, Del Johnston, Micah Cutler, Isaac Knutson, Machel Eichmeier, Julie Duhn, Mark Buschkamp, Bob Havens, Cheryl Lawrence, John Zimmerman, Rudolfo Padilla, Kent Mowrer, Matt Jones, Michael Pearce, Jessica Sheridan, Taylor Roll, Darrell Meyer, Angela De La Riva, and Angela Silvey.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to approve the minutes of April 29, 2020 and May 4, 2020. Motion carried.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to approve the correction of a scrivener's error in the minutes from April 15, 2020, changing the reference from Section 13 to Section 16 regarding the Ferris Pork Site CAFO permit application. Motion carried.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to approve the May 13, 2020 claims for payment. Motion carried.

Utility Permits:

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to approve Hardin County Utility Permit Application UT-20-021, submitted by Heart of Iowa Communications. Motion carried.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to approve Hardin County Utility Permit Application UT-20-022, submitted by Windstream Iowa Communications, LLC. Motion carried.

Secondary Roads:

County Engineer Taylor Roll advised Highway D55 between Hubbard and New Providence will be closed intermittently for culvert replacement. The public was reminded that the bridge to Gifford is closed.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to approve the Recorder's Monthly Report for April 2020. Motion carried.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to approve the 28E agreement with Iowa Governmental Health Care Plan (IGHCP). Motion carried.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to appoint Auditor Jessica Lara as IGHCP Board Representative. An alternate will be appointed at next week's meeting. Motion carried.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to approve the open enrollment for 2020/2021 with IGHCP. Motion carried.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to deny recommendation to the DNR of the Animal Feeding Operation Construction Permit Application for Tri-B Site, Section 8, Alden/Hardin Township. Roll Call Vote: "Ayes" McClellan, Hoffman, and Granzow. "Nays" None. Motion carried.

Hoffman moved, McClellan seconded to deny recommendation to the DNR of the Animal Feeding Operation Construction Permit Application for Ferris Pork Site, Section 16, Ellis Township. Roll Call Vote: "Ayes" Hoffman, McClellan, and Granzow. "Nays" None. Motion carried.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to approve the layoff due to COVID-19 of Mary Nelson, Friendship Club Coordinator, effective 05/11/2020. Nelson will return to work when the program is reopened. Motion carried.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to approve the hiring of Cole Birchmier, Secondary Roads Heavy Equipment Operator, at a rate of \$21.39/hour, effective 05/18/2020. Birchmier is eligible for a \$0.25/hour raise after a 6-month probationary period. Motion carried.

McClellan moved to approve the hiring of Paul Martin, IRVM Roadside Vegetation Specialist. The motion died for lack of a second. Martin's Change of Status will be on next week's agenda.

COVID-19 Update:

Emergency Management Coordinator Thomas Craighton shared testing and death data as well as number of PPE distributed countywide. Craighton advised that PPE and social distancing will be required of any activities that reopen, including the Courts, likely into the fall. In addition, Craighton was informed the Hardin County Fair will host no grandstand events for 2020.

Public Comments:

Dave Dunn had questions about the IGHCP 28E agreement and open enrollment for City of Eldora employees.

Julie Duhn expressed disagreement with an Iowa Department of Health return-to-work policy.

Other Business:

Donna Juber inquired into the status of a revised CAFO public comment and public hearing policy.

McClellan moved, Hoffman seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

At 3:00 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 and Hoffman; and Jessica Lara, Dave McDaniel, Thomas Craighton, Bernie Koehrsen, Machel Eichmeier, Linn Adams, Becca Junker, Darrell Meyer, Taylor Roll, Don Knoell, Cheryl Lawrence, Lori Kadner, Matt Jones, Jody Mesch, Jessica Sheridan, Angela De La Riva, and Angela Silvey. Supervisors McClellan was absent.

Discussion resumed on reopening County buildings to the public. Citing the governor's proclamation, Craighton stated that even though facilities are reopening, they are limited to 50% capacity, cannot offer common seating areas, and must adhere to social distancing and hygiene measures. Additionally there are special precautions for those over 65.

Eichmeier requested permission to allow in by appointment drivers whose licenses expired during the closure, as enforcement is expected to begin May 28, 2020. No objections were voiced.

Auditor Jessica Lara requested that reopening occur after the primary election on June 2, 2020, to avoid public confusion.

Lara volunteered to look into acquiring infrared thermometers, and discussion ensued on whether security or medical staff should administer testing of the public.

It was decided that County buildings will remain closed until at least June 3, 2020 and after plexiglass is installed. Further, entrants will be allowed in by appointment only.

Also discussed were Compensation Board recommendations and wage increases for FY 2021. Several department heads expressed unease at accepting pay raises in the wake of an economic downturn. Others argued that employee raises have been merited and/or negotiated by union contract, budgeted for, and that it is the FY 2022 budget that will see the effects of the pandemic. No decision was made.

Other Business:

Granzow reminded department heads to complete performance reviews before the end of June.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

/s/ Lance Granzow
Lance Granzow, Chair
Board of Supervisors

/s/ Jessica Lara
Jessica Lara
Hardin County Auditor