

July 2, 2019

Meeting of the Clayton County Board of Supervisors at their office, 600 Gunder Road, Elkader, Iowa.

Present: Steve Doeppke, Sharon Keehner, and Ray Peterson

Guests: Lori Tworek, Rafe Koopman, Mike Tschirgi, Steve Holst, Tom Bading, Ellen Collins, Myron Phelps, Becky Sexton, Larry Stone, Patti Ruff, Linda Zuercher, Sue Meyer, Sarah Moser, Jenna Pollock, Mark Bolsinger, Bart Burgin, Danny Williams, Tony Puelz, Trampus Thornton, Mike Bahls, Aaron Schroeder, Terry Doeppke, Robert Wiedner, Ed Uriell, Cathy White, Jean Gage, Tim Klingman, Dave Whittle, Bernard Jaster, Greg Lower, Justin Flage

Keehner moved, Doeppke seconded to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2019, meeting. Ayes: Doeppke, Keehner. Abstain: Peterson. Motion carried.

Doeppke moved, Peterson seconded to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2019 and June 25, 2019, meetings. Ayes: Doeppke, Peterson. Abstain: Keehner. Motion carried.

Doeppke moved, Keehner seconded to appoint Ray Peterson to the Upper Mississippi Gaming Corporation Board. Ayes: Doeppke, Keehner, Peterson. Motion carried.

Bids were received from Northeast Iowa Mechanical and Central Plumbing and Heating for air conditioners at the Clayton County Office Building for the server room and the voting machine room. Keehner moved, Doeppke seconded to accept the bids and award Northeast Iowa Mechanical the bid for the server room for \$6,320.81 (Central bid \$7,498.00) and Central Plumbing and Heating the bid for the voting machine room for \$4,241.00 (NEIA bid \$5,230.00). Ayes: Doeppke, Keehner, Peterson. Motion carried.

Tom Bading, City of Volga Park Chair, made a request to the Board to consider deeding over county-owned real estate with parcel number 42-03-456-004 to the City of Volga. The parcel sits amongst other city owned property in the Volga U Campground.

Ellen Collins updated the Board on the Historic Preservation Commission's upcoming project suggestions including the Mederville Bridge and a keystone arch bridge near Littleport. Both sites would be available to be placed on the National Registry of Historic Places.

Chairperson Peterson opened a public hearing relative to a construction permit application for a deep pit swine finisher confinement building by Kregel Farms Inc. in Section 13 of Garnavillo Township. Becky Sexton outlined that the application is for an expansion to an existing swine confinement facility and will be replacing two buildings previously used for nursery pigs. After construction, the capacity will be 1,920 animal units. Comments were heard from Health and Zoning Administrator Patti Ruff regarding recommendation for approval based on a score exceeding minimum thresholds and from Larry Stone regarding changing master matrix scoring at the state level and health/environmental impact of facilities. The public hearing was closed. Keehner moved, Doeppke seconded to recommend the permit application be approved. Ayes: Doeppke, Keehner, Peterson. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the Clayton County Motor Vehicle Policy with department heads. Auditor Jennifer Garms suggested the removal of redundancies noted between the minimum qualifications and requirements. Keehner moved, Doeppke seconded to approve the Clayton County Motor Vehicle Policy as updated with removal of redundancies. Ayes: Doeppke, Keehner, Peterson. Motion carried.

The Board received Vehicle Use Reports from the departments based on concerns from the public regarding the number of county vehicles utilized for driving to and from work. The Board opened the floor to hear from department heads. Engineer Rafe Koopman stated that prior supervisors had negotiated contracts that provided a vehicle for driving to and from work. This was placed in the contract after considering cost savings in providing a vehicle versus a wage increase with FICA and IPERS, difficulty finding a shop or bridge crew foreman, and prospective employees declining positions because of pay. Koopman wanted to clarify public concerns regarding stops after work hours are part of a departmental policy that could cease if the need arises. Sheriff Tschirgi stated he allows staff to make stops using county vehicles. Conservation Director stated she would like to hear about complaints directly if they would occur. Both Health and Zoning Administrator Patti Ruff and Emergency Management Director Sarah Moser utilize their vehicles throughout the day with only Moser taking a vehicle home. Pollock, Ruff, and Moser have positions that report to a specific board or commission other than the Board of Supervisors. Peterson noted that employees would lose a lot of time going back and forth to a shop first and that there is value in getting something done right away. Peterson continued saying that there will always be issues citing flooding and downed trees as examples.

Keehner opened the floor to the public and other employees in attendance. Bridge Crew Foreman Bart Burgin made comments relating to extra workload that foremen do citing outside work hour call outs, project preparations, and knowing how to run each piece of equipment. Many asked as to why seven people get to take vehicles home when in the past it was only two to four people. Further commenting that other counties only have a few that take them home. Peterson noted that not all counties have the number of roads to cover like Clayton County does. It was agreed that on call employees should be allowed to take a vehicle home. There was discussion that a minimal number of vehicles should be taken home and that the Sheriff should field calls to disburse to the on call person for response. Currently many foremen receive calls directly to increase response and efficiency rather than utilizing a Sheriff phone line to communicate the issue at hand. There was comparison to the Iowa DOT's management of two foremen to an estimated eighteen individuals. Secondary Roads currently has thirty-two non-office staff. Moser stated that when dealing with incident command it is best for one person to manage three to seven individuals. Further stating studies show that having supervision over a larger number can lead to items not being done in a timely and efficient manner. Moser worries about response times as Secondary Roads employees assist during emergencies. The Board decided to table consideration of Secondary Roads non-union contracts until July 9, 2019 after hearing comments.

The corresponding resolution for FY2020 Wage Certifications is tabled until July 9, 2019.

Attest:

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Ray Peterson  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

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Jennifer Garms  
Clayton County Auditor