

July 14, 2020

The Page County Board of Supervisors met in session on this 14th day of July 2020, with Chuck Morris, Jon Herzberg and Alan Armstrong present. On a motion by Herzberg, seconded by Armstrong the board approved the agenda. Present from the public were Jess Erdmann, John Schwab, Tim Johnson, Judy Kennedy, Jacob Holmes, Angie Dow and Brenda Esaias. Attending via zoom were Ryan Matheny, Darin Sunderman, Sandy Parmenter and Lyle Palmer.

Jess Erdman gave a COVID update. Page County currently has 22 cases with 20 recovered. There are a lot of families currently in quarantine. This is attributed to lack of wearing masks and people attending larger gatherings. We have seen spikes in numbers of adjoining counties. Morris asked if Erdman felt the door monitor system was adequate or if there any need for revision. From a Public Health stand point, Erdman states monitoring is being done as needed. Morris asked Erdman if she felt that monitoring at the door would be more short term or long term. Erdman stated she feels that the monitoring process will be more long term rather that short term. Morris asked Dow and Esaias how they felt the door monitoring was working. Dow stated when her office was monitoring the door, approximately 40-60 people a day were entering. Dow states Tom says it is similar, and Tom is doing a great job. Dow stated it seems to be working well in her opinion. Dow also stated not everyone is happy about the monitoring, but everyone needs to appreciate we are doing our best. Brenda stated everything is going well. Morris asked Schwab how this has impacted Conservation, and Schwab stated it hasn't really impacted them. Campers seem to be social distancing. JD King and Lisa Nelson joined the meeting. Armstrong appreciates Jess's email updates and information. Armstrong thanks all employees working in the courthouse and out in the field.

King gave a roads update. A few blades were out Monday, and they were hauling rock with one truck. Also, two mowers were running yesterday, one on the gravels and one on pavements. The pipe crew is on 200th Avenue removing old pipe. The spraypatcher will be out Tuesday and will be filling some pot holes on B Avenue south of Shenandoah that they were notified of. Later in the week, a new employee will be training with an experienced guy using the retriever to blade the shoulders. Morris would like to have a discussion and/or survey once this training is complete to see how it worked. Windshields are being replaced on a couple trucks, and they have been moving trucks between Clarinda and Omaha. The Northboro Culvert on 290th is open to traffic. The project is a little rough, and it also lacks seeding. The G-27 bridge job has one person working on the dirt today, and more people should be working dirt at the end of the week. The EWP Site 12 is complete and work is now being done at Site 1, which is a much larger repair project. The EWP-P4 project will be let on July 30th. All right of way is now acquired for the EWP-P5 project. Future work will consist of a bridge project outside of Essex. They had to adjust their plans for the fog Seal on M60 and Nutmeg Ave. J52 should be open to traffic this afternoon. King attended the mid-year conference last week, where approximately 50 attended in person and an additional 40 or so attended online. On July 21st the base stabilization farm to market will be let by the DOT. On a motion by Armstrong, seconded by Herzberg the board moved to approve the signing of title sheets for EWP-P4 Site 9 and Site 10.

Schwab discussed the Conservation Farm Lease. In 2013 an agreement was

made with Hilger Farms to lease 14 acres by Rapp Park. In 2015 the State Auditor stated the Conservation Department needed a farm lease. The Conservation Board Chair contacted all adjoining land owners to see if anyone was interested. Hilger Farms was the only one who was interested due to the land being landlocked. Schwab stated the Conservation Board receives \$2400 - \$2900 annually from this land. The current five-year lease is up and needs to be resigned. Schwab is to check with Auditor Wellhausen regarding any potential legal issues with this lease. On a motion by Armstrong, seconded by Herzberg, the board moved to approve signing the five-year conservation lease with Hilger Farms as long as Auditor Wellhausen sees no potential legal issues with it. Morris asked about the Colton Beery dam project. Schwab stated Beery is finishing a project and then will take care of this one.

Auditor Wellhausen discussed that for the Primary Election her office sent out an absentee ballot request form to all registered voters in Page County, and then the Secretary of State's office followed with one of their own. With the new election changes and the new House File, the Secretary of State's office will not be sending out a mailing. With COVID not settling down, Wellhausen stated she would like to send a mailing out again for the General. It will consist of an absentee ballot request form and will also include information on polling hours. On a motion by Herzberg, seconded by Armstrong, the board moved to approve the absentee ballot request mailing for the General Election. Morris asked when the approximate mailing date might be and the approximate cost of the mailing. Wellhausen stated we would like to have it ready to mail around August 1st, and it would cost approximately \$4,000 - \$5,000. Morris stated the first of August seems early. Wellhausen explained that sending them in August gives her office time to get the requests processed and the ballots ready to mail on October 5th, which is the first day they can be mailed. Wellhausen stressed that this will just be the request form, not the actual ballot. The State of Iowa does not mail ballots without a request form from the voter.

Sonksen joined the meeting. Dow and Sonksen discussed with the Board of Supervisors the June 2020 annual tax sale. At this time, it is up to each county treasurer and their county attorney to decide if the delinquent tax sale should be held. Dow would request that the June 2020 tax sale be cancelled and that delinquent notices not be mailed out for a few reasons. It is best for the tax payers because as of right now they are able to make partial payments. If sold the tax payer would be required to pay in full plus interest. There is a timing issue as September tax statements will be mailed soon. Sonksen also went over some guidance and recommendations. Dow stated currently there is \$235,000 outstanding taxes. In prior years, outstanding taxes have been around \$150,000 – \$180,000. Taxes have been extended so tax payers still have the chance to pay without penalty, which will hopefully further decrease the outstanding tax amount. Morris stated we will continue to monitor the Attorney General's recommendations and Governor's decisions.

Armstrong asked Sonksen about another Wind Turbine Ordinance meeting and what legal recommendations needed to be considered before having another meeting. Sonksen stated it was best to contact the general contractor of wind turbine project to get the number of land owners that have signed contracts already. Sonksen stated that any statute can be modified moving forward, but it cannot be retroactive. Any change in the ordinance that would affect landowners that have already signed contracts would

likely result in legal action against the county. Sonksen will forward a case to the Board of Supervisors to take a look at. The Public Health board can reopen issues regarding Public Health concerns, if they deem it necessary.

On a motion by Herzberg, seconded by Armstrong the board moved to approve the Peaceful Gathering on Courthouse Lawn to Support Local Law Enforcement on August 9th from 5 – 7 PM. This event is to be a family oriented get together where the Taylor County cattlemen will be serving food for a free will donation. All proceeds will be divided between the Page County Sheriff's Office and the Clarinda and Shenandoah Police Departments.

On a motion from Herzberg, the board moved to approve the minutes from July 7, 2020. Armstrong abstained as he was not in attendance last week.

On a motion by Herzberg, seconded by Armstrong with no further business, the board adjourned at 9:40 am and will meet again Tuesday, July 21, 2020.

Chuck Morris, Chairman

Page County Board of Supervisors

Kristi Clark, Deputy

Page County Auditor