
FOR THE YEAR 2010
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA
MAY 17, 2010

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Monday, May 17, 2010 with Larry Prunty, Dean Schmidt, Jeff Simonsen, and Terry Graybill present. Mark Leeds was absent. Mike Leckband, *Chronicle Times*, represented the press. Pete Snapp, John Linnquist (Pheasants Forever), Ginger Walker (Cherokee County Conservation Director), Lucas Straw (Cherokee County Conservation), Jason Titcomb (Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation District), Pam Pierce, Thomas Bindner (Cherokee County Soil & Water Conservation District), Renee Braun (Natural Resources Conservation Service), and Linda Burkhardt were also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes - Schmidt, Graybill, Prunty, Simonsen; Nays – none; Abstentions – none.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Schmidt to approve the agenda and minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried with Leeds absent.

Discussion centered on the slough bill and the county's decision to end the program. Currently 57 property owners are receiving tax exempt status for land that is classified by the DNR as open prairie, forest cover, or wetlands. The county, schools, and all other taxing authorities do not receive reimbursement for the loss of revenue on these properties. The county supervisors have received calls from the public questioning why private property that is being used for recreational purposes is allowed to be exempt from taxes. Those in attendance support the tax exempt program as a means to promote conservation practices in the county and asked for more time to educate the public and research other potential programs for the land owners.

Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Prunty to rescind the motion and action taken on May 4, 2010 which disallowed the 2010 Slough Bill applications and rescinded the "Wetlands" Tax Exemption Program in Cherokee County. Motion carried with Leeds absent.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Schmidt to approve the 2010 Slough Bill applications with the understanding that the "Wetlands" Tax Exemption Program in Cherokee County will be reviewed and consideration will be given to either adjust the priorities or cancel the program entirely. Motion carried with Leeds absent.

Renee Braun reported that the DNR will review all the current properties included in the program and reclassify projects as state programs where possible. Braun indicated that this process should be completed within 3 weeks.

Don Kintigh, Grand Meadow Heritage Center, gave an update on projects including tin on the barn, electricity to a donated hoop building, and new windows for the two room school house. Kintigh thanked the board for their past contributions and requested additional funds to complete several projects.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Prunty to approve an \$8,500 payment from the Rural Betterment Fund for Grand Meadow Heritage Center projects. Motion carried with Leeds absent.

Lisa Langlitz, Community Services Director, reviewed the FY11 Case Management Projected Cost Report and predicted an average cost of \$15.20 per unit of contact. Total program expense is anticipated to be \$100,000 with an average of 570 monthly client contacts for the case workers.

Motion by Graybill, seconded by Prunty to approve five wage authorizations for summer aides in the conservation department as follows: Morgan Mahnke (\$9.00), Emmett Kohn (\$9.50), James Bezoni, Jr. (\$9.50), Tony Morris (\$9.25), and Alex Roseen (\$9.25). Motion carried with Leeds absent.

Discussion of time clock systems was tabled for further research.

There being no further business, Chairman Simonsen adjourned the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

All board agendas and minutes are available online at www.cherokeecountyiowa.com

Attest: _____

Jeff Simonsen, Chairman

Kris Glienke, County Auditor