
FOR THE YEAR 2014
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA
JANUARY 14, 2014

The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, January 14, 2014 with Mark Leeds, Jeff Simonsen, Rick Mongan, Dennis Bush, and Ginger Walker present. Dan Whitney, *Chronicle Times*, represented the press. Gary Lundquist, Dave Scott, Chad Brown, Cody Newgard, Leroy Schoon, Jason Kline, Sara Lucas, Hedgie Brandt, Dawn Miller, Dena Dungan, Lindsay Bressler, and Beverly Ziemann were also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes - Simonsen, Mongan, Bush, Leeds, Walker; Nays - none; Abstentions - none.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Walker to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion by Bush, seconded by Simonsen to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to approve the claims for payment as presented. Motion carried. A complete listing is available for review in the County Auditor's office and online.

Mark Buschkamp, Brian Freed, and Mark Hecox presented the Cherokee Area Economic Development Corporation's Annual Report for 2013. The financial return on investment was emphasized and several successful projects were highlighted. Hecox pointed out that many of these businesses and projects may not be recognized by the public for the positive economic impact on Cherokee County as a whole. Bush commended CAEDC for its efforts and success, but questioned if they were looking down the road and seeing the need for future partnerships for funding instead of depending solely on taxation. Freed reminded the supervisors that their investment is for the next generation and a means to attract or keep young people in Cherokee County. The supervisors will review funding during the budget process.

Cody Newgard, Cherokee County Fair Board, presented a 2012/2013 financial report and informative overview of activities of the annual fair along with plans for refurbishing the north 4-H building. Newgard thanked the supervisors for their past financial support and requested \$25,000 of county funds for 2014/2015; which is the same amount as the current year. No action was taken.

Hedgie Brandt, County Treasurer, presented the December 31, 2013 Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report of Accounts and Cash Count for the board's consideration.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Bush to accept the Treasurer's Semi-Annual Report as presented. Motion carried.

Brandt clarified that her department will not need a budget amendment in the 2013/2014 year. After review of her budget, Brandt found enough funds to cover additional wage increases given to her staff after the original budget had been certified.

The supervisors discussed costs associated with the Affordable Care Act.

Motion by Bush, seconded by Mongan to rescind a prior decision to pass on all new costs associated with the Affordable Care Act to employees and refund amounts withheld. Motion carried.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Mongan to treat all new Affordable Care Act costs as premium and allocate them 30% employee share and 70% employer share in accordance with current contracts for union employees and current practice for non-union employees. Motion carried.

Don Faber, Three Rivers Benefit Corporation, and Rick Angell, Wellmark representative, provided industry standards for employee health insurance benefits. Bush presented potential cost savings for different levels of deductibles and office call co-pays. Estimated cost savings for both the County and employees would be \$14,300 if office call copays are increased from \$10 to \$25 and an additional \$17,500 of cost savings if deductibles are increased for single plans from \$750 to \$1500 and family plans increased from \$1500 to \$3000. Faber stated that the industry standard for deductibles is \$1500 and suggested that simply increasing premiums causes every employee to pay whereas an increase in deductibles shifts the burden of increased costs more proportionately to those employees who are causing the premium increase because of higher claims. Leeds reviewed the changes to the County's self-funding portion of employee health benefits with those in attendance and asked for questions or concerns. Walker reiterated that the County is not changing any benefits provided in the current Wellmark health insurance policy; but changing the level of buy down provided through the County's self-funding of employee office calls, deductibles, and out of pocket expenses. Walker explained that the County will now be sharing the ACA costs with employees by adding it to the monthly premium and using the 30/70 formula. Bush asked Chad Brown and Lindsay Bressler, employee insurance committee representatives, if there was support for the supervisors to raise the cost to employees' for office calls and deductibles. Brown confirmed that the committee

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suggested increases in deductibles and office calls as a good way of controlling health care costs. Bush noted that health insurance premiums will still go up but the County can lessen the impact for employees and the County's budget by getting the deductibles raised.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Bush to change the self-funded benefit that the County provides to employees to reflect a deductible change from \$750 to \$1,500 for single plans; from \$1,500 to \$3,000 for family plans; out of pocket maximums changed from \$1,500 single/\$3,000 family to \$3,000/\$6,000 respectively; and office call copay from \$10 to \$25 effective with July 1, 2014 coverage. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to approve a \$4,348.58 final pay out of vacation and hours worked for Chuck Baumann, Secondary Roads Maintainer Operator. Motion carried.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to approve a \$7,203.60 final pay out of vacation and hours worked for Chuck Erickson, Secondary Roads Maintainer Operator. Motion carried.

Chairman Leeds reviewed delivery envelopes from three entities which responded to a Request For Proposal (RFP) sent out by the Cherokee County Board of Supervisors on November 26, 2013 for auditing services relating to the audit of Cherokee County for the three years ending June 30, 2016. The RFP stated that sealed proposals would be accepted until 4:30 p.m., January 10, 2014, at the office of the County Auditor in Cherokee, Iowa. Leeds opened proposals from Hunzelman, Putzier & Co., PLC and Williams & Company P.C. that had been received by the deadline. A proposal from the Auditor of State was not received before the deadline and therefore was not opened by the supervisors. No action was taken to allow time for evaluation of the proposals by the supervisors.

Dave Shanahan, County Engineer, presented a contract and contractor's bid bond for consideration.

Motion by Walker, seconded by Mongan to approve a contract and bid bond with Graves Construction for the Farm to Market bridge replacement project #FM-CO18(68)--55-18 on C25 east of M21 in Afton Township. Motion carried.

Dave Shanahan requested a closed session to conduct his annual job evaluation.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Bush to go into closed session per Iowa Code Section 21.5(i) "*To evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session.*" Roll call vote: Simonsen-aye, Mongan-aye, Bush-aye, Walker-aye, Leeds-aye. Session was closed at 11:35 a.m. Regular session resumed at 12:45 p.m. with no action resulting from the closed session.

Chairman Leeds recessed the meeting at 1:10 p.m. Meeting resumed at 7:00 p.m. for budget review with all members present. David Fordyce, Cherokee County Farm Bureau President, was also in attendance. There were no representatives from the press.

The supervisors reviewed non-departmental budgets and discussed potential fiscal year end cash balances for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015.

There being no further business, Chairman Leeds adjourned the meeting at 9:22 p.m.

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

Attest: _____

Mark Leeds, Chairman

Kris Glienke, County Auditor