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FOR THE YEAR 2015  
BOARD OF SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK  
CHEROKEE COUNTY, IOWA  
APRIL 14, 2015

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The Cherokee County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Tuesday, April 14, 2015 with Dennis Bush, Jim Peck, Jeff Simonsen, Rick Mongan, and Gary Lundquist present. Ken Ross, *Chronicle Times*, represented the press. Dave Scott, Jeff Friedrichsen, Stu Hogg, and Brandon Billings were also in attendance. Unless otherwise indicated, all votes were offered as follows: Ayes - Simonsen, Mongan, Lundquist, Peck, Bush; Nays – none; Abstentions – none.

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

Motion by Lundquist, seconded by Peck to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Simonsen 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 Murphy, County Recorder, presented a quarterly revenue report for consideration.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to approve a \$53,462,87 March 31, 2015 Recorder's Quarterly Revenue Report including \$19,518.62 of funds retained by the County. Motion carried.

Matt Susemihl, Bixenman Insurance, gave an informative update on the County's renewal process for liability, property, and vehicle insurance coverage.

Brandon Billings, Assistant Engineer, presented construction documents and employee authorizations for consideration.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Peck to accept a \$460,126.30 bid from Graves Construction that was previously let at the Ames DOT office for bridge replacement project #BROS-CO18(70)--5F-18. Motion carried.

Consideration of a coversheet for BROS-CO18(66)--5F-18 was tabled until Billings has made corrections to the document.

Motion by Mongan, seconded by Simonsen to authorize a \$24.50 wage authorization for Joel Anderson, Engineer's Construction Project Manager, effective April 13, 2015 with a 50 cent increase on July 1, 2015. Motion carried.

Billings discussed proposed purchases of new equipment and reported that he will work with vendors to obtain bids and will present his recommendations to the supervisors at a later date. Simonsen advised Billings to work with Road Superintendent Larry Walker to review specs and bids for equipment purchases.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Lundquist to approve an underground utility permit for Peoples Telephone in Section 9 of Diamond Township. Motion carried.

Motion by Peck, seconded by Mongan to approve a \$7,043.46 final payout to James Egger, Secondary Roads Operator, for hours worked, vacation, comp, personal days and longevity pay. Motion carried.

Sheriff Dave Scott requested an embargo on 480<sup>th</sup> Street east from the City of Marcus to address traffic concerns caused by a detour on Highway 3. Billings indicated he was aware of the situation and will research the process required to impose and enforce an embargo on rural county roads.

A request for property tax suspension and Notice of Decision from the Department of Human Services was reviewed.

Motion by Peck, seconded by Simonsen to deny a request for property tax suspension under Iowa Code 427.9 for parcel #941411230006 due to the applicant not being the current owner of the property. Motion carried.

The supervisors reviewed documents for utility work related to the Law Enforcement Center project.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to authorize the Chairman to sign a Letter of Intent to Grant Overhead and Underground Electric Easements to MidAmerican Energy Company at 111 and 117 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street in Cherokee, Iowa. Motion carried.

Motion by Lundquist, seconded by Peck to approve an Electric Distribution Extension Agreement with MidAmerican Energy Company and \$13,132.15 Non-Refundable Contribution in Aid of Construction at 111 North 5<sup>th</sup> Street, Cherokee, Iowa. Motion carried.

Jeff Friedrichsen, Chief Deputy, gave a progress report of the Law Enforcement Center renovation project. Several minor changes to the contract have been implemented as a cost saving measure, however, additional electronic requirements for the jail were not included in the original contract. Funding of those items are yet to be determined.

Rick Angell, Wellmark Blue Cross and Blue Shield Representative, presented Cherokee County's annual health insurance renewal

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Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Peck to approve the July 1, 2015 renewal of Wellmark Plan 1Y5/1X9 Plus (\$4,000/\$8,000 deductible; \$6,350/\$12,700 out of pocket maximum; \$30 office visit co-pay) including a 0% premium increase. Motion carried.

In an effort to reduce annual premium increases and to maintain affordable health benefits for employees; Cherokee County purchases a higher deductible health insurance plan and partially self-funds a buy down of deductibles, out of pocket maximums, and office visit co-pay costs. Terms of the County provided health benefit plan apply to all employees including union, non-union, and elected officials.

Motion by Simonsen, seconded by Mongan to approve a continuation of the current employee health benefit package with no changes for July 1, 2015 coverage which provides a \$1,000/\$2,000 deductible; \$2,000/\$4,000 out of pocket maximum; \$25 office visit co-pay; and 25/75 cost sharing as follows: \$575.42 single policy cost per month (\$143.86 employee/\$431.56 employer) and \$1,456.85 family policy cost per month (\$364.21 employee/\$1,092.64 employer). Motion carried.

The supervisors provided a brief overview of recent committee meetings.

There being no further business, Chairman Bush adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

All board agendas and minutes are available online at [www.cherokeecountyiowa.com](http://www.cherokeecountyiowa.com).

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Dennis Bush, Chairman

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kris Glienke, County Auditor