

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD ON February 23, 2021.

With limited public access to the courthouse due to COVID-19, this meeting was held telephonically with the public able to participate on a limited basis. This complies with Iowa Code section 21.8 that outlines the guidelines to hold an electronic meeting when there are valid concerns that an in-person meeting is “impossible or impractical”.

Meeting called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Chairman Greg Barnett with members Rusty Eddy and Tom Heidenwirth present. Moved by Heidenwirth, second by Eddy to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes of the February 10, 2021 special meeting were read. Moved by Barnett, second by Eddy to approve the minutes as read. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes of the February 16, 2021 regular meeting were read. Moved by Heidenwirth, second by Eddy to approve the minutes as read. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes of the February 17, 2021 special meeting were read. Moved by Eddy, second by Heidenwirth to approve the minutes as read. All ayes. Motion carried.

During public comment EMA Coordinator Chris Showalter thanked Public Health and expressed appreciation for all the hard work involved with all the vaccination clinics.

Public Health Director, Jennifer Becker, shared there were 10 new cases, 2 recoveries, no hospitalizations and no deaths this week. Becker stated as of today we had a 2.7% positivity rate and commented that schools’ positivity rate was missing from the state’s public website but that she was able to retrieve it from her Public Health access. Becker confirmed A-P School District vaccinations were completed last Wednesday afternoon and that everything went smoothly and they completed 104 shots in three hours. Public Health is now scheduling boost clinics for the school districts beginning March 11, 2021. Becker confirmed we have 2 clinics scheduled for February 26th and February 27th, but that we are dependent on a vaccine shipment this week to hold those clinics. Becker explained because of the extreme weather in the country last week that they did not receive vaccine as the FedEx delivery is based out of a hub in Texas. Becker explained they normally receive a box of vaccine supplies delivered the day before each box of vaccine, and since FedEx delivered 4 boxes of supplies on Monday, they are hopeful the vaccine will follow. Barnett asked about the current active cases and Becker stated she doesn’t know that exact figure, but would guess it was less than one hundred. Becker confirmed we are continuing to receive and administer the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, and in the future the Johnson & Johnson vaccine may come, but that we will never receive the Pfizer vaccine due to its storage requirements. Becker confirmed the Johnson & Johnson vaccine would be a one dose shot which could potentially cause additional administration confusion.

Auditor Leslie Groen questioned the continued use of the ‘limited public access’ wording being used on the agendas and minutes. Groen would prefer to update the wording to clarify the board meeting are being conducted in-person with an available Zoom option. Becker explained we still want to maintain social distancing guidelines within the meeting space and Barnett suggested still including wording to call ahead if wanting to attend the meeting in-person. Heidenwirth asked when we felt we would discontinue Zoom meeting options and consensus was that we may always have the Zoom option available. Eddy felt that we have only had a few instances where meetings met capacity and those situations were handled by moving people in and out of the meeting room for allotted agenda items. Groen will create an updated meeting notice based on the everyone’s suggestions and share with everyone for feedback and approval.

Groen explained she would like to include a budget discussion agenda item each week based on suggestions she has received from other auditors. Groen explained adding the agenda item would ensure budget discussions and possible action are addressed in a timely manner. Supervisors agreed this would be a good idea during the budget season. Barnett asked Groen how other county auditors are doing during this budget season. Groen explained some auditors she spoke with were having to exceed the basic levy limits for the first time. In addition, there are a lot of new auditors this year and Groen felt we were somewhere in the middle of the group getting through the county budgets. Barnett commented it was nice to hear we are not alone and other counties have common issues.

Moved by Heidenwirth, second by Barnett to approve claims. All ayes. Motion carried. Barnett had a vendor question regarding claims and Sara Trepp provided explanation.

Moved by Heidenwirth, second by Eddy to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:42 A.M. to March 2, 2021 at 9:00 A.M. Motion carried.

The above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes and proceedings of a regular adjourned meeting of the Board of Supervisors of Butler County, Iowa on February 23, 2021.

Attest: _____
Butler County Auditor

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors