

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BUTLER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS HELD ON March 30, 2021.

With social distancing guidelines being maintained at in-person meetings, an electronic participation option is made available. 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 Eddy second by Heidenwirth to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read. Motioned by Barnett, second by Eddy to approve the minutes as read. All ayes. Motion carried.

Eddy presented a public comment call he received from an individual regarding a T55 bridge, south of Unverferth Manufacturing, with a big bump. County Engineer, John Riherd, shared that bridge is scheduled for replacement and is difficult to hold a cold patch, but they will take another look with the weather warming up to see what can be done. Eddy mentioned an additional call from the City of New Hartford concerning the flood gate that is gone. Riherd confirmed he removed the gate and brought it back to Allison. Riherd said he had an understanding the gate would be used for flooding concerns, yet it had been down since last week when it should not have even been in place right now. New Hartford City Clerk, Shawna Hagen, was present in-person and stated the city felt they could control this gate and were using it to control all water issues, not just flooding. Riherd explained the county cannot block a culvert under a roadway under normal conditions and hopes a meeting can be scheduled to finalize a plan between the Grassley family as landowners and the City of New Hartford regarding the emergency use of the gate to block water flow under the culvert. Hagen and the City of New Hartford remain concerned the town is taking on the water when there is a means to divert the water to a field. Riherd shared that attorneys for the landowners have recently looked at the area and felt they are looking at what constitutes as an emergency flood condition versus normal water diversion. Eddy expressed concern that the landowners are not being reasonable regarding diverting water from the city and he feels if the water can be diverted to avoid a town then it should be. Barnett mentioned he felt the Grassleys do not want any harm to the city and Heidenwirth mentioned farmland owners do not want water dumping on them either. There was an agreement in place in the 1970s regarding this issue and Eddy said farm practices have changed in the last 50 years and he feels the Grassley family is more worried about their farmland than the City of New Hartford. Barnett suggested having a meeting outside of the board meeting to bring it back to the board, and he thanked Hagen for attending.

Time set for Public Hearing on FY22 Proposed Budget. No taxpayers were present in person and no written or oral comments were received. Motioned by Heidenwirth, second by Eddy to close the public hearing. All ayes. Motion carried.

Upon close of the Public Hearing on FY22 Proposed Budget, it was motioned by Heidenwirth, second by Barnett to approve Resolution #983 as follows:

RESOLUTION #983

**ADOPTION OF BUDGET & CERTIFICATION OF TAXES
Fiscal Year July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022**

At the meeting of the Board of Supervisors of this County, held after public hearing as required by law on March 30, 2021, the proposed budget for July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022, was approved and adopted as summarized and tax levies were approved for all taxable property of this County.

The property tax levies on the adopted budget will be levied as follows:

General Basic	3.50000
General Supplemental	1.26692
MH-DD Services Fund	0.45491
Debt Service	0.60760
Rural Services	3.75000

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the motion was carried.

Upon Roll call the vote thereon was as follows: AYES: Tom Heidenwirth NAYS: None
Greg Barnett
Rusty Eddy

Said FY2022 Butler County Budget was duly adopted this 30th day of March 2021.

Greg Barnett,
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:
Leslie Groen, Butler County Auditor

Riherd presented a retirement plaque to Dave Becker, shared his work history with the county and that he will be missed, but was excited celebrate Becker’s 25 years with the county.

Public Health Director, Jennifer Becker, shared current COVID-19 updates including 5 new cases, 6 recoveries, no hospitalizations or deaths and current positivity rate is 1.4%. Becker shared there still has no word on Johnson and Johnson vaccine and that they have continued to receive the same allocation of 300 doses per week since the end of January even though the state was to start increasing allocations. Becker explained that as of Monday they have now opened up to anyone over the age of 18 regardless of health status but Becker is not sure how they can accomplish that without any additional allocation of vaccine. Public Health is working to complete Tier 1B before moving on. Becker explained they are doing a large boost clinic today but did not schedule a prime clinic this Friday. Public Health is also looking to schedule evening and Saturday clinics to accommodate the 18 years and older population. Becker also shared she has provided her concern that our Public Health department is having trouble getting Johnson and Johnson vaccine when larger counties with larger manufacturers are getting.

Years of Service Awards were passed out, and Jennifer Becker recognized the following Public Health employees who were all unavailable: Tammy Fleshner –35 years, Mary Hinders – 30 years, and Cynthia Dewitt – 15 years. John Riherd passed out Years of Service Awards to the following Secondary Roads department employees: Nick Koenen – 10 years, Mike Nevenhoven – 10 years, Dwight Peterson – 20 years, Tom Hoodjer – 20 years, Danny Bohlen – 20 years, Russell Seehusen – 30 years, and Craig Frevert – 45 years. Barnett recognized the following Sheriff Department employees who were all unavailable: Jason Johnson – 25 years, Amy Fehlberg – 20 years, Timothy Joebgen – 10 years, and Reid Menken – 10 years. Barnett also recognized Angela Freese – 10 years in the Treasurer’s office and Tom Heidenwirth for 10 years as County Supervisor.

Butler County Assessor, Michele Schultz, shared that assessment notices are being mailed and values are going up in Butler County. Ag Land is going up 7% based on a five-year productivity formula. Schultz also shared residential values are going up 11% with nothing on land, only on houses. Schultz confirmed the changes were due to the market, low interest rates, and supply and demand.

Motioned by Barnett, second by Eddy to approve claims. All ayes. Motion carried.

Board acknowledged receipt of Manure Management Plan Annual Updates for Plan C&T Pork, Kpoppens 290th Finisher Farm, Fink Finisher Farm, Eberline, and MMP Short Form for Annual Update for Christensen Farms & Feedlots Inc.

Motioned by Barnett, second by Heidenwirth to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:30 A.M. to April 6, 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 March 30, 2021.

Attest: _____
Butler County Auditor

Chairman of the Board of Supervisors