

The Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. February 2, 2021 with the following members present: Bell, Gaul, Kaufmann, Smith, and Chairperson Agne. Members of the public were also present.

The Board viewed correspondence from various agencies.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence from:  
Veterans Affairs Service Officer Hamann submitted the January reports and minutes from December 16, 2020 meeting.  
River Bend Transit submitted June 30, 2019 & 2020 Financial Statements.

Manure Management Annual Updates submitted by:  
Hermiston Farms Inc. #62808, 1522 Yankee Ave., New Liberty

It was noted the following Handwritten Disbursement was issued on January 29, 2021 to the Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #426095 for \$2,792.72-self funded medical claims.

Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Gaul to approve the agenda.  
Ayes: All

Chairperson Agne addressed the public for comments and there were none.

Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Smith to approve the Board Minutes of January 28, 2021.  
Ayes: All

The Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.

At 8:31 a.m. Mike Galloway, Ahlers & Cooney P.C. was called to discuss the Compensation Board recommendations for the Elected Officials. Those in attendance were Recorder Bahnsen, Sheriff Wethington and Treasurer Delaney. Sup. Kaufmann stated he has two goals, 1) to be competitive based on other counties our size and 2) be in a place to maintain. Galloway stated he does not make the recommendations to the Compensation Board; he only supplied the salary data of five up and five down of the surrounding counties which is important to look at so Cedar County stays competitive and not necessarily to achieve to those levels. Galloway furthered discussed the trend he is seeing across the state is around 2 – 3%, although he is seeing higher in some counties that need to adjust the salaries. Galloway stated the County has been a very good manager of salaries and have not expended money for years, so it is time to reset, set the pace and keep an eye on it. Sup. Gaul asked Galloway how many Board of Supervisors follow the recommendation from the Compensation Board? Galloway replied about 50/50, depends on how the Compensation Board responded, whether it is reasonable, recognizable and it is a hard projection on any given year. Galloway reminded the Board that the Compensation Board responsibility is to set the salaries on the data, not to consider all the factors, for example county finances. The Board of Supervisors make that decision based on finances. The Board thanked Galloway for his time and the call concluded.

At 9:00 a.m., the Board held their monthly department head meeting. Those in attendance and providing an update on their department were Sheriff Wethington, Recorder Bahnsen, GIS Teut, Treasurer Delaney, Engineer Fangmann, Assessor Marx, Environmental & Zoning Director LaRue, IT Director Cahoy, CPC Director Tischuk, Conservation Director Dauber, Public Health Director Walker and Auditor Dauber.

HIPAA Compliance Officer Tischuk met with the Board to provide an update on the HIPAA concerns regarding the Square Space Scheduling Program the Public Health is requesting to utilize for scheduling COVID vaccines. Public Health Director Walker, I.T. Director Cahoy and Public Health Preparedness Director Butler were present. Tischuk provided the Board with the compliance issues, regarding access and security for all the private health information due to the program being web based and Square Space denying to sign the County Business Associate Agreement. Tischuk consulted with Roger Shindell, CAROSH Compliance Solutions and

Assistant County Attorney Blank. Discussion was held. Walker informed the Board that her staff is stressed, overwhelmed by the hundreds of phone calls and the verbal abuse from the public and needs a program to assist in scheduling. Sup. Kaufmann understood Walker's frustration although Tischuk concerns are valid and Square Space needs to provide these answers. Butler stated other counties are using this software. Sup. Agne requested Walker to provide the counties that are utilizing this software so Tischuk can follow up on the HIPPA requirements with those counties. Further discussion was held regarding the phone calls the department are receiving. Sup. Bell suggested a call center and hiring temporary employees to answer the calls so it would free up the staff's time to perform their daily work. Butler stated the public is very upset when we do not have the capability to schedule vaccines. Sup. Kaufmann stated you do not have to take that; you inform the caller you are going to hang up. Walker stated you do not know what it feels like and it is hard to walk away. The Board asked Walker if any emergency meetings have been held with the Board of Health relating to these concerns. Walker stated she was hired as Director to resolve these problems. More discussion was held on contacting the Public Health ISAC Affiliate group to obtain information regarding what other counties are using for scheduling purposes. Walker and Butler were not aware of such a group. Sup. Smith provided Walker the name to contact that oversees the Public Health Affiliate group. The Board consensus was they would allow a budget amendment if needed so Walker could hire temporary employees to assist answering the phones. The Board asked Walker to report back before the Board leaves today with an update regarding the counties that utilize Square Space. Auditor Dauber sent a message to her fellow Auditors requesting the software their Public Health Department is utilizing. Dauber will forward the information as it becomes available.

Moved by Sup. Gaul seconded by Sup. Bell to award the projects and approve the funding for the Cedar County Veterans Graves Grant, as presented by Sup. Kaufmann.

Ayes: All

Discussion was held regarding the funding for the Lower Cedar Watershed. Sup. Bell stated there is no plan in place for funding although any increase would be appreciated. Current funding is \$1,000.

Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Smith to approve an increase of \$1,000 for FY 21/22 funding for the Lower Cedar Watershed, total funding is \$2,000.

Ayes: All

Discussion was held regarding the funding for the Home Base Iowa Program. Sup. Bell stated C.C.E.D.C.O. would operate the program and would submit a claim to the Auditor's Office for payment. The \$7,500 is the maximum funding per year and if the money is not spent it will roll over to next year. The Board stated this is super for our Cedar County Veteran's.

Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Agne to approve the FY 21/22 funding for the Home Base Iowa Program from \$0 to \$7,500.

Ayes: All

Discussion was held regarding the cost of living for employees. Auditor Dauber stated the actual cost of living was 1.05% and departments budgeted 1.5%, as instructed.

Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Agne to approve a 1.5% cost of living increase for all non-union employees.

Ayes: All

The Board continued regarding the Elected Official salaries. Auditor Dauber read the recommendation to the Board, increases of 5% for the County Treasurer, 6% for the County Auditor and Recorder, 8.45% for the County Sheriff, 4% for the County Attorney and 3% for the Board of Supervisors. Sup. Agne stated the Compensation Board did as we asked them too. Sup. Kaufmann agreed and said the Board has been talking for three years about the increase in salaries. Sup. Bell agreed although stated it just is not good timing with COVID, this looks bad. Sup. Kaufmann stated if the Board would have dealt with this last year, they could have just maintained this year. Sup. Bell added there have been new members on the Compensation Board and were educated and worked with the Galloway this year. Sup. Agne agreed and stated the County has a HR person everyone can trust. Sup. Bell stated theoretically, we should be at a

point of maintaining for the future years. Sup. Kaufmann agreed and stated this is the closest to an actual plan due to the cooperation of the Board, Galloway, and Compensation Board.

Moved by Sup. Gaul seconded by Sup. Kaufmann to approve the recommendation from the Compensation Board, except for the Board of Supervisors recommendation is reduced by 50%.  
Ayes: All

Sup. Kaufmann requested Auditor Dauber to send an email to the Compensation Board Representatives and inform them of the action taken by the Board of Supervisors and we should only need to be maintaining in the future years.

Auditor Dauber reviewed the Proposed Property Tax Levy notice. Dauber explained the General Basic and General Supplemental has an overall increase of expenditures of 2.87% from last year, or \$189,684. Although the levies are not increasing due to the growth in valuation. The Rural Service Levy will be decreasing from 3.29 to 3.10, a reduction of 19 cents. Dauber will publish the notice in next week's newspapers.

Moved by Sup. Bell seconded by Sup. Kaufmann to set the public hearing for February 23, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.  
Ayes: All

Engineer Fangmann met with the Board to request approval for a 28E Agreement for contracting of Consulting Services with HDR Consultants for the Rochester Bridge, 2021 Build Grant Application between counties. Fangmann informed the Board the total cost for services to compile and complete the grant is \$108,327, with the county responsible for \$13,541.

Moved by Sup. Bell seconded by Sup. Kaufmann to approve the resolution and allow Chairperson Agne to sign the 28E Agreement for Contracting of Consultant Services for the Preparation and Submittal of the 2021 BUILD Grant Application.  
Ayes: All

Engineer Fangmann presented the 2021 Right of Way Purchase Resolution. Discussion was held.

#### RESOLUTION

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bell that the following policy be established for purchase of right-of-way easements for 2021.

1. Bare land purchased at 5.0 times the assessed value.
2. Cedar County will pay for replacement of existing fence in good repair at the time of acquisition of the right of way at the rate of \$35.00 per rod to be measured along the new right of way line.
3. Damages and other items to be considered on an individual basis.

Approved this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of February 2021.  
Ayes: All

Chairperson Agne asked if there is any other business to go in front of the Board. Sup. Kaufmann requested Auditor Dauber to contact Public Health Director Walker to ask if she had an update before the Board adjourned. Dauber could not contact her via phone, so Sup. Gaul proceeded to the Public Health Office. Gaul returned and informed the Board that Director Walker had no update to provide the Board.

Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Bell to adjourn at 12:00 p.m., to February 9, 2021.  
Ayes: All

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Cari A. Dauber, Auditor

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Steve Agne, Chairperson