

February 24, 2022

Board met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present Merle Doty, Diana Dawley, and Jason Roudabush.

Chairman Dawley led the pledge of allegiance.

Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Doty to approve agenda. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Doty, 2nd by Roudabush to approve February 21, 2022, board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Doty to approve the following liquor licenses:

- Brooklyn-Victor County Club, 6-month, Class C Liquor License
- TA Operating LLC, 12-month, Class C Beer Permit

3 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Doty, 2nd by Roudabush to approve the updated General Assistance Guidelines, revising rent assistance to include lot rent. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Doty, 2nd by Roudabush to award contact for F35 resurfacing Project No. FM-CO79(65)—55-79 to Manatt's with low bid \$3,107,635.73 and authorize Diana Dawley to sign documents when presented. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Board received MMP Annual Update for C Bates Farm.

9:00 a.m. County employees met with board to discuss the wages of county employees and to request more than the 5% approved by the board. Present: Jared McCain, Sammy Kuntz, Rick Warden, Tanner Meldrem, Greg Reedy, Matt Maschmann, Steve Kivi, Laura Tish, Mark Vavroch, Amy Stevenson, Brenda Sutfin, Sierra Maschmann, Kay Latcham, Sandy Ross, Kristin Davidson, Ashley Fallis, Megan Tindle, Corey Simpson, Lora Wyckoff, Dianna Longhenry. Sutfin asked the board how they came to the decision to approve a 5% increase for non-contract county employees. Dawley stated they reached out to other counties to see what they were approving. Sutfin stated that times have changed, and she feels 5% is not enough and especially for those employees making a lower hourly rate. Sutfin stated the county has good employees that take pride in their work and feel with inflation raises should be more. Doty says he has sympathy for the employees and appreciates the employees, but it is not that easy to do more when we are not a private company but a governmental entity relying on taxpayer money. Sutfin stated that if the compensation board based their recommendation on getting elected officials up to state average, wouldn't that mean the employees under them are not at state average. Roudabush feels 5% is a good raise and the county cannot make up increases in pay in one year but rather over several years. Roudabush further stated in past years the increases have not been more than 2 ½ and feels doubling to 5% is fair. Stevenson stated the county needs to keep their dedicated employees and the starting wage for county position is low. Dawley stated that employees need to also look at the benefits, specifically the health insurance. For years, the county has not increased the employee portion of health insurance and the county has been absorbing the increases in insurance premiums. Dawley stated that employees should speak to their department head if they feel they deserve a higher increase, and the department head can present to the board during budget time. The budget for FY23 has already been proposed. Vavroch expressed concern that his department is falling behind the average wages. Employees questioned the board taking a 7.5% increase but only approving a 5% for the employees. Board stated their salaries are recommended by the compensation board. Board thanked the employees for attending the meeting and expressing their thoughts and concerns.

Roudabush stated he attended the E911 board meeting this week.

10:51 a.m. Moved by Doty, 2nd by Roudabush to adjourn. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor

Diana Dawley, Chairman