

August 22, 2022

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

Chairman Dawley led the pledge of allegiance.

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

8:30 a.m. Sandy Ross, Treasurer met with board to present a request for tax abatement from Grinnell-Newburg Community School. Grinnell-Newburg Community School contacted Sandy Ross, Treasurer requesting the abatement of property taxes for parcels: 3111100, 3111200, 3136900, 3137200, 3231800, 3231900 stating the parcels were purchased by the district for options as a future school development site. The school states that status has changed, and the property is currently listed for sale. Chairman Dawley stated that when the school requested the abatement last year, the board stated that would be the last abatement approved and Dawley further stated she voted against the abatement last year and would not be in favor of it this year. Roudabush and Doty agreed that they would not be in favor of another abatement and that it was relayed to the school last year that would be the last approved abatement. Information reflecting boards decision last year is documented in the minutes as well as Resolution #2022-13 wherein it is stated that there will be no further tax abatements relating to this property owned by the school. It was moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Doty to deny the request for abatement of taxes by Grinnell-Newburg Community School. Doty – aye; Dawley – aye; Roudabush – aye. Motion carried.

Moved by Doty, 2nd by Roudabush to approve August 19, 2022, Poweshiek County Payroll for \$268,608.79. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Auditor Eilander presented the board with Auditor of State representation letter provided in connection with testing procedures performed regarding use of HAVA funds during 2020 Primary & General Elections. Auditor Eilander had signed the letter but wanted to request Chairman Dawley to also sign letter acknowledging the testing performed.

Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Doty to approve August 15, 2022, board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

9:00 a.m. Mark Vavroch, Conservation Director met with board for monthly meeting. Vavroch also requested tax abatement for parcel 1857800 purchased in December 2020. There was not any pro-ration of taxes completed at the time of this land transfer. The board felt it appropriate to abate the taxes for this parcel for the 2021 values payable 2022/2023. Moved by Doty, 2nd by Roudabush to approve tax abatement for parcel 1857800 for 2021 values payable 2022/2023. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

9:30 a.m. Aaron Wagner and Jordan Scheibel, Welcoming Communities Central Iowa met with board to discuss an ARPA request for “excluded/essential worker fund”. They are requesting funds to provide a one-time bonus of \$1,200 for meat packing workers determined to be “essential workers” by the State of Iowa during the pandemic and were not eligible for federal COVID-19 stimulus relief payments. They are asking for \$72,000 of available ARPA funds, to be disbursed at \$1,200 per eligible worker, to 60 eligible Poweshiek County workers who did not otherwise qualify for COVID-19 stimulus checks. Dawley stated that they would need to submit the ARPA application and then it would be presented to the ARPA committee. Mr. Wagner stated he had submitted the application. Auditor Eilander stated she anticipates that the committee will meet sometime in September to review the applications.

Board discussed the farm lease agreements for the county owned farm ground located in Jackson Township and Malcom Township. Auditor Eilander stated the McCains had requested a one-year extension to their lease agreement. Dawley and Roudabush stated they had been contacted by an individual interested in renting the farm ground. Board felt since there was interest from other individuals to rent the ground that they would place the ground for bid again this year. Board advised Auditor Eilander to send termination of farm lease agreement to the tenants and to place notice in the papers and website regarding date and time for public auction of farm ground rent. Public auction will be held September 15, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the boardroom, courthouse.

10:00 a.m. Mark Vavroch, Conservation Director; Lyle Brehm, Engineer; and Ed Kline, Road Maintenance Supervisor met with board to discuss IRVM roadside conservation. Vavroch spoke how it is sometimes difficult for

employees to share job positions and determine how much time is spent on each position. Vavroch stated his board will discuss the replacement of Corey Simpson, who provided his resignation as park ranger, weed commissioner, and IRVM roadside. Brehm stated the county does need a weed commissioner and IRVM roadside but didn't know if his department was the best fit for that individual or if it would be a full-time position. Brehm stated perhaps this individual could also assist with mowing, brush cutting and snow blading. Doty felt it would be a good fit for the road department. Board asked for Vavroch and Brehm to discuss together possible solutions and to see what other counties do and then meet back with the board for further discussion.

10:32 a.m. Moved by Doty, 2nd by Roudabush to adjourn. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor

Diana Dawley, Chairman