

October 24, 2024

The board met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present Diana Dawley and Jeff Tindle. Also present Dan Nieland, Pow I-80.

Moved by Tindle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dawley to approve agenda. 2 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Tindle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dawley to approve October 17, 2024, board minutes. 2 ayes. Motion carried.

8:37 a.m. Lyle Brehm, Engineer joined the meeting.

Nieland provided the board with a brief update on economic development and different areas in the entire county he is looking at for development projects. Nieland made an appointment for a future board meeting to provide more details on economic development within the county.

Brehm provided the board with a draft letter to Iowa DOT regarding the board's concerns about the intersection of IA 146 and Highway F62 near Searsboro. Board will approve letter at the next board meeting.

9:00 a.m. Chris Nolte, Veterans Affairs Director met with board for monthly meeting. Nolte provided the board with information regarding the \$6.5 million annually received by veterans within Poweshiek County. Nolte stated this is from pensions, disability payments and benefits for survivors. These funds may be expended by the recipient for any reason. This amount does not include payments made for medical benefits. These are funds coming to residents of Poweshiek County that are spent however the recipient decides.

Nolte also discussed moving to a new location and provided the board with a draft lease agreement to review. Dawley stated that it would need to be a decision by the board of supervisors to approve location for VA office. Nolte stated this location provides furnished offices and would include all utilities. Nolte also stated that the commission is working on a proposal for an additional staff member and Nolte will provide that as part of his FY26 budget request.

9:30 a.m. Mindy Clayton, Abra Dougherty, Nikki Harter with MICA met with the board to provide information on programs provided by MICA. MICA served 2200 individuals in the county during their last fiscal year. Programs offered are:

- Emergency food pantry;
- Head Start which is a 9-month pre-school program for families under the 130% poverty
- Family Connections for prenatal and families with children under the age of 5;
- WIC to provide clinics for supplemental food, meetings with nurse/doctor for wellness checks and nurse support for childcare workers;
- Family Development & Self Sufficiency a home visitation program for low-income families to address basic needs, improve child well-being and develop career opportunities;
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP) to assist low income families in Iowa to meet the cost of home heating by providing a one-time payment to the heating utility

MICA also provides gas vouchers through ministerial association and also milk vouchers.

Every three years a needs assessment is completed and a copy for Poweshiek County was provided to the board showing the top family needs being food, coping with stress & mental health, cost of childcare, and a few resources for families transitioning out of poverty and trying to earn a higher wage. The assessment also showed that only 2.8% of county residents are unemployed, having the highest rate of decline of all MICA's counties in the last year. Assessment also showed that the county has one of the lowest rates of residents without a high school diploma or equivalent in MICA service area, at 5.83%.

Moved by Tindle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dawley to approve October 25, 2024 payroll for \$314,695.71. 2 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Tindle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dawley to approve 2024 weed commissioner report and authorize Diana Dawley, Chairman to sign. 2 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Tindle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dawley to approve 2025 county weed commissioner certification form and authorize Diana Dawley, Chairman to sign. 2 ayes. Motion carried.

Tindle stated he attended the Emergency Management meeting this week. Discussion at that meeting included the FY26 budget and grants for additional outdoor warning system towers.

10:19 a.m. Moved by Tindle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dawley to adjourn. 2 ayes. Motion carried.

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Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor

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Diana Dawley, Chairman