

November 18, 2024

The board met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present Diana Dawley, Jason Roudabush and Jeff Tindle. Also present: Derek Bates, The Record; and Jacki Bolen.

Moved by Roudabush, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tindle to approve agenda. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Tindle, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Roudabush to approve November 13, 2024, board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

8:35 a.m. Dan Nieland, Pow I-80 Director met with the board to provide an economic development update. Nieland asked the board if they had any ideas for discussion relating to economic development. Specifically, Nieland inquired if the board would consider any incentives for new businesses coming into the county. Nieland stated they do have a revolving loan fund to help with gap funding. Roudabush stated the county has provided tax incentives in the past. Dawley stated any incentives for economic development would depend on whether the county had extra money in the budget. Tindle stated if the county did look at any incentives, it would be on a case-by-case basis. Roudabush stated some energy companies offer grants for start-up businesses. Nieland stated Pow I-80 is looking at ways to attract businesses and also sponsoring entrepreneurship programs.

Bolen inquired with the layoff by Jeld-Wen if Nieland pursued a job fair. Nieland stated he did reach out and that the job fair was already in the works through IVCC. Nieland stated that some of those laid off were hired back and he estimated maybe 20 people from Poweshiek County were affected by the layoff in the end.

9:30 a.m. RACOM representatives Duane Vos & Michael Northness met with the board for an overview of the radio project. Also present were Brian Paul, EMA Director, and Joe Meyer, Jail Administrator.

RACOM presented a PowerPoint presentation providing information on the outdoor warning system, tower sites, and coverage. There are 18 outdoor warning systems in the county and some of these are new and some were already in place and had some minimal changes. The sites of the towers were discussed stating the specs on each location. A drive test was completed to test the coverage for mobile, portable, inside homes, and inside more industrial buildings. RACOM at the onset of this project guaranteed 95% coverage. The testing of the entire county for all of these coverage items came in above 95% except for Deep River for the industrial buildings. Northness explained this was due to the initial location of the south tower being relocated to a different location due to a graveyard being within  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile of the proposed location. The new location did help the area of Searsboro but cut more into Deep River. He did note that the area affected was creek bottom areas with no industrial buildings in those locations. He stated the fire station in Deep River has full coverage available. Meyer stated Iowa County has a tower in Millersburg that will also help with the coverage within Deep River. All other testing in Deep River area for the mobile, portable, and inside housing was above 95% coverage. Northness stated they are looking to have the final packet completed and presented for final acceptance by the end of December.

10:22 a.m. Moved by Roudabush, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tindle to adjourn. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

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Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor

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Diana Dawley, Chairman