

Floyd County Board of Supervisors Meeting
August 3, 2020, 5:00 p.m.

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

The Floyd County Board of Supervisors met in the District Court Room of the Floyd County Courthouse with the following in attendance: Supv Roy Schwickerath, Supv Linda Tjaden and Supv Doug Kamm.

Kamm/Tjaden moved to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried 3-0.

Public comment: none.

Updates on various boards/commissions/activities: Supv Tjaden attended three Iowa Workforce Development meetings and several law enforcement center/courthouse project meetings. Supv Kamm attended a landfill meeting and a NIACOG meeting regarding the selection committee to replace the retiring director in December. Supv Schwickerath attended a County Social Services Executive Board and full CSS Board, a TLC meeting, a SW Bypass TIF meeting, and watched the ISAC Legislative webinar.

Update on law enforcement center/courthouse project: Auditor Carr provided an update from Brian Shindelar, Samuels Group Site Superintendent, including roofing work continues, brick on the west side of the elevator is close to topping off, precast panels on the south side are coming on Wednesday, walls in the Sheriff's office are being framed up, plumbers are working on floor drains in the garages, Cole Excavating is working on storm drain basins on the south side, grading work is being done so more floors can be poured this week, electricians are working on underground wiring and will rough in conduit for the unresolved door issues. Supv Tjaden provided an update with building an inventory list and an update on last Thursday's meeting regarding Prochaska's contract. Supv Schwickerath commented about getting a change order for the upsizing of the drainpipe and confirmed that was approved at a prior meeting.

Discussion regarding coronavirus issues: There are 34 active cases of the 126 total confirmed cases in the county. At this time department heads seem to be content with current operations in their respective departments.

Gordon Boge, Coalition for Better County Government representative, presented two handouts: 1) a copy of an article titled "Do County Supervisors Adequately Represent Rural Iowans?" published April 1, 2020 in the Iowa Farm Bureau Spokesman that explains the three plan options for county government and, for plans on districts, how the districts are established; 2) a request on behalf of the Coalition, Farm Bureau and the citizens of Floyd County for the Board to adopt by resolution the submission of the question to expand the number of board members from three two five at the next General Election. Boge mentioned that the Coalition had intended to get a petition to put the question on the ballot but due to COVID-19, it was impossible to obtain the signatures so instead would like the Board to put it on the ballot themselves and let the voters decide. Boge commented that he does not track how many members there are in the Coalition.

John Pearson, Floyd County Farm Bureau president, explained his involvement with the Coalition through an invitation to their meeting about a month ago and was asked for Farm Bureau's endorsement of their initiative. Pearson took information to the local Farm Bureau Board and relayed a message of their appreciation of the relationship they have with the Supervisors and presented their resolution which states, "Relating to changes to county supervisor structures to improve rural representation in all counties, Floyd County supports changes that improve rural representation in all counties. There should not be a separate elected body to make decisions about taxation and expenditures for rural areas." Pearson commented that perhaps that means placing a potential change on the ballot for a vote; we need to make sure a change would support or improve rural representation and feel that placing it on the ballot and if it was passed it would improve and support rural representation. Pearson mentioned that there were 90 responses to the question about the supervisors to their members. The Board meets with Farm Bureau around budget time and Pearson commented that there have been no reports that the Supervisor have done anything wrong.

Public comments include: 1) some saying it should be voted on, 2) current representation is based in Charles City, 3) Coalition members not getting involved in attending in public meetings, 4) complaints of the Board include increases in assessments, taxes going up, and lack of representation on the west side of the county, 5) law enforcement center/courthouse project costs ending up higher than bid, 6) accountability for various road and bridge projects perceived to be done wrong, should be doing traffic studies, issues with weight restricted bridges, and funding projects, 7) frequency of only two board members available for meetings, 8) if the board doesn't put the question on the ballot, it could be forced with a petition, 9) prior board members should have

limited access roads to the Avenue of Saints, 10) being told by someone from the Assessor's office to go to the board of supervisors regarding their increase in valuations, 11) the board making the hospital board a 7-member board instead of five, and 12) a list of candidates interested to serve as a Supervisor could be provided.

Supervisors commented on: 1) pros and cons of supervisors elected at large versus by district, no guarantee that you will have rural representation running for positions and witnessing struggles with 5-member boards including attendance and sometimes district members only watching out for their district not the county as a whole, 2) voting for what each feels is best for everyone in the county and not feeling like outcomes would be different if there were five members, 3) struggling to find rural representation to serve on Zoning Commission and Board of Adjustments, 4) gender balance requirement for appointments to various boards and commissions, 5) lack of attendance at meetings held in other areas of the county, 6) rare public attendance in board meetings to learn about budgeting and county processes, 7) the process of bidding the new law enforcement center that came in over \$4 million higher than the \$13.5 million estimate and downsizing many aspects of the project through value engineering, not accepting bids for alternate projects and will have more tough decision to come, 8) courthouse needs to make the building last, including more efficient windows, replacing aging boiler with a new HVAC system, elevator compliance, ADA bathrooms, and adding a sprinkler system, 9) perpetual costs of wages and benefits for five members verses three, 10) funding for bridges and roads, alignment of bridges having to do more with the stream than with the road, right of way issues sometimes, prioritizing with a 5-year plan, 10) the three supervisors rarely miss meetings and have even participated via phone when out of the county, 11) Dispatch Center coming over to the courthouse, 12) Other than appointing members to the Board of Review, the Supervisors have not jurisdiction over the valuation process, 12) hospital board membership was increased because there was interest in a Farm Bureau member and another person wanting to serve in that capacity; that board can reduce membership to five if they choose to do so, 13) the filing time for papers to run with or without a party for supervisor were due in March, and 13) Supervisors have not always taken a pay increase.

Supv Schwickerath said he finds no reason to put this question on the ballot and as the chair of the Board who sets the agenda, he will only put this on the agenda if either of the other two board members asked him to do so. Supv Tjaden commented that Board members are visiting with citizens all the time, are always considering things that can be done in all areas of the county and feel the three members have done a good job representing the county. Supv Kamm commented that he represents everyone in Floyd County and has never had anyone tell him there should be five members.

Future agenda items: NEIA Workforce Area Shared Liability 28E Agreement and at some time a 28E agreement through NIACOG response commission.

Kamm/Tjaden moved to adjourn. Motion carried 3-0.

ATTEST: _____
Gloria A. Carr
Floyd County Auditor

Roy Schwickerath, Chair
Floyd County Board of Supervisors