

**December 18, 2023**

The Mahaska County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on the above date at 9:00 a.m. in the third-floor conference room of the Mahaska County courthouse. Present were the following board members: Chairman – Mark Groenendyk; Vice chairman – Steve Wanders; and Member – Chuck Webb. Also, present were Darin Hite, IT; Andrew Ritland, County Attorney; Rep. Helena Hayes, Iowa House; Russ Van Renterghem, Sheriff; Shauna Hol, County Treasurer; Troy Bemis, Courthouse Maintenance Director; Chris Clingan, Conservation Director; Ben Hoskinson, IRVM Director; Carter Brehm, Secondary Roads; Channing Rucks, Oskaloosa Herald; Micah Van Mersbergen, Gary and Joyce Wilson and Teri Rogers, County Auditor. This meeting was live streamed by Communications Research Institute of William Penn University.

Chairman Groenendyk opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the agenda for today’s meeting. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Public comments: None

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the minutes from Dec 4<sup>th</sup>. Wanders and Webb voted aye. Groenendyk abstained since he was absent that day. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the minutes from Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the bills in the amount of \$1,480,948.14 for November. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to accept the re-appointments of Dr. Deb DeJong Nielson and Michelle Lahner to the Board of Health for three-year terms. Expiration date will be 12-31-26. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve payroll changes for the Courthouse. Janine Hol resigned effective Oct. 9, 2023, and must be removed from payroll. Kaydee Jackson is the new courthouse custodian and should be added to payroll at \$15.00 per hour for 27 ½ hours per week effective Dec. 4, 2023.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the resolution from Dorsey Whitney relating to the financing of proposed projects to be undertaken by Mahaska County, Iowa; establishing compliance with reimbursement bond regulations under the Internal Revenue Code.

Roll call vote:

- Groenendyk: aye
- Wanders aye
- Webb aye

Motion carried.

Discussion centered around potential pay increases for employees for budgeting purposes and Compensation Board’s recommendation of a 20% increase for elected officials for FY24/25. The

recommendation by Board consensus is to increase the wage for all elected officials by 20% and 3% for all other county employees. If the wage salary is approved, it will override this.

Chairman Groenendyk brought forward discussion of what authority the County has regarding carbon capture pipelines. This topic was discussed at the annual winter insurance meeting earlier this month. Lawsuits are going on in two other counties. Mahaska County's stance will be to let these lawsuits play out and wait until we know what the rules and regulations are going to be before taking any action.

Committee Reports:

- ✚ Member Webb gave three committee reports. The Conservation Commission received the McQuiston Trust grant along with the Strengthening Communities grant for \$97,000. Director Clingan is doing a great job in this area.
- ✚ The SE Iowa Crime Commission approved a 3½ percent wage increase; the vote was 6 to 5 and Mahaska County voted no.
- ✚ The insurance committee reported we have a steady fund balance. It is right where we want it to be. A recommendation should be made to the Board soon.
- ✚ Chair Groenendyk reported that our auto liability / property insurance is going to increase from \$369,000 to approximately \$518,000 for FY24/25.

Public Comments: None

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to adjourn. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Teri Rogers  
Mahaska County Auditor

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Mark Groenendyk  
Mahaska Co. Board of Supervisors