

July 15, 2024

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; Troy Bemis, Maintenance Director; Russ Van Renterghem, Sheriff; Carter Brehm, Secondary Roads; Zach Kauffman, Carrie VandeRee and Teri Rogers, Mahaska County Auditor.

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 of July 1 and July 12. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the bills for June in the amount of \$1,472,298.28. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the following salaries for fiscal year 2024-2025 as set and approved in the adoption of the county budget for 2024-2025 on April 25, 2024. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Elected Officials: Attorney-\$124,948; Auditor-\$77,480; Recorder-\$74,880; Assessor-\$89,373; Sheriff-\$104,443; Supervisors-\$41,607; Treasurer-\$75,920; Attorney's Office - Assistant County Attorney - Cami Eslick-\$76,502; Trevor Rubenzer-\$76,502; Terri Menninga-\$36.78/hour-part time; Administrative Assistants - Jeannette Newendorp-\$60,050; Melissa Brand-\$44,803; Auditor's deputies - Terri Day-\$51,813; Kasey Kauffman-\$47,923; Elections Administration - Michelle Kent-\$49,506; Precinct Election Officials-\$12.50 per hour; Recorder's deputy - Tracey Ver Steegh-\$53,352; Assessor's Deputies - Karla Vaughn-\$67,030, Tamra Steele-\$46,894; GIS Coordinator - Brian Knudtson-\$59,603; Sheriff's Office - Civil Clerk - Renee Simpson-\$58,302; Civil Clerks - Chelsey Johnson-\$37,918; Brandy Greatbatch-\$37,918; Reserve Officer - Brian Jacobson-\$14.00 per hour; Reserve Officer Transporters - \$12.00 per hour; Sheriff's Deputies - James Arment-\$69,226; Ben Johnston-\$88,780; David Wilke-\$70,546; Brandon Husmann-\$63,464; Joey Goemaat-\$66,243; Gary McClun-\$69,226; Chase Patton-\$55,699; Riley Calhoun-\$63,458; Adult Corrections - Jail Administrator-Talisa Voss-\$60,216; Sr. Jailers - Robert Draughn Jr.-\$53,060; Tara Stek-\$51,517; Jailers - Angela Fenton-\$47,649; Kyle Heginger-\$47,649; Jennifer Stoneberg-\$51,517; Crystal Malloy-\$47,649; Khandi Tucker-\$47,649; Kristina Sellers-\$47,649; Megan Tucker-\$47,649; Jonathan Lanser-\$47,649; Amber Luckey-\$47,649; Treasurer's deputies - Treasurer Management Dept - Emily Scholtus-\$53,352; Sarah Hol-\$47,923; Motor

Vehicle License Dept - Tracey Gilliland-\$56,618; Kristyne Ford-\$47,923; Carrie Bowie-\$47,923; Driver's License Dept - Suzy Richards-\$49,360; Jonathon Angove-\$49,360; Information Technology - Darin Hite-\$64,230; Veterans Affairs Director - Curt Grandia-\$48,444; Commission Board members - Joe Durian-\$585; Ted Smith-\$585; Julie Wells-\$585; Kurt Kollasch-\$585; Darrin Alderson-\$585; Conservation Dept - Conservation Director - Chris Clingan-\$69,451; Administrative Assistant - Dorothy Wedgewood-\$46,155; Naturalist - Laura DeCook-\$53,352; Park Rangers - Jason Ryan-\$54,954; Tommy Van Renterghem-\$56,618; Summer Conservation Tech - Charles Figy-\$15 per hour; ELC Attendants - Rosemary Miller-\$15 per hour; Connor Gittings-\$14 per hour; Cindy Bossard-\$15 per hour; Building Maintenance Dept - Maintenance Director - Troy Bemis-\$26.93 per hour (40% law center and 60% courthouse); Law Center Custodian - Jack Griffis-part-time-\$15.75 per hour; Courthouse Custodian - Kaydee Jackson-\$16.87 per hour; ADA Coordinator - Troy Bemis-\$500; Safety Coordinator - Troy Bemis-\$1,200; Environmental Services - Sanitarian - Eric Dursky-\$61,136; General Relief Director PT - Kim Newendorp-\$21,216; CDS-Director - Heather Gross-\$69,591; Roadside Vegetation Management - Roadside Vegetation Manager - Benjamin Hoskinson-\$57,678; Roadside Assistant - Barb VanPatten-\$17.85 per hour part-time; Engineer Office - County Engineer - Andrew McGuire-\$85,456.80; Assistant Engineer - Carter Brehm-\$31.25 per hour; Assistant to the Engineer - Michael Rodwell-\$33.53 per hour; Office Manager - Emily Hefner-\$26.00 per hour; Secondary Road Dept - Road Maintenance Supervisor Ed Goemaat-\$31.91 per hour; Foreman - Scott Gilliland-\$29.41 per hour; Excavator Operators - Cody Padgett-\$27.35 per hour; Shawn Ridenour-\$27.35 per hour; Maintenance Equipment Operators - Chad Bru-\$27.35 per hour; Virgil Patterson-\$27.35 per hour; Russ Darland-\$27.35 per hour; Roger Prins-\$27.35 per hour; Tyler DeRooi-\$27.35 per hour; James McCrea-\$27.35 per hour; Ethan Wanders-\$27.35 per hour; Janitor - Jody Eveland-\$17.37 per hour; Truck Driver - Travis Johnston-\$27.35 per hour; Mechanic Level 1 - Gary Rust-\$28.92 per hour; Jacob Grootveld-\$28.92 per hour; Blade Operators - Andrew Padgett-\$27.35 per hour; Mike Taylor-\$27.35 per hour; Bryan Weber-\$27.35 per hour; Shawn Schippers-\$27.35 per hour; Brad VanderLinder-\$27.35 per hour; Andrew Rust-\$27.35 per hour; Engineering Technician IV- Reid Stevens-\$29.41 per hour; Mitchell Gibb-\$29.41 per hour; Sign Manager - Scott VanGilst-\$27.35 per hour.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to accept the 4th quarter reports from the Auditor, Recorder and Sheriff as well as the semi-annual and annual reports from the Treasurer and the annual report from the Recorder. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was by consent of the Board to approve four payroll changes. It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve two payroll changes for Conservation and two payroll changes for the Sheriff's office. Dorothy Wedgewood will be removed from payroll effective July 5th. Jason Ryan will be removed from payroll effective July 11th. Crystal Malloy will be removed from payroll as a full-time jailer effective July 10th. Ryan Babcock was hired as a full-time Jailer, effective July 24th. His annual salary will be \$47,649.16 (pay grade 14, step 1) and he is subject to a 6-month probationary period. All present vote aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to accept the FY23 Mahaska County Audit report. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the 12-month Class B Retail Alcohol License for Dollar General in New Sharon. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board wanted to put out a reminder for the informational meeting for the public for an update on the progress of the SE Connector project. This meeting will be held Tuesday, July 23rd at 5:30 pm in the Environmental Learning Center.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the Homestead and Homestead 65+ disallowances as recommended by the Assessor for Assessment year 2024. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the preliminary and final plat for the Vander Pol Subdivision. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve Rollin Oldies group use of the courthouse parking lot on Saturday, July 27, 2024. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the establishment of a County Compensation Board. To date they have not received any feedback from any of the elected officials on this topic. They agreed to table this topic until Aug. 5th.

The Board accepted the recommendation of the committee that was put in place two weeks ago to interview candidates to replace the outgoing Maintenance Director, Troy Bemis. It was moved by Groenendyk seconded by Webb to make a conditional offer to Zachary Kauffman pending a background check and drug screening. His start date will be tomorrow, July 16 with a review after 1 week, 30 days, 60 days, and 90-day probationary period. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board considered hiring a full-time custodian for the Courthouse and Annex. It was decided that the budget can't support a full-time custodian.

Chair Groenendyk reported on the HIRP meeting last week. The agreement has some clarifying language in it. It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the Heartland Risk Pool Agreement. All present vote aye. Motion carried.

The Board discussed the benefits of a working safety committee. Each County is required to prove their committee is fully functional and will receive a 10% discount on workman's comp premiums.

The Board discussed adopting a county-wide drug policy. A draft for a drug policy currently exists but has not been implemented since there has been no consensus of the

elected officials. Member Webb recommended a drug screening policy for new employees and for any case of “suspicious” drug or alcohol abuse.

The Board discussed the options for HR for the county. Issues regarding sexual harassment or discrimination should be directed to Paul Greufe. All other issues should be handled by the department head. If they need assistance, Paul Greufe will provide support.

The Board discussed the potential hiring of a part-time Economic Development Director to aid with investing in our smaller cities. New Sharon is very interested in moving forward. By consent of the Board, this topic will be tabled until the next meeting.

Committee Reports:

- ✚ Steve Wanders reported that 10-15 transit spent \$160,000 in free rides for veterans year-to-date. Mahaska County’s share of that is roughly \$20,000. They will not be able to continue this service if they can’t find funding to cover this free service.
- ✚ Mark Groenendyk gave a report regarding changes to the requirements for motor vehicle reviews from last week’s HIRP meeting. Any employee with more than four moving violations within the last three years will not be eligible to be insured by the Risk Pool.

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

Mark Groenendyk – Chairman
Mahaska County Board of Supervisors