

## December 16, 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 Danay Garcia, IT; Zach Kauffman, Maintenance Director; Russ Van Renterghem, Sheriff, Jody Van Patten, County Recorder, John Bandstra and Teri Rogers, Mahaska County Auditor.

Chairman Groenendyk opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Public Comments: None

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the minutes of Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup>. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the Nov. bills in the amount of \$819,731.62. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the Class C Retail Alcohol License for Debbie's Celebration Barn. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the payroll changes for the Recorder's office. Anne De Bruin will be removed from payroll effective Dec. 31, 2024. Rena Shepherd accepted the position of full-time clerk and should be added to payroll effective Dec. 26, 2024. Rena's hourly rate will be \$24.91. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the payroll changes for the Sheriff's office. Kyle Heginger will be removed from payroll effective Dec. 5, 2024. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board acknowledged the resignation of Jody Van Patten as Mahaska County Recorder effective Dec. 31, 2024. Her term in that office officially ends Dec. 31, 2026, but Jody was elected as County Auditor and will begin her new role on Jan. 2, 2025. It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to accept her resignation. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board considered having a meeting on Thursday, Jan. 2, 2025, at 8:00 am. The first meeting of the new year is used for the establishment of the board along with policies and procedures for the next calendar year. With the change in the Recorder's office, no business can be done at the State level until someone has been appointed as County Recorder. It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to schedule the first

Board meeting for Jan. 2, 2025 at 8 am and to fill the County Recorder vacancy by appointment at that meeting. An “intent to appoint” notice must be published in the local paper. The public will have 14 days after the appointment to call for a special election. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to accept the resignation of John Jacobs from the Commission for the Preservation of Pioneer Cemeteries in Mahaska County effective Dec. 20, 2024. They thanked John for his many years of service on this commission. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve Janet Braden as a new member of the Pioneer Cemetery Commission. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

The board considered increasing general liability insurance from 7 million to 10 million. This issue came up at the last HIRP meeting. Insurance carriers are raising rates due to the increased number of claims and increase in replacement costs. Mahaska County currently has a coverage of 7 million dollars. Some counties are already at 10 million and are grandfathered in. A decision will need to be made in the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of 2025. Plan on discussing again during the 2<sup>nd</sup> board meeting in January.

The board considered setting a date for cost-of-living adjustments to the wage compensation plan. It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to set the date of Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> every year to have this information for budget season. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

The board was not able to consider any of the bids because Sheriff Russ Van Renterghem came forward at the meeting and notified the board he had signed a contract for the replacement of the HVAC system 3 weeks prior to the Supervisors having a chance to review and approve any bids. The bid from Excel came in at \$22,798. Russ agreed to pay all of this out of his budget. Therefore, there was no consideration, discussion or action taken.

The board discussed the dangerous animal/dog ordinances. This is currently being worked on between law enforcement, attorney’s office and public health. There is an ordinance out for public input. If anyone has questions, they should contact the county attorney, the sheriff, public health or the BOS. On a separate note, all ordinances must be re-approved every 5 years. All Mahaska County ordinances are up for this approval in the spring of 2025.

#### Committee Reports:

- ✚ Steve has been appointed to the MH board again in Fairfield for 6 months.
- ✚ Mark reported on 911 board meeting held on Dec. 11. So far in this calendar year, Oskaloosa, Leighton, New Sharon and Rose Hill have not contributed anything for 911 services. There will be a joint meeting at noon on Dec. 17, 2024, in the City Council Chamber in City Hall between the Board of

Supervisors and the City Council members to discuss 911 dispatch costs and service.

✚ Mark thanked Teri Rogers for her service to the county as County Auditor during the past two years.

✚ Mark wished everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year. The Courthouse will be closed Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> for Christmas and Jan 1, 2025.

Public comments: None

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

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_

Teri Rogers  
Mahaska County Auditor

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Mark Groenendyk – Chairman  
Mahaska Co. Board of Supervisors