

December 17, 2024

The Mahaska County Board of Supervisors met on the above date at 12:00 p.m. in City Hall in the City Council chamber. Present were the following board members: Chairman – Mark Groenendyk, Vice Chairman – Steve Wanders and Supervisor Chuck Webb. Also present were City Council members Mayor Dave Krutzfeldt, Ronda Almond, Joe Caligiuri, Charlie Comfort, Bob Drost, Lisa Ossian, Abu Ibrahim, Janet Hermsen (via phone), Interim City Manager, Randy DeGeest; City Clerk, Amy Miller; Russ Van Renterghem, Sheriff; Ben Johnston, Deputy Sheriff; Ben Boeke, Police Chief; Scott Vaughn, Fire Chief; Cheryl Eklofe, 911 Director; Patti Sines, Margaret Ratcliffe, Shane Glandon, Daniel Hoy, Mike Mosbey, Jennifer Arriesgado, Alex Valster, Jeff Wilford, Oskaloosa Herald; Stewart Timm and Teri Rogers, County Auditor.

The purpose of this joint meeting between the Mahaska County Board of Supervisors and the Oskaloosa City Council was to discuss how 911 dispatch would be funded in the future. Six options are on the table. There must be some equitable way for taxation. Data was gathered from Marion County in terms of number of dispatchers and what it costs to run their center. Mahaska County’s benefits are greater than what Marion County offers. Mahaska County has annual tower costs that Marion County does not. The consensus was that the service offered by Mahaska County 911 dispatchers is top notch and the goal is to keep that kind of service here.

Two action items were discussed. One is to investigate how a unified law enforcement district would operate and could it open another levy option. The other action item is to consider regionalization/partnership options. Westcom may be something to look at in order to gain a better understanding of how regionalization works, but there must be other counties comparable to the size of Mahaska County that we could gain knowledge from. Director Cheryl Eklofe is currently looking at potential cost-saving measures.

No decisions were made.

Attest: _____
Teri Rogers
Mahaska County Auditor

Mark Groenendyk
Mahaska Co. Board of Supervisors