

March 3, 2025

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 the following: John Bandstra, Doug Stout (Rep Miller-Meeks), Cheryl Eklofe (911 Director), Andrew Ritland (County Attorney), Andrew McGuire (County Engineer), Russ Van Renterghem (Mahaska County Sheriff), Laura Ayala (Deputy Auditor) and Jody Groenendyk (County Auditor).

This meeting was live streamed by the Communications Research Institute of William Penn University.

Supervisor Groenendyk opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

It was moved by Steve Wanders, seconded by Chuck Webb to approve the agenda with item number 6 solar panels discussion with Conservation Director Chris Clingan be removed. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Amanda Van Der Veer had a complaint about the Mahaska County Sheriff's Department regarding the lack of compliance she's received from the Sheriff's Department regarding multiple incidents.

It was moved by Chuck Webb seconded by Steve Wanders to approve the minutes of February 18, 2025. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Chuck Webb, seconded by Steve Wanders to approve the claims for February 2025 in the amount of \$2,445,079.24. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Steve Wanders, seconded by Chuck Webb to approve and authorize signature on an application to be submitted to RPA 15 Surface Transportation Block Grant program for improvements to County Route G29 from Hwy 63 to Oxford Avenue. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussion was held between the board and Mahaska County Sheriff Russ Van Renterghem on how to internally handle county funds 09000 Law Center and 09001 County/City Fund regarding the Grey Water Pipe project. It was the consensus of the board to transfer \$100,000 to fund 09000. The City of Oskaloosa would contribute \$30,600 to be deposited into 09000. Then take the 09001 fund down to \$20,000 Funds to pay for the grease trap and shower drains would need to come from department 51, since that is not maintenance or repair.

Discussion relating to 911 stated that both the City of Oskaloosa and New Sharon will be paying the remaining balance in full.

Discussion relating to Police Protection reported that University Park has contracted with the Oskaloosa Police Department. Keomah Village is yet undecided. It was moved by Steve Wanders, seconded by Chuck Webb to approve the 28E agreements for Police Protection with the cities of Beacon, Fremont, and Rose Hill for FY26. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Groenendyk seconded by Webb to approve the Mahaska County Indigent Resident Burial Assistance Policy and that this policy will be reviewed every January 1. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mahaska County Indigent Resident Burial Assistance

It is the intent of Mahaska County to provide financial assistance to ensure the remains of indigent county residents are handled with dignity and respect. Guidelines for assistance follow.

Mahaska County will pay no more than \$1,800* to in-county funeral directors for the following services:

- Transfer of the deceased from the place of death to the funeral home and/or crematory;
- All preparation of the body required for cremation;
- Cremation;
- A container for the ashes;
- Transportation to the grave site (if necessary);
- Coordination of graveside services only (i.e., no visitation nor service at the Funeral Home or place of worship).

To begin the process, the representative of the deceased or the Funeral Director must apply for assistance from the General Relief Office. Before county assistance is approved, all income, assets and benefits belonging or due to the deceased will be used to pay the costs incurred or County assistance will be denied. In the event any personal funds or benefits of the deceased become available after Mahaska County has paid the expenses, the deceased's representative or Funeral Director shall promptly reimburse the county for assistance provided.

On approval of the application, the General Relief Director will notify the Funeral Director to proceed.** The Funeral Director will acknowledge and accept the limitations of county assistance to provide stated services for the deceased.

Upon completion of their services, Funeral Directors will forward an accounting of the services provided to the General Relief Director, who will submit a purchase order for payment by the county.

Requirements and Restrictions

The deceased must have been a continuous resident of Mahaska County for 12 consecutive months. If not, the County of Legal Settlement will be contacted and must agree to accept complete financial responsibility before assistance will be approved.

No one may contribute funds for any "upgrade" of the services provided. If such funds are accepted, Mahaska County's approval of assistance will be revoked.

The County will not mandate the disposition of the remains but will leave this decision to the next of kin if any.

** In the event the General Relief Director is not available, approval from the Board of Supervisors is required.

This policy becomes effective January 1, 2025

Mark Groenendyk, Chairman
Mahaska County Board of Supervisors

Discussion of the agreement between the City of Oskaloosa and Mahaska County 28E was reviewed. It was noted that the agreement is a draft document and still needs City of Oskaloosa approval.

Public Comments: None

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

Jody Groenendyk
Auditor

Mark Groenendyk
Chairman, Board of Supervisors