

Unapproved Minutes Emmet County Board of Supervisor Minutes  
March 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.  
Regular Meeting  
Board Room, Courthouse

Present: Jeff Quastad, Chair  
Tim Schumacher, Vice-Chair  
John Pluth  
Todd Glasnapp  
Lisa K. Hansen

Absent:

Meeting ID: 812 8890 9971

Passcode: 288858

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Quastad, Chair, called the meeting to order. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Schumacher, second by Hansen to approve the minutes from last week's meeting, also approving them for publication. All ayes, motion carried.

During Public Forum, Schumacher shared that he has had conversations with some department heads regarding setting a minimum entry level wage with step increases. Auditor Sathoff reported that Heidi Goebel has been researching what other counties have in place.

The Board discussed compensation of township trustees and clerks. Iowa Code states that township trustees and clerks shall be paid. In 2002, the Emmet County Board of Supervisors did make a motion regarding such payment. Auditor Sathoff called former Auditor and Supervisor Bev Juhl and she indicated that trustees and clerks rarely turned anything in for payment. Auditor Sathoff also reported that such payment would need to run through payroll due the requirement that taxes have to be taken out.

Emmet County Engineer, Walter Davis-Oeth presented a gravel crushing contract for the Egeland pit. The contract is for 100,000 tons of gravel at \$2.45 per ton with fuel adjustments. Motion by Pluth, second by Schumacher to approve the contract. All ayes, motion carried.

Davis-Oeth reported that the frost is not out of the roads and with the new snow the gravels have soft edges. He also reported that he has contacted the United Pacific Railroad regarding the repair of several railroad crossings in Emmet County. The United Pacific Railroad indicated that they are only willing to deal with active rail stretches. Those wishing to place a complaint regarding a railroad crossing on a county road can do so by submitting that complaint online on the Iowa Department of Transportation's website.

Sheriff Martens joined the meeting to discuss the cost E-Dispatch services for the Courthouse. Chapter 34A of the Iowa Code outlines how E-911 dollars can be utilized. When the E-Dispatch emergency notification system was established, Courthouse employees were added because there was room. We are now having more and more first responders that need to be added to the system. Sheriff Martens asked the Board to consider paying for the courthouse employees as a security measure. Motion by Schumacher, second by Glasnapp to pay up to \$1,200 for the Courthouse employee portion of E-Dispatch services. All ayes, motion carried.

Emmet County Assessor, Barb Bohm joined the meeting and reported that Amy Streit's term is up on the Zoning Board of Adjustment this year and she has chosen to not to remain on the Board. The Board discussed possible replacements.

Beth Will and Shane Walters of the Sioux Rivers Mental Health Region joined the meeting along with Emmet County Mental Health Advocate, JoAnn Reed.

Reed presented the Board her resignation/retirement letter. Reed would like to retire May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The Board expressed their gratitude for Reed's service. Motion by Schumacher, second by Hansen to accept Reed's letter of resignation/retirement. All ayes, motion carried.

Michelle Howing from the Emmet County Attorney's office joined the meeting.

Shane Walter, CEO of the Sioux Rivers Mental Health Region, asked the Board to consider appointing Abby Wallin as the interim Emmet County Mental Health Advocate. Wallin currently services all the counties in the Sioux Rivers Mental Health Region and Wallin would be willing to take on Emmet County. Coordinator Beth Will will be present in Emmet County at least one day per week when Emmet County joins the Sioux Rivers Region on July 1, 2021. Walter indicated that he likes to visit with each County quarterly. The Sioux Rivers Region has prepared their draft 2022 budget and will be presenting it on Tuesday, March 23, 2021. The Sioux Rivers Region Board meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month. Supervisors Pluth and Schumacher are Emmet County's representatives on the Board.

Walter shared that Emmet County's fund balance will be returned by County Social Services based on a population calculation after the end of the fiscal year.

Motion by Pluth, second by Glasnapp to approve the following joint drainage district claims:

Drainage District	Vendor	Amount	Work Performed
EPA 17	Kent Larson	\$500.00	10 Beavers Removed

All ayes, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following Manure Management Plans:

Owner	Facility Name	Site Number
Eric Norby	Iowa Lake Site	#65180
Eric Norby	Miller South Site	#65181
Eric Norby	Miller North Site	#65182
Craig Nemmers	Craig Nemmers Site	#57873
K & T Olson Swine, LLC	K & T Olson Swine Site 2	#69213
Paul Clausen	Paul Clausen	#57871

Emmet County Attorney, Melanie Summers Bauler joined the meeting.

Emmet County Resident Connie Alvarez asked the Board for their assistance. Alvarez presented the Board with a packet of information including: Letter from the City of Estherville, Hansen's sub division map, and Iowa Code section 368.7.

The City of Estherville has received a request for annexation from residents in the Ridge Addition. Alvarez reported that he and his wife, along with Iversons, Helmichs and Blairs are opposing this annexation and they are asking the Board for their support because the Iowa Code does require the City to consult with the County Supervisors on Annexations. Alvarez noted that Helmichs were not notified of the annexation at all. Alvarez, Iversons, Blairs and Helmichs moved to that area because it was outside the city limits and stated that their property taxes would significantly rise if annexed into city limits. Alvarez has retained a lawyer to represent his opposition to the proposed annexation.

Along with the increased property taxes, the City of Estherville is planning on improving 368<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Ridge Road and that property owners would be assessed \$8,500 over the course of 10 years.

Emmet County Attorney, Melanie Summers Bauler shared the difference between a voluntary annexation and an involuntary annexation. She also shared that the City of Estherville does have a voluntary annexation agreement executed in 1993.

Iowa Code section 368.7 states that if more than 20% of the landowners protest, annexation becomes involuntary. Alvarez noted that between the property owners opposing the annexation, they easily meet that threshold.

Alvarez thanked the Board for their time.

Quastad updated the Board on his ED 3 Drainage District Annexation research.

Schumacher updated the Board on the progress of union negotiations.

Motion by Hansen, second by Pluth to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m. All ayes, motion carried.

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Amy M. Sathoff  
Auditor

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Jeff Quastad  
Chair