

SEPTEMBER 25, 2023

The Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, met. Present were Supervisors Irwin, Srp and George. Minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

9:00 A.M. Review Correspondence and Claims Call to Order – Pledge of Allegiance

9:15 A.M. Formal Action & Motions Claims Approval

CONSENT AGENDA

Resolutions 2023-248 through 2023-250 were approved on the Consent Agenda:

RESOLUTION 2023-248

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, upon recommendation from the Clinton County Veterans Affairs Commission, hire Nicole Rickertsen for the position of Veterans Affairs Clerk; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, to approve the appointment of Nicole Rickertsen for the part-time position of Veterans Affairs Clerk, at the hourly wage of \$19.00 effective September 25, 2023; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Auditor be and is hereby authorized to issue bi-weekly warrants on the Veterans Affairs Fund in payment of salaries without further order of the Board.

Roll Call: George: Yes; Srp: Yes; Irwin: Yes. Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

RESOLUTION 2023-249

WHEREAS, the Clinton County Assessor's Office has determined a 2022 valuation adjustment is required on parcel 06-04390300; and

WHEREAS, the Clinton County Assessor's Office has informed the Treasurer's office regarding the intention to correct the valuation of the parcel; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Clinton County Board of Supervisors authorizes the Clinton County Treasurer to adjust the 2022 tax bill for the following parcel: Parcel 06-04390300 - corrected land pricing for a new valuation of (land \$4,730), (total value = \$4,730).

Roll Call: George: Yes; Srp: Yes; Irwin: Yes. Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

RESOLUTION 2023-250

WHEREAS, pursuant to Iowa Code Section 427.1 the Waypoint Mission is entitled to abatement of taxes owed as detailed: 0800 8201940000 2348 Dunham St \$702.00

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED pursuant to Code of Iowa Sections 427.8A taxes owing shall be abated and the Treasurer is hereby authorized to make amendment to the county records indicating said abated tax for the parcel as noted, and the County Auditor shall update the record for fiscal year 2023-2024 in the same manner.

Roll Call: George: Yes; Srp: Yes; Irwin: Yes. Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution was presented and on motion approved:

RESOLUTION 2023-251

WHEREAS, Colin Reid has submitted his resignation from the County Veterans Affairs Commission effective November 1, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the County Veterans Affairs Commission is recommending the County Board of Supervisors appoint Jeff Peasley to fill the vacancy on said commission; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Clinton County Board of Supervisors hereby accepts the resignation of Colin Reid from the County Veterans Affairs Commission and orders the following appointment:

Effective November 2, 2023, Jeff Peasley, Camanche; term expiration 06/30/26

Roll Call: George: Yes; Srp: Yes; Irwin: Yes. Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

DEPARTMENT HEADS, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

County Auditor Eric Van Lancker reminded the Board of the public hearing tomorrow night in DeWitt to solicit comments about the use of the opioid settlement funds. He said last week's meeting was very good and full of information and suggestions.

Supervisor Srp said the Conservation Foundation is meeting tonight to make more plans for its November 4 fundraising dinner. He said he received calls about work on the highway 30/61 ramps but this is not a County project. He said County residents can find updates on the DOT website.

Chairman Irwin said during last week's public hearing he would have liked to have more agencies discuss how they could use the opioid funds, but he expects more of that tomorrow in DeWitt.

Supervisor George said last week's opioid public meeting was very informative.

County Treasurer Dustin Johnson reported he and staff are going to a County Treasurer seminar in Cedar Falls next month. He said the visit to Scott County last week was very informative.

County Engineer Todd Kinney reported on road construction projects that are happening in the County. He said work around Grand Mound is finishing up and then the contractor will start in Grand Mound. He said the approaches and other work is finished on the Toronto Wapsi bridge.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

City of Clinton Request for Improvements to 36th Ave. to 380th Ave. at Low Moor: Kinney said the City wants to connect the road to 380th Ave and the City wanted to know if the County wanted to do the turn lanes. He said the City has some DOT funding. Kinney said the DOT would pay for 60% of the turn lane construction and the City would pay the other 40%. Kinney said there is discussion with the City about the width of the gravel shoulder. He said if they are larger than two feet, the City would like the County to cover the extension of the shoulder. Kinney said the County could pay for four feet of the shoulder. He said they are also discussing possibly doing an overlay on a portion of 380th Ave. Kinney said he informed the City the project will cross a drainage district and they need to plan for that. He said the City has a culvert in the plans to address that issue, but the County will have to approve the hydraulics of the proposal. Irwin said he's happy to hear traffic safety is being considered upfront. Kinney said the County's portion of the project shouldn't have much of an impact on other projects already planned in the County.

MOTION by Srp to authorize the County Engineer to communicate to the City to allow them to go ahead with the turn lanes as presented by the City.

Roll Call: George: Yes; Srp: Yes; Irwin: Yes.

Motion carried.

Eastern Iowa Mental Health Region 28E Agreement Update: Irwin reported he just wants to inform the Board about the changes that were made due to changes pushed down from the State. He said the number of board members will also change, but still include five supervisors and a representative from the judicial branch and one from law enforcement.

Update on new Property Tax/Revenue Legislation: Irwin, Van Lancker and Budget Director Nicholas Manrique reported what they learned from a recent ISAC meeting about HF715. Van Lancker reviewed the legislation and how it will affect Clinton County. He said as it currently stands, the County will need to cut its General Fund levy to \$3.50 per thousand dollars assessed taxable valuation for the FY29 budget. He said that would be a current reduction of \$1.6 million. He said the new legislative requirements for the upcoming budget year would place the general levy around \$3.90 per thousand, down from the current levy rate of just over \$4. He said that would garner the County about \$160,000 additional dollars compared to the current year's revenue. He said that won't keep up with paying for the basics of running the County not including modest raises for employees. Irwin said his concern is how the County will continue to pay their employees. He said the Sheriff union contract will make it difficult to navigate. Irwin said we have been saying this from the start that this will severely limit how we operate. He said he spoke with State Senator Cournoyer this weekend and she asked him to send any questions and suggestions to her so she can share them in the Senate. He thanked State Representative Tom Determann for attending the meeting. Irwin said it's a real struggle to find growth in the County tax base. Srp said it's hard to understand when other areas of the State have grown. Srp said he's frustrated by the entire thing. He said in his first year in office, the County had to make deep cuts. He said the entire County has committed to making those budgets since then. Srp said this means the State is forcing counties to cut services. Srp said we've been told to give money to economic development, but we have less funds to work with. He said this plan is not sustainable. Srp predicted the County will have to tear up agreements like the one with the solid waste agency that benefited all taxpayers. Van Lancker said he understands the concept of the legislative formula but believes it should have started by evaluating the current \$3.50 which was set in the mid '80s. Irwin said there are 10 counties growing and the rest of them are trying to maintain. He said when the counties and cities are growing and don't shrink their levy rates than those are the issues that need to be addressed. Johnson said this will be a substantial change in how the County operates. He said \$1.6 million is a small percent of the entire budget so it isn't like the sky is falling. Irwin said it's actually a big impact because most County employee pay comes from the General Budget. It will force us to reduce staff at some point, Irwin said. Johnson said that was the State's motivation when they approved that. Johnson said the County will have to revert to bonding. Irwin said the State is not going to get the outcome they thought they were getting because it won't affect the individual taxpayer. Johnson wants to make sure everyone is in the know of how the changes will be made. Determann said the House and Senate came out with totally different bills than a new one that came out at the end of the session. He said the formula didn't work right away, but he was told they will come back to it. He said there are a lot of stupid things in it and has full faith they will get back to it early in the legislative session. Determann said the big 10 counties started it all. He doesn't believe drastic cuts were the intention. George said she's frustrated Determann voted for it so it gives her little faith it will be improved. Determann said they have no concept on how they deal with things in Des Moines. Srp asked Determann to be strong with this conviction on discussing these things with their peers. Determann said he has full faith it can be corrected. Srp said it still would have been important for him to vote no to support local government even if it would not have made a difference in the final outcome. John Frey, Clinton resident, said right now these things seem like concerns but nothing really happens until four years from now. He recommended staying the course, but wait to deal with the problem when it becomes a

problem. He doesn't believe in making cuts until the cuts are made definitive instead of cutting along the way and having the goalposts moved. He said staying on the course will also allow the County to develop data to take to legislators.

ARPA Funds Update: Karl Nord, Clinton, addressed the property owned by the County across from the Law Center. He said the only way the vote can be brought back up by the City is if it's brought up again by the winning side of the original vote. He reviewed his comments from last week about off-street parking and the County starting the project. Manrique said there was \$710,000 ARPA funds not committed. He said that includes funds budgeted as contingency is some projects. The Law Center parking lot was discussed with new options including purchasing the two homes on the end of the block. George said she would like costs on how much it would cost to expand the maintenance garage to include document storage that was discussed as an option. County Facilities Director Corey Johnson will also see if the expanded building could fit on the current lot.

YWCA ARPA/County Property Commitment Review: Shannon Sander Welzien, Executive Director of the YWCA, thanked the County for getting the ball rolling on the transition housing. She said the Iowa Finance Authority and City have been working to find a new location within the thresholds and IFA is giving them until the end of November to find a new location and meet the grant conditions. She said sheltering issues continue to grow and the federal finances ran out in May. She said the alternate location will be on the Council agenda tomorrow night. She said the funding commitments have stayed in the IFA grant award. John Frey, YWCA, shared the minutes of the meeting when the Board approved a letter of support and \$500,000 for the project. He said the County property was to be half of that and they will need to pay for the property and hope the County can be in the original position to fund the \$500,000 all in cash. Frey said the YW had options on the two houses at the original location across from the Law Center. He is asking if the County would like to take over those options. Frey said a decision on the \$500,000 would be appreciated sooner than later. Irwin asked if the \$500,000 is not approved how does it affect the grant. Frey said that is up to the IFA. He said the local match was part of the scoring of the grant. He said it is likely not holding the local match could have an impact. He said the new site location had to score as well as the original site. Irwin said this has been a need for the area for many years and has been involved in many of these conversations and is in support of committing the \$500,000. Frey said they will present it to the Council tomorrow night and then a public hearing would be required to transfer the land. He said everything needs to be done by Nov. 30, but would like to hear from the County about its financial commitment before the public hearing so that can be considered during the hearing. Srp said he's inclined to support the previous commitment of \$500,000. He said there was a lot of discussion today and he would like to take it all in and would not like to make a decision today. Srp believes there are parts of the project that have changed. Irwin said IFA was only supporting the permanent supportive housing. Srp said he understood but said there were other commitments for programs. Irwin said that may have changed a little but has nothing to do with the city and county commitments. Srp said the Board made a commitment of \$500,000 and a part of him still feels like that is in place. Irwin will ask the County Attorney about the County's commitment to the \$500,000.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet on Tuesday, September 26, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. at the Clinton County Satellite Office, 226 11th St., DeWitt, IA 52742.

Eric Van Lancker, County Auditor

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

-APPROVED-

County Auditor

Chairperson