

**October 14, 2020**

Board members present for regular session at 9:00 a.m. were: Hoadley, Homan, Shelley, and Wedemeyer. Twombly joined via conference call.

Also present: Mandy Berg and Brenda Wallace

All motions were approved unanimously unless noted otherwise.

Due to heightened public health risk from the coronavirus outbreak, the Board Meeting was held via conference call pursuant to Iowa Code section 21.8.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Shelley and seconded by Homan to approve the minutes from October 7, 2020. Approved.

**MONTHLY REPORTS:** Moved by Wedemeyer and seconded by Hoadley to acknowledge receipt of the following monthly reports for July and August: Recorder's Electronic Transaction Fee, Recorder's Management Fees, Auditor/Treasurer Monthly Reports, and Clerk of Court Monthly Reports. Approved.

**BOND INSURANCE RENEWAL:** Moved by Twombly and seconded by Wedemeyer for Vice-Chair Shelley to sign the insurance bond renewal application. Approved.

**CITY OF ORIENT ABANDONED PROPERTIES:** Moved by Wedemeyer and seconded by Hoadley to allow the City of Orient to take over three abandoned properties within the City limits. Approved.

**TAX ABATEMENT – MARANTHA FULL GOSPEL:** The Board of Supervisors received a letter from Marantha Full Gospel asking the Board to abate the current taxes on their two parcels as they are incorporated as a 501(c)3 religious organization. Marantha Full Gospel took ownership on March 18, 2020 and was paid pro-rated taxes in the purchase closing. The Board stated that these prorated taxes should still be owed and would like Attorney Larson's opinion on whether the remainder of the current taxes should be owed if they are a religious organization. Moved by Wedemeyer and seconded by Hoadley to have County Attorney Larson send a letter to Marantha Full Gospel stating that the prorated taxes of \$882.39 are still owed on those properties and request that they show proof that they are indeed a religious organization and should be tax exempt. Approved. The Board will look at the remainder of the taxes after the County Attorney's opinion and payment of the prorated taxes and proof of a religious organization is provided. Wallace exited at 9:11 a.m.

**COVID-19 UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:** The Board discussed other Counties having to close Treasurer offices due to COVID during tax season and are thankful we have not had a case in our courthouse yet. Supervisor Hoadley stated she had been exposed to COVID and the flu but had tested negative for both on Sunday. Supervisor Twombly stated he had been potentially exposed and did not attend the meeting in person to be safe and to keep from bringing it in.

**GROUP BENEFIT PARTNERS:** Ryan Berven, Group Benefit Partners, joined the call at 9: 15 a.m. **Third Party Administrator** – Berven explained that ever since the County switched to the partially self-funded health insurance, they have been using Secure Benefits as our third-party administrator. Recently Group Benefit Partners has endorsed two new TPAs, Midwest Group Benefits and Auxiant, that will be on the Employee Navigator platform and will be used in the GBP consolidated billing. Berven went over the comparisons of all three TPAs and stated that Midwest Group Benefits is the middle ground and would be a big step up from Secure Benefits, but Auxiant is one of the top in the State and would provide the most services for the County and it's employees. The Board discussed the three options and stated that it might be best to switch to Auxiant to provide the best services to employees since our past experience hasn't always been great. Berven stated that with switching to a self-fund insurance plan, the County is saving about \$100,000 each year. By switching from Secure Benefits to Auxiant, the County would pay an extra \$3,000 a year. Switching to Midwest Group Benefits would be about a \$1,500 cost increase per year. Moved by Wedemeyer and seconded by Hoadley to switch the County's third party administrator from Secure Benefits to Auxiant starting January 1, 2021. Approved. **ISAC Accident Policy** – Berven stated that ISAC had recently approved an accident policy that would be provided to employees at no cost to the County. He will have more details and will plan on presenting more after the election is over. Berven will also be coming back in early December to meet with the Board for the Health insurance renewal as rates are on track to be released by Thanksgiving. Berven exited the all at 9:37 a.m.

**ADAIR COUNTY HEALTH – LETTER OF SUPPORT:** Tiffany Johnson, Adair County Health System, joined by conference call at 9:37 a.m. Johnson stated that they are applying for a \$50,000 USDA grant to help fund a new ambulance. The two ambulances they currently own are having several issues and are needing constant maintenance. The cost of a new ambulance ranges from \$250,000 to 300,000. Moved by Homan and seconded by Hoadley for Vice-Chair Shelley to sign the letter of support for the USDA grant to help fund the new ambulance purchase. Approved. Johnson exited the call at 9:38 a.m.

**ENGINEER:** Engineer Kauffman entered at 9:41 a.m. **DOT Funding Agreement** – Moved by Homan and seconded by Twombly to sign the DOT Funding Agreement for BROS-SWAP-C001(113)-01 N34 Richland Bridge Project. Approved. **Final Voucher** – They have not received the voucher yet, so Engineer Kauffman will present it next week. **Maintenance & Activities Report** – Engineer Kauffman gave an update on the following projects: Tyson Sickles, Engineering Tech submitted his resignation and they have started advertising to fill the position, Slurry leveling on Cherry Street is complete, N22 Jackson Bridge, and W25 Jefferson Louck's Grove.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Wedemeyer and seconded by Hoadley to adjourn at 9:54 a.m.

**ADAIR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** \_\_\_\_\_ John Twombly, Chairman

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_ Mandy Berg, Auditor