

WAPELLO COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS

DATE: 9-13-2016

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Greg Kenning, Chair; Jerry Parker, Vice Chair; Steve Siegel, Supervisor; Nick Davis, KBIZ; Paul Culver, IT; Mike Parker; Jeremy Weller; Mike Grooms; Melissa Garrett; Leslie Starr; Paul Gandy; Connie Hammersley-Wilson; Winona Whitaker, Courier; Chad Winninger; Tom Lazio, Mayor; Matt Dalbey; Bob Meyers; Becky Warren; Brian Morgan; Mike Inman; Joe Parker; Alex Stroda; Beth Walden; Paul Munley; Stacey Hirschak; Dave Cecil; Margaret Dwyer; Kim Johnson; Bill Jones; Nate Gottschalk; Kelly Spurgeon, Auditor; Pam Norton, Auditor's Clerk.

Chair Kenning opened the meeting. Supervisor Siegel moved, seconded by Vice Chair Parker to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

THIRD READING UNDER TITLE I, CHAPTER 8, POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A WAPELLO COUNTY MINIMUM WAGE. Chair Kenning read one written comment that was received from Dennis Willhoit. He then asked for any public comments from anyone who hadn't spoken at earlier readings.

Chad Winninger commended the Board for wanting to increase the minimum wage, saying that is what makes the working class turn.

Nate Gottschalk, small business owner, said it sounds like you're encouraging kids not to go to school. I'd like to know your thoughts. Where is the extra \$15,000 going to come from. It's the trickle down effect, prices are going to go up for everybody. I don't see the correlation between poverty and poor academic performance in kids. Should encourage kids to go to school rather than hand out more money. Nobody who works for me makes minimum wage or anywhere near it.

Chair Kenning said there is a very strong correlation between achievement and poverty all over the United States. People in poverty do much poorer. Not sure I can tell you where the money will come from. It would seem to me the impact on your business would be minimal.

Supervisor Siegel said the reason we're doing this, for younger workers without a college degree, a huge increase in people in low wage jobs. Hopefully you'll see some reduced turn over.

Nate Gottschalk, I'm all about rewarding employees for good work, but we're not in Cedar Rapids or Iowa City. To compare us to them is like comparing apples to oranges. I'm all for a raise in the minimum wage, it's time. People don't want to work too many hours or lose their Title XIX. I feel like the person being overlooked is the business owner.

Supervisor Siegel said in 1950 it went from 40 cents to 75 cents overnight. I think you'll see people will have more money to spend at your business.

Stacey Hirchak said she went to IHCC but didn't do so well, then worked at a restaurant. Now she's back in school to become an elementary educator. The situation I was in, children stressed, not enough food. I just hope you raise it up so other people can be raised up like I was. Thanks for your time.

Mike Inman, wage fixing isn't going to fix poverty, it just isn't. I commend this young lady for bettering herself.

Chair Kenning said when you look at people making minimum wage, it takes 77 hours of work to pay rent. Other numbers, 5 of the 6 surrounding states have higher wages than the mandate.

Bob Meyers said I'm really not in favor of the process you're using. In previous meetings, did you ask Rep. Gaskill to take that forward. I wish you'd step back and let the legislature take their move.

Chair Kenning said the legislature has been very reluctant to move this forward.

Chad Martindale said we all want to increase the prosperity of everyone, but I'm not sure you can legislate that.

Connie Hammersley-Wilson said to reiterate, consider changing the start date from January to July 1st.

Alex Stroda wanted to address some of the miss information. The reason the wage needs to be increased is because \$9.60/hr is currently required to meet basic needs in Ottumwa. Additionally, that amount relates to only the bare minimum. The car breaks down, kids get sick, hourly workers don't get sick days. People are drowning in

Ottumwa. Counties are acting this way because the state legislature will not. There's a definite disconnect in this debate. Ideology rather than information. We have to operate based on information, not feelings. I'm very concerned about local business, but there are interests that are not local businesses in this county. I value Ottumwa more than the bottom line of a restaurant chain. The short term worry and short term struggle is worth the long term benefits.

Andy Morris asked if the supervisors have put this initiative before the voters in Wapello County.

Vice Chair Parker said it's not possible, it's illegal in the county or the state. We're doing this because we have the right to do it. I have the right to do this and I can help the lowest person out there. I don't think anyone has approached the legislature about taking that right away from me. There are not stats saying raising the minimum wage hurts the economy. My phone number's been published. I had one business owner call me. They recognize the lowest wage earner is going to spend the money here. It just baffles me, if you don't want us doing this, how many of you approached the legislature. A year ago I wasn't for this. This is not a political advantage taking this position. If I'm suppose to do what the public wants, the majority says we need to increase the minimum wage.

Becky Warren, business owner in Agency. I ship a lot out my back door. It does increase my costs. I do pay better than minimum wage. I have 3 employees. After 3 years, it goes by cost of living increase.

Chair Kenning said that may or may not happen.

Supervisor Siegel said last week we had a restaurant owner at the meeting from Iowa City who supported the increase. We all have to make adjustments.

Melissa Garrett said they have 5 children, husband works for Crest Services. House payments are \$900/mo. We've recently been talking about moving. We need progress. When people have money, they spend money.

Kim Johnson said the increase would kill me. I'm a single mom, the \$10 would take me under.

6:33 p.m. Supervisor Siegel moved, seconded by Vice Chair Parker to approve the third reading. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to adopt the ordinance. Motion carried.

Chair Kenning called for a brief recess.

6:42 p.m. Chair Kenning reconvened the meeting.

Supervisor Siegel moved, seconded by Vice Chair Parker to approve the minutes of the August 29, 2016 Board meeting. Motion carried.

Supervisor Siegel moved, seconded by Vice Chair Parker to approve hiring Khyia Lewis as a full-time Correctional Officer I in the Sheriff's Department to fill a vacancy, hire date 9/6/2016 at a starting hourly rate of \$16.50. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to approve hiring Tayte Schoff as a part-time Correctional Officer I in the Sheriff's Department to fill a vacancy, hire date 9/6/2016 at a starting hourly rate of \$13.00. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to acknowledge and file a change of employment for Andrea Douglas from part-time to full-time Home Health Aide in Public Health, change date 9/6/2016. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to approve a partial release of easement. Motion carried.

Supervisor Siegel moved, seconded by Vice Chair Parker to approve a tax suspension under Iowa Code 427.8. Motion carried.

Supervisor Siegel moved, seconded by Vice Chair Parker to approve Resolution #34-2016 transfer of funds. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to approve a tax suspension under Iowa Code 427.8. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to approve a tax suspension under Iowa Code 427.8. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to approve a tax suspension under Iowa Code 427.9. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to approve Resolution #35-2016 abating certain property taxes for St. Mary of the Visitation Church in Ottumwa. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to approve Resolution #36-2016 abating certain property taxes for Hickory Grove Community Church. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to approve Resolution #37-2016 abating certain property taxes for the new Sieda building. Motion carried.

Supervisor Siegel moved, seconded by Vice Chair Parker to accept and file the Clerk of Court's monthly report of total fees collected for August 2016. Motion carried.

Claims in the amount of \$834,975.59 and payroll in the amount of \$668,318.05 were approved.

6:52 p.m. Supervisor Siegel moved, seconded by Vice Chair Parker to adjourn. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kelly Spurgeon
Wapello County Auditor

Gregory M. Kenning, Chair
Board of Supervisors