

WAPELLO COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS

Courthouse - 3rd Floor Courtroom

DATE: 5-28-2024

TIME: 5:40 p.m.

PRESENT: Brian Morgan, Chair; Darren Batterson, Vice Chair; Bryan Ziegler, Supervisor; Kelly Spurgeon, Auditor; Chad Drury, Ottumwa Courier; John Trucano; Bethany Canny; Andrew Canny; Kenneth Phillips; Ron Harness; Denny Bradley; Kristi McDowell; Tom & Debbie Courtney; Bob McDowell; Stephen Bell; Kurt Kirkpatrick; Andy Kirkpatrick; John Sholes; Steve Erwin; Melissa Neis; Connie Harness; Cathy Rempe; Herb Greenfield; Cliff Barker; Jared Hershberger; Travis Kaster, Chief Deputy Assessor; Jeff Skalberg; Engineer; Judy De Graaf; Holly McCoy Nelson; HB via Zoom; Lisa Kent via Zoom; Laurie Fountain via Zoom.

Chair Morgan opened the meeting. Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to approve the minutes of May 14, 2024. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING ON BUDGET AMENDMENT #2 FOR FY2023-2024.

Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to open the Public Hearing. All ayes. Motion carried. There were no written/verbal comments. Supervisor Ziegler moved, seconded by Vice Chair Batterson to close the Public Hearing. All ayes. Motion carried. Supervisor Ziegler moved, seconded by Supervisor Batterson to approve Resolution 26-2024 Budget Amendment #2 for FY2023-2024. All ayes. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING TO VACATE A COUNTY ROAD – MADISON AVE.

Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to open the Public Hearing. All ayes. Motion carried. The board was presented with emails from Debbie Courtney, Kristi McDowell, Doug Bauman, Laura Parker, Rosanna Brown and Andrew & Bethany Canny. Engineer Jeff Skalberg stated he received a petition to close Madison Ave at Hwy 63. Christy McDowell – 12478 55th St. stated she opposed closing the road, turning off of Hwy 63 onto 55th Ave. is very dangerous and there were several people killed including children. McDowell also presented a petition to the Board against closing Madison Ave. Ken Phillips – 5707 Madison Ave. asked if there had been a traffic study done to see how many vehicles come down the road. Jeff Skalberg stated the State had done one. Denny Bradley – 12451 55th St. he uses Madison Ave to go home due to no turning lane off of Hwy 63 which causes a safety issue. Debbie Courtney - 6178 Madison Ave. before living here she lived on a closed street and there were issues with getting the street cleaned along with vandalism. She would like to see the street repaired. Ron Harness – 6082 Madison Ave. he does not believe residents on 55th Street have to deal with semis driving 60 mph on their road. Rural fire and Sheriff could us Hwy 63. He is for closing the road. Ben Canny – 5675 Madison Ave. concerns for him and his family, it increases mileage to take his children to school. He feels like it will decrease his property value, closing the road will not fix the issue of getting the road fixed. The most critical concern is for emergency vehicles get to his house. John Trucano – 6061 Madison Ave. he is in favor of closing the road, his family are all runners and running on that is road is quite a hazard. The structure of that road makes it very hazardous for people to be walking or running on the road. Many animals have been killed on Madison Ave. Herb Greenfield – 5622 Madison Ave. if you are sitting in the turn lane or the fast lane to turn left onto 55th Ave. and you see a car coming up behind you and you have to wonder is they are going to see your blinker, also when there were barricades people would move them to go down the road. John Sholes - 5653 Madison Ave. he rents the house and in the process of

buying storage unit complex north of where they are living. Is there any way to slower the traffic down? He talked with several Relators and they stated it would lower the property value. Connie Harness – 6068 Madison Ave. she would like for the road to be shut down, but after the conversations tonight there are a lot of pros & cons equally weighed. When trucks go down the road her house rumbles when they go by. Roadway is chipping away. Could somebody talk to the trucking company to see if they could please slow down. She had not idea about the several children that had been killed. Jeff Skalberg stated there was an Iowa DOT traffic count done in 2022 and 920 vehicles per day. Vice Chair Batterson asked if there was a weight limit, he stated 80,000. In the FY2025 there is a project overlay in the DOT budget to repair and widen the shoulders. \$1.85M is the estimate of the road repair. Jeff Skalberg is recommending to not close it today. He would like to look at an embargo of 10,000, you would have to up the embargo every 90 days. Vice Chair Batterson asked if they can alter the speed limit, Skalberg stated an engineering study could be done but if people are going faster than the posted limit the speed limit could be increased to 55 mph. Ron Harness stated several people have blown out their tires due to the holes on the side of the road. Skalberg stated there is a survey study out on Secondary Roads website that he suggested all of the people here need to go out and fill out the survey. John Trucano asked that there is money allocated to widen the road FY26 project letting July 2025. Tom Courtney stated the speed limit was higher at some time. Andrew Canny asked if the embargo is lower does it have to be re-upped every 90 days. Vice Chair Batterson asked what is the most truck traffic that goes up and down the road, Hite & Eastlick. Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to close the public hearing. All ayes. Motion carried. Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to approve Resolution 25-2024 to Vacate a County Road – Madison Ave. All Nays. Motion rejected.

Supervisor Ziegler moved, seconded by Vice Chair Batterson to set September 10, 2024 for a Special Election for Local Option Sales Tax. All ayes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ziegler moved, seconded by Vice Chair Batterson to approve agreement for Credit Card Procession through Beacon's Geo Permits. All ayes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ziegler moved, seconded by Vice Chair Batterson to approve change order ITC-02 for Courthouse Window Project in the amount of \$2,435.47. All ayes. Motion carried.

Supervisor Ziegler moved, seconded by Vice Chair Batterson to approve \$100,000 transfer to Health Fund. All ayes. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to approve 2024-2025 Wapello County/City of Ottumwa Law Enforcement Center Maintenance Budget. All ayes. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to approve Tax Suspension under Iowa Code Section 427.8. All ayes. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to approve Tax Suspension under Iowa Code Section 427.8. All ayes. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to approve Tax Suspension under Iowa Code Sections 427.8. All ayes. Motion carried.

Jared Hershberger – Dusty Fox Wind Project, he supplied the board with reading material. He was checking to see where the County was out on the Ordinance. The project has moved from 10,000 to 16,000 acres. Vice Chair Batterson stated they will be working with the Steviee Grove on the Ordinance.

Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to approve Resolution 29-2024 issue funds to Mental Health Agency of Iowa (MHASEI) from the Mental Health Fund 41500. All ayes. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to approve Solutions IBM Maintenance Agreement in the amount of \$3,568.88. All ayes. Motion carried.

Claims in the amount of \$178,239.31 and payroll in the amount of \$470,704.01 for May 31, 2024 were approved

6:39 p.m. Vice Chair Batterson moved, seconded by Supervisor Ziegler to adjourn. All ayes. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kelly Spurgeon
Wapello County Auditor

R Brian Morgan, Chair
Board of Supervisors