

**March 28, 2022**

The Mahaska County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on the above date at 9:00 a.m. in the third floor conference room of the Mahaska County courthouse. Present were the following board members: Chairman – Mark Groenendyk; Vice chairman – Steve Wanders. Member – Chuck Webb was absent. Also present were Darin Hite; Joe Lancello, KBOE; Tom Flaherty; Andrew Ritland; Russ VanRenterghem; Andy McGuire; Troy Bemis; Joe Warrick and Susan Brown, Mahaska County Auditor. This meeting was live streamed by Communications Research Institute of William Penn University. Meeting was opened with a moment of silence.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to approve the agenda for today's meeting. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to open public hearing regarding proposed FY23 Mahaska County budget. No written comments. Joe Warrick expressed concern that the Environmental Learning Center is not open to public for more hours, noting that during construction that was talked about. Feels it is something to be proud of in our community and should be open more. Asked about possible \$300,000 being taken out of Secondary Road budget and what happens with other funding sources for them namely, Local Option monies, TIF tax, and pipeline generated tax. Also asked about Mental Health that will now be taken over by state, where would that money go. He expressed appreciation to the sheriff's department in Mahaska County and noted that there seems to be a disparity between counties following the state's "Back the Blue" law which seems to be an unfunded mandate from the state.

The board gave the following answers: County increased funding to Conservation about 4 years ago – Conservation Board chose to raise salaries of existing staff rather than increase number of staff. Secondary Road funding comes from various sources. The county was not able to do a secondary road transfer of approximately \$200,000 from General Fund the last two years due to a decreasing fund balance, however the transfer from Rural Services Basic is still in place in the new budget year. Eighty percent of the Local Option Sales Tax in Mahaska County goes to secondary road of which part of it pays principal and interest on bonds and anything over and above is eligible to be used for road projects. An urban renewal area was created in 2020 including the wind turbines that were constructed in northern part of county. The TIF on this provides payments for urban renewal bonds that also fund road construction. The pipeline value is distributed between the county and other tax levying entities and does help to fund the General Basic and Rural Basic funds. Legislation was passed on to county compensation boards that they shall set recommended compensation for county sheriff similarly with city police chiefs/Iowa state patrol. This has put stress on county funds. Counties in Iowa have dealt with this mandate in various ways.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to close public hearing. All present voted aye. Motion carried. General Basic Fund levy is proposed at the maximum

of \$3.95; General Supplemental at \$1.74 the same as last year; Rural Services at the maximum of \$3.95. There will be no levy for Mental Health as the State of Iowa will be funding the programs. In proposing this budget allowable expenditure items were moved from General Basic to General Supplemental; however, it is limited by code what items can be expended from General Supplemental.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to adopt the FY23 Mahaska County budget as published with the following resolution. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

### **Resolution #2022-13**

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the proposed Mahaska County budget for FY-2022/2023 as published in the county official newspapers on March 15, 2022 (Oskaloosa, Iowa) be approved and adopted.

Dated at Oskaloosa, IA this 28<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2022.

Sheriff Van Renterghem informed the board that Jail Administrator, Larry Septer will be retiring in April after 34 years in the department with the last 25 as jail administrator. Sheriff would like to fill the open position with a certified deputy as jail administrator. There would only be an estimated \$4000 difference between current jail administrator salary and top of scale for certified deputy. A certified deputy would have the authority to press charges in the jail and could be used as help on patrol to keep overtime hours down. Conversation noted that EMA could not do this job. Sheriff noted that if he is not able to find a certified deputy he will leave it to be filled by civilian. It was moved by Groenendyk seconded by Wanders to search for a certified deputy as jail administrator. The board expressed appreciation to Mr. Septer for his service to the county. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

A proposal from SEI for cameras in Law Enforcement Center was considered. This proposal was reviewed by the City/County Law Enforcement Committee and approved to be added to the Fund 09 budget which is supported by funds from both county and city. It was moved by Groenendyk seconded by Wanders to approve proposal from SEI in the amount of \$24,472 which is included in FY23 Fund 09 budget. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Groenendyk seconded by Wanders to designate Maintenance Director Troy Bemis and IT Director Darin Hite for consultants to keep informed as wiring and changes are being made at Law Enforcement Center during HVAC project. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Engineer Andy McGuire presented bid received from Norris Asphalt for Project #FM-C062(100)—55-62. Bid total is \$3,442,435.22. He recommends accepting bid, it was the only bid received, and is only slightly above their estimate. It was moved by

Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to accept presented bid from Norris Asphalt. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Engineer position was discussed re: continuation of shared status with Keokuk County. Both county and engineer feel it is working well. It was moved by Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to pull ad for County Engineer. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

A proposal was submitted from Shive-Hattery adding generator to HVAC project. It was moved by Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to approve the proposal adding the design scope amendment of \$13,100. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to approve 2<sup>nd</sup> amendment to lease agreement with Love, Inc. in Mahaska Building. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Groenendyk to adjourn. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan L. Brown  
Mahaska County Auditor

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Mark Groenendyk – Chairman  
Mahaska County Board of Supervisors