

OCTOBER 23, 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

Resolution 2023-263 and 2023-264 and one (1) Motion were approved on the Consent Agenda:

RESOLUTION 2023-263

WHEREAS, it is necessary to make certain changes in the status of employees of Clinton County; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Clinton County, Iowa, that the following changes are made: Accept the retirement of David Jacobi (Truck Driver), effective October 31, 2023.

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

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

RESOLUTION 2023-264

WHEREAS, the Clinton County Assessor's Office has determined a 2022 abatement adjustment is required on parcel 88-11380057; and

WHEREAS, the Clinton County Assessor's Office has informed the Treasurer's office regarding the need to correct the abatement amount 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 88-11380057: The improvement value of \$4,182,040 should not be taxed for the 2022 assessment year per City of Clinton Resolution 2013-116.

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

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

MOTION by Supervisor Srp to authorize the Chairperson to sign Utility Permit Number 9-51 for EI L&P. EI L&P plan to place a new pole in line with existing overhead lines on the east side of 104th Avenue. Then bore new cable under 104th Avenue from that new pole on the east side of the road to a private property on the west side of the road in the county right-of-way located in Section 19, T81 R1E of Spring Rock Township.

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

Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS

The following resolution was presented and on motion approved:

RESOLUTION 2023-265

WHEREAS, the Clinton County Board of Supervisors has considered the generator plan for the Clinton County Administration Building at 1900 N 3rd St., Clinton, Iowa, as presented by Mead and Hunt; now

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Clinton County Board of Supervisors the plans be approved as recommended by County Facilities Director Corey Johnson; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chairperson of the Board of Supervisors be authorized to execute said proposal on behalf of Clinton County, Iowa.

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

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

DEPARTMENT HEADS, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES

County Auditor Eric Van Lancker said today is the last day that absentee ballots can be requested to be sent through the mail, but in-person voting at the Auditor's Office will continue through November 6.

Supervisor Srp said he, like the other supervisors, are meeting with representatives of Wolf Carbon Pipeline and ADM this afternoon. He said Early Childhood has its first meeting this week with their new director Mary Kay Wirth.

Chairman Irwin said the career center in DeWitt open house was well attended last week.

Supervisor George said she had great conversations with citizens last week.

DISCUSSION WITH POSSIBLE ACTION

County Engineer Todd Kinney said the Delmar site is restrictive in the size of the property for the building planned for that site. He said he met with the City to trade lots. He said the city has agreed to that. He said a legal survey will be needed for the two parcels. Irwin said it probably wouldn't hurt to have the survey done whether the project happens sooner or later. Van Lancker reminded the Board that rural fund surplus could be used to fund some or all the Delmar projects. Srp said he thinks they can commit to the Delmar shed with some funds from ARPA and some from Rural Fund surplus. Srp said the Toronto shed should be considered with future budget discussions. Srp said there is also the potential of Railport reimbursements to consider. Kinney said he would like to have Toronto delayed a year if Delmar gets the go ahead because it would be difficult for them to manage two shed builds in a year.

MOTION by Supervisor Srp to authorize the County Engineer to proceed with the survey project on the Delmar properties, county-owned and city owned, and to fund the survey through the Secondary Road fund.

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

Motion carried.

ARPA Fund Update: Kinney reported the two dump trucks under ARPA are delayed for delivery so it may not be paid for in full until later in 2025. He would like to swap the funds so ARPA pays for the second dump truck in order to free up Secondary Road funds for a new hydro-seeder. It was generally agreed that was acceptable and no action would be needed since it doesn't change any spending authority.

County Communications Commission Update: Irwin said he had forwarded the handbook to the other Supervisors for review, and he also wanted to address the 28E agreement. He reviewed issues with both of those documents. Irwin said the 28E agreement has not been reviewed since 2012 and there are things in the agreement that are not being done. He said he and Communications Director Eric Dau have been working with the County HR department to update some of the handbook. Irwin said he's still concerned about how mayors from other cities are making determinations on what the County levies are for these operations. The Board discussed longevity language in the handbook. Irwin said the 28E mentions the Commission will negotiate the contract, but that has never been done. He said it's the Board of Supervisors who do the negotiating. Irwin said there are other things that should come before the Board for approval such as monetary issues since the Board sets the levy. He said there have been issues with a non-elected person determining how monetary issues are settled and he said that does not set well with him. Srp said he understands some intent is to collect operational feedback with the jurisdictions that work with Communications. Srp said all the agencies do things differently and the communications staff has to learn them all.

County Response to State Legislators Regarding the New Property Tax Legislation: Irwin said State Representative Tom Determann asked for a one-page document to address concerns about the new property tax legislation. Irwin said he provided his concerns in an email a few weeks ago. He reviewed that email. State Representative Norlin Mommsen said he brought up the reduction when a County hits 3% and he has been assured that would be fixed. He said that area of the law was bizarre, but the Speaker of the House acknowledged the concern. Mommsen said he keeps getting talked to about property taxes. He thinks there could be more done with property taxes in Des Moines. He said he knows the County has done a good job, but the other two pieces of his tax bill have not been as good. Irwin said we can get to \$3.50 but then we may be doing what cities do is bond to purchase vehicles and other capital. He said that defeats the purpose because then they are paying interest. Srp said that drives up all the costs on those purchases. Srp asked for more details about potential new property tax legislation. Mommsen said he doesn't know what is being talked about but there is a big outcry out for changes and they've said this is just the beginning. Van Lancker asked for consideration on the cap and moving more to supplemental general budget for things that are State mandated. Irwin said the aid for older taxpayers is actually not a lot when it comes down to what they actually pay. He would like to see a set amount for seniors so they know what they will pay. He said some older taxpayers saw large increases this past property tax billing. County Treasurer Dustin Johnson said there is legislation proposed to "freeze" property tax, but it is not funded and only actually captures a few taxpayers. He said it is also difficult for those people to qualify because they must apply and qualify annually. Srp said he's concerned about providing services and retaining employees to provide services to some of those people especially if the County needs to compete with the public sector. Irwin said one of his talking points was a deal made with all of the cities to change the 28E with the Clinton County Area Solid Waste Agency and should have resulted in reductions in taxes for taxpayers. George said she has a better understanding why the representatives did what they did after speaking with some taxpayers. She said this will lead to difficult decisions on the County's part. Irwin added Clinton County did a wage study and implemented it this year. He said they were hearing some could make more in private, but the study showed the County was mostly in-line with the public sector, but if the County can't give employees wage increases then the County will fall behind again. Irwin said the County is always looking at how to be efficient. He said the County made considerable cuts in 2018 and said he's not sure how much more the County can cut without cutting services. Srp asked for an exception to the economic development investment. He said that comes out of the general fund which must be reduced by this legislation. Srp said that also affects the County to fund certain outside agencies that help provide services. He said if we are talking about people on fixed incomes, those outside agencies assist those people. Irwin used Dubuque as a community that has changed its dynamics and part of that is due in part to the County investing in their local economic development efforts. Irwin said the accessibility to our State legislators is much better than in many other counties in the State. Srp said they have been asked traditionally for local match dollars and this could restrict those opportunities and many of those are for federal funding. He's concerned the County and the State could lose out on federal funding if the local match is not available. Determann said he understands many of those federal grants require a match from the city or the county. He is also concerned about the ability to retain and attract employees. Johnson said giving them the authority to levy from another levy is just passing the buck and not lowering taxes. He said the local leadership should try to get together to find efficiencies. He thinks streamlining the tax billing process into one calendar year starting with the assessment and then billing together in a 12-month period. He said technology can provide a responsive system. Johnson called for consolidation of local governments like township governments. He said that could be moved to another level of government. He

said less boards could create more efficiency. Srp added there is a mixed message from the State when they are trying to reduce property tax at the local level but the State has a huge fund balance.

County Budget Planning: The Board discussed how to set up budget planning for the next fiscal year budget calendar. It was generally agreed that it will ask all departments to cut budgets by 10% not including salaries.

The Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet on Monday, October 30, 2023.

Eric Van Lancker, County Auditor

Jim Irwin, Jr., Chairperson

-APPROVED-

County Auditor

Chairperson