

Joint Meeting Minutes between Emmet County Board of Supervisors and Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors
February 25, 2020 at 2:00 pm
River Valley Telephone Office Conference Room
Graettinger, Iowa

Emmet County

Present: John Pluth, Chair
Jeff Quastad, Vice-Chair
Roger Hash
Todd Glasnapp
Amy M. Sathoff, Emmet County Auditor

Absent: Tim Schumacher

Palo Alto

Present: Roger Faulstick
Ronald Graettinger
Linus Solberg
Amanda Hansen, Palo Alto Auditor's Office

Absent: Keith Wirtz
Craig Merrill

Others Present: Mike Tidemann, Armstrong Journal
Amy Peterson, Estherville & Emmetsburg Newspapers
Eric Anderson, Emmet County Conservation

Pluth, called the meeting to order. Motion by Faulstick, second by Graettinger, to approve the minutes from last meeting of the two Boards held on February 12th, 2019. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Quastad, second by Solberg, to appoint John Pluth as Chair and Amy M. Sathoff as Secretary of the joint meeting. All ayes, motion carried.

Joint Engineer Walter Davis-Oeth was unable to attend. Both Palo Alto and Emmet County are happy with Walter and also with the sharing of Environmental Health Specialist Aimee Deveraux.

Quastad brought up recent drainage legislation that did not make the deadline. Palo Alto feels that the 70% threshold is needed. Emmet feels that the 50% threshold could work. Solberg mentioned that Palo Alto County does have a few drainage districts that only have 3 trustees. The Emmet County Board of Supervisors are trustees for all Emmet County drainage districts.

Solberg mentioned that Palo Alto County is going to be building a jail. Emmet County can hold 12 inmates. Average for Emmet County is approximately 6 inmates a day. Palo Alto average is 9. The new Palo Alto jail will hold 24.

Pluth told the joint Board that Emmet had 1 large drainage project in Twelve Mile Lake Township.

Quastad discussed a situation with 2 pup trailers that Emmet County is presently dealing with.

Quastad shared with the Boards a situation with the VFW property taxes. The Palo Alto VFW is not open to the public and only rents out the hall. Emmet County did abate the property taxes for this year so that the VFW can then go to the Board of Review.

Pluth asked what Palo Alto County does for IT. Palo Alto utilizes Solutions for all IT and Emmet County utilizes Lisa Rosburg and RDI out of Milford.

Palo Alto is with the NW Iowa Mental Health Region. Emmet County is with County Social Services.

The Supervisors discussed windmills and solar farms. Palo Alto County has concerns regarding solar farms when in a drainage district and are considering an ordinance to solve the issue.

Pluth shared with the Supervisors Emmet County's situation with Stateline Cooperative and how they are trying to get their property taxes lowered. If Stateline Cooperative wins the lawsuit, it could set a precedence in the State.

Sathoff asked if Palo Alto is currently taking advantage of free cyber security programs and equipment from the State of Iowa. Lisa Rosburg in Emmet County has taken advantage of all the free cyber security programs and equipment she can through the State of Iowa. Sathoff will get some information to Carmen.

Motion by Graettinger, second by Glasnapp to adjourn the meeting at 2:53 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Amy M. Sathoff, Emmet County Auditor &
Commissioner of Elections

John Pluth, Chairman