

Courthouse  
Emmetsburg, Iowa  
March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 8:00 a.m.

The Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors met in regular session. Members present: Linus Solberg, Chair; Ronald Graettinger, Roger Faulstick, Craig Merrill, Keith Wirtz. Present: Dean Gunderson Present by conference call: Brady Evans, Brad Quigley, Scott Buchanan, Neil Ankeny, Teameem, Joe Schany, Reporter/Democrat.

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the motions offered at this meeting were carried with the following vote: Ayes: Graettinger, Faulstick, Merrill Wirtz, Solberg. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

Due to COVID-19 the meeting was held by conference call. The conference call bridge number and conference ID number was posted and provided at the top of the agenda that was emailed and posted.

Motion by Graettinger, seconded by Wirtz to approve the agenda for March 16th, 2021. Motion Carried.

Motion by Faulstick, seconded by Graettinger to approve the minutes for March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Motion Carried.

The Board held a discussion on solar energy. Brad Quigley, Louisa County Supervisor answered the Boards questions on solar energy currently in his County. The Board discussed tiles/ditches/irrigations on lands with solar energy, cost of living increases, amount of lands/panels and insurance. Brad will be in touch with the Board to answer any further questions/concerns they have about solar energy.

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021, 8:15 a.m.  
Courthouse Boardroom.  
Emmetsburg, IA 50536

#### MINUTES OF PUBLIC HEARING ON THE STATUS OF FUNDED ACTIVITIES FOR THE PALO ALTO COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 508 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1987, as amended, the Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors held Public Hearing on March 16, 2021, at 8:15 a.m. at Courthouse Boardroom. The purpose of the hearing was to discuss the status of funding for the Palo Alto County Community Health to assist the elderly. This project is being funded through a Community Development Block Grant provided by the Iowa Economic Development Authority.

Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors present: Linus Solberg, Chair; Craig Merrill, Keith Wirtz, Ron Graettinger, Roger Faulstick; Carmen Moser, Auditor. Palo Alto County Chair presented the following items to the public at the hearing.

The need for the CDBG project grant is as follows: Our community is largely populated by elderly persons and those with high risk diagnosis and needs.

The description of the CDBG funded project and activities is as follows: In an attempt to keep the people in these categories healthy and not increase their risk for exposure to this virus, our public health agency is assisting them by drawing labs, checking blood pressures and weighing community members in the safety of their home. In doing this, we are preventing these people from having to come out of their home into the community and hospital setting, where they could come into contact with this virus.

The amount of CDGG funds for the project is \$4,000. This will cover the \$50 cost of each visit. That cost will cover \$30 for staff time and \$20 for supplies such as lab draw kits, packaging and bandages as well as gas for approximately 6-7 visits per week for 12 weeks. As a public health agency, the health of our community is of utmost importance and we desire to continue to assist these persons in remaining in their home for simple testing that can be completed at home by a skilled professional.

The estimated amount of CDBG assistance will benefit low- and moderate-income persons is \$2,000.

The location of project activities was completed at homes by a skilled professional. In being able to have the funding for this, our agency will be able to continue to meet these needs outside of the hospital and potentially protect many high-risk individuals in our community, without risking the viability of our business.

Due to the nature of this project no persons shall be relocated as a result of the recommended project. In the event that any persons or businesses are displaced as a result of the recommended project, the entities involved in the project will adhere to the requirements of the Uniform Relocation and Assistance and Acquisition Act of 1974, as amended.

Palo Alto County contact is: Sara Strohman, RN, BSN, Director of Community Health, 3201 1<sup>st</sup> Street, Emmetsburg IA 50536; Phone: 712-82-5419.

To assist Community Development and Housing Needs of low to moderate persons in Palo Alto County and promote the use of federal, state and local assistance programs as follows:

- USDA Housing Program: 100 percent financing is available and the interest rate for families with eligible incomes may be reduced to 1 percent. USDA Rural Development is able to loan in communities with a population of less than 20,000.
- Homeward, Inc.: Offers programs for Palo Alto County, including: Down Payment Assistance, Energy Efficient Loans, Minor Repair Application, Well and Septic Loans
- Workforce Housing Tax Credit - Assisting Construction or Rehabilitation of Housing in Communities with Workforce Housing Needs.

The Board of Supervisors asked for public input on Community Development and Housing needs and received no input from the public.

No one was present for the public hearing and not public comments were made. The public hearing was closed at 8:20 a.m.

Motion by Graettinger, seconded by Merrill to approve and submit for reimbursement for the CDBG funded grant project provided by Iowa Economic Development Authority for \$4,000 to Community Health. Motion Carried.

/s/Linus Solberg

Chair, Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors

/s/Carmen Moser, Attest: Carmen Moser, Auditor

Palo Alto County

Sarah Strohman, Community Health Director, met with the Board by conference call to give an update on COVID19 and vaccine. Current Positivity Rate: 5.7% and 13 new cases. Public Health is still receiving 100 vaccines weekly and holding clinics as they are able.

No one was present for public comment.

Motion by Wirtz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Graettinger to approve a liquor license for Molly Maguires for Class C liquor license, Outdoor Service and Sunday Sales with the intent to install Sanitarian approved Septic System on the property by September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports: Faulstick- Hog Site Building, Jail; Merrill- Wetland/Burning Prairies, Mental Health; Wirtz- Wellness/Safety, Drainage; Solberg- Excavator

Motion by Graettinger seconded by Wirtz to adjourn. Motion Carried.

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Linus Solberg, Chairman

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Jordan Morey, Auditor Clerk