

Courthouse  
Emmetsburg, Iowa  
April 16, 2024, 8:00 a.m.

The Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors met in regular session. Members present: Craig Merrill, Chair; Roger Faulstick, Linus Solberg, Keith Wirtz, Ronald Graettinger. Present: Carla Larson, Jim & Sharon Neighbors, Leon Wojahn, Aletha King, Zoning; Anne Quail, County Attorney. Present on conference call: Sean Bell, Shane Roche, Bri Erickson—Lost Island Wind.

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

Craig Merrill, Chair, called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Graettinger to approve the agenda for April 16, 2024. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Solberg to approve the minutes for April 9, 2024. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wirtz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Graettinger to approve the Sheriff quarterly report ending December 31, 2023. Motion Carried.

Motion by Solberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wirtz to approve a septic grant application from Greg Frink. Motion Carried.

Rob Allen, County Conservation Director, met with the Board to approve hiring part-time seasonal employees. Motion by Solberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Faulstick to approve hiring part-time seasonal employees for county conservation as follows: Donald Larsen \$17.75 per hour effective April 22, 2024; Joe Petersen \$15.00 per hour effective May 20, 2024; Abigail Bailey \$15.00 per hour effective May 20, 2024; Molly Leman \$100 per weekend effective May 11, 2024, as part time/campground host. Motion Carried.

Anne Quail, County Attorney, met with the Board to approve hiring part-time Assistant County Attorney.

Motion by Solberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Faulstick to approve hiring part-time Assistant County Attorney Samuel Lyon at \$77,000 annual salary effective April 22, 2024, with review in 6 months. Nays: Graettinger. Motion Carried.

Carla Larson was present for public comment and asked questions about tax increment financing revenues. Leon Wojahn was present for public comment and voiced his concerns about eagles and the airport regarding the wind turbines.

Jeremy Thilges, NRCS, met with the Board. James Schoning, landowner, met with the Board to discuss the waterway in Section 10 & 11, Highland Township, in Drainage District No. 154. NRCS & the landowner requested approval to repair the waterway over the tile of Drainage District N. 154 with no cost to the district.

Motion by Solberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Graettinger to approve the waterway repair over Drainage District No. 154 in Section 10 of Highland Township. Motion Carried.

Bill Hanigan, Attorney, met with the Board on a conference call to discuss the wind turbine application. Bill provided an update to the Board that Vesta's has provided a complete response to the April 5, 2024, letter requesting additional information & clarification.

The Board will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, April 17, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at the courthouse boardroom to continue discussions on the Lost Island wind application.

Motion by Wirtz, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Graettinger to set the Hearing Date for the Drainage District 64 Annexation for May 28, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse Boardroom. Motion Carried.

Sarah Strohman, Public Health Director and Ben Huntley, Environmental Health, met with the Board to discuss cancer rates in Palo Alto County. Sarah presented the 2024 Cancer in Iowa Report from the Iowa Cancer Registry. Sarah discussed a grant for radon testing kits & radon mitigation and requested a letter of support from the Board of Supervisors.

Motion by Solberg, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wirtz to approve a letter of support for the radon risk program and radon mitigation program. Motion Carried.

Ben Huntley met with the Board and gave an update on an interview he had with a news reporter regarding nitrates in water testing.

Sharon Neighbors spoke about cancer affecting her personally and cancer cases around Ruthven & Lost Island area.

Committee Reports: Ron—Solid Waste mtg; Roger—Gaming Development mtg.

Motion by Graettinger, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Wirtz to adjourn. Motion Carried.

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Craig Merrill, Chairman

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Carmen Moser, County Auditor