

Courthouse
Emmetsburg, Iowa
April 2, 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: Diane Weiland, Reporter/Democrat; Jim & Sharon Neighbors, BJ Schany, Jeff Schany, Leon Wojahn, Neil Dahlquist, Laura Winter, Randy Loomis. Present on conference call: Sean Bell, Shane Roche-Vestas.

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 Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to approve the agenda for April 2, 2024, with change to move transfer of TIF funds to next week. Motion Carried.

Motion by Solberg, 2nd by Graettinger to approve the minutes for March 26, 2024. Motion Carried.

Mark Weisbrod was present for public comment with concerns about a dam on private property holding back water. Leon Wojahn was present for public comment on concerns about proposed wind turbine in Section 31. Sharon Neighbors was present for public comment on availability of the proposed wind turbine maps in Ruthven, Graettinger, Ayrshire. Sharon asked the Board to read the information presented on health concerns regarding wind turbines. Jim Neighbors asked about the 6 additional met towers. Laura Winter asked about the setbacks for eagle nests. Neil Dahlquist was present for public comment about eminent domain for private company regarding the proposed pipeline in Palo Alto County.

Walter Davis-Oeth, County Engineer, met with the Board. Walter presented changes to the personnel policy manual. Walter updated the Board on the Fenton road preconstruction meeting will be in a couple of weeks.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to approve the personnel policy manual for April 2, 2024. Motion Carried.

Roberta Herson, Extension Council, met with the Board to renew the lease of the Carnegie Library with the ISU Extension Office for a lease for 5 years. Anne Quail, County Attorney, stated that insurance limits will be included in the lease.

Motion by Solberg, 2nd by Faulstick to approve the lease of the Carnegie Library with the ISU Extension Office for a lease of 5 years effective April 1, 2024, through March 31, 2029. Motion Carried.

Sarah Strohman, Public Health, met with the Board to present the Proclamation for Child Abuse prevention. Motion by Solberg, 2nd by Wirtz to approve the proclamation for April as National Child Abuse Prevention Month in Palo Alto County. Motion Carried.

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Iowa and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma, including abuse and neglect, is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone; and

WHEREAS, childhood trauma can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that build strong children and families; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community in partnership to build awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Craig Merrill, Palo Alto County Board Supervisors do hereby proclaim April as NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in Palo Alto County and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

John King, County Sheriff, met with the Board to give an update on the jail & public safety center. John updated the Board that they are waiting for the kitchen to be completed. John gave an update on the number of prisoners in the new facility.

Anne Quail, County Attorney, met with the Board to approve Resolution No. 4-2-2024 to advertise, hire and appoint an Assistant County Attorney.

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PALO ALTO COUNTY, IOWA
APPROVING ADVERTISEMENT, HIRING, AND APPOINTMENT OF ASSISTANT COUNTY ATTORNEY
No. 4-2-2024

WHEREAS, the efficient functioning of Palo Alto County necessitates the appointment of qualified personnel to various positions within the county government; and

WHEREAS, the legal department of Palo Alto County is in need of an Assistant County Attorney to aid in providing legal counsel, representation, and assistance to the county and its departments in legal matters; and

WHEREAS, the County Attorney has recommended the advertisement, hiring, and appointment of an Assistant County Attorney to fulfill the needs of the legal department; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has reviewed the job description, qualifications, and salary for the position of Assistant County Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has determined that the appointment of an Assistant County Attorney is in the best interest of Palo Alto County and its residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Palo Alto County, Iowa:

1. That the advertisement for the position of Assistant County Attorney be approved and authorized to be posted in appropriate media outlets and county buildings.
2. That the County Attorney is hereby authorized to conduct interviews and select a qualified candidate for the position of Assistant County Attorney in accordance with county hiring policies and procedures.
3. That upon selection, the County Attorney is authorized to offer employment to the selected candidate, subject to satisfactory completion of all pre-employment requirements.
4. That the salary and benefits for the position of Assistant County Attorney are outlined in the approved budget for the current fiscal year.

5. That the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors and the Clerk of the Board are hereby authorized to execute any necessary documents to effectuate the appointment of the Assistant County Attorney.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Solberg to introduce and approve Resolution No. 4-2-2024.

Ayes: Wirtz, Solberg, Graettinger, Merrill, Faulstick. Nays: none.

Resolution Passed.

/s/Craig Merrill, Chair

/s/Carmen Moser, Auditor

The Board held a conference call with Bill Hannigan, Attorney. Bill updated the Board on the review of the Lost Island Wind application. He is working on the decommissioning agreement and scope of bond. Ron Graettinger suggested 3-5 years for review in decommissioning agreement. Bill will deliver a draft letter to the Board of Supervisors on Friday to address the Lost Island Wind application.

Committee Reports: Keith—IDDA meeting; Linus—chip seal road; Ron—Upper Des Moines; Craig—Care Connections. Aletha King, Solid Waste, gave an update on the transfer station building & builders risk insurance. The compactor is coming next week.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to adjourn. Motion Carried.

Craig Merrill, Chairman

Carmen Moser, County Auditor