

March 4, 2024 Special Meeting

Special meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairman Heath Hansen. Others attending were Doug Sorensen, Becky Marten, Bruce Haag, Ron Mullenger, Peggy Smalley, Gary Olsen, Connie Esbeck, Todd Johnson, Cassie Jacobsen, Ben Linde. Supervisor Rick Thompson Absent. Motion-Sorensen Second-Hansen to approve agenda. Vote-all in favor.

Conservation Director Haag and Board members Mullenger, Smalley, Olsen and Esbeck reviewed budget and discussed changes. 4% increase in wages is budgeted and Haag expressed need for a trail manager. Also discussed that additional seasonal help will be needed both for the cabins and trail project. Possibility of new pickup and also much discussion of the resurfacing of park road and also road from highway to park entrance. Chairman Hansen questioned why a 4% increase in wages and Smalley stated the budget was done in December and at that time didn’t know Compensation Board recommendation of 3.2%. Hansen also asked about projected revenue now that the cabin project is nearly complete. Haag estimated would be approximately what the camping revenue is yearly. Smalley stated they would welcome donation of usable kitchen dishes/utensils etc for the new cabins. She also stated that the hiring of a trail manager would free time for Haag since trail manager would be doing grants, etc. No decisions by Board of Supervisors made.

Discussion was held on the Kimballton library allocation going to Elk Horn library which is not in Audubon County. Motion-Sorensen Second-Hansen to suspend allocations to Kimballton Library. Vote-all in favor. Attorney Swensen is in process of recovering funds from Kimballton library for this misspent allocation. Motion-Sorensen Second-Hansen to set Public Hearing date for Amendment #4 to March 19, 2024 at 10 a.m. and to approve Public Notice in newspaper on March 8, 2024. Vote-all in favor. Supervisors reviewed reasons for property tax levy increases and will be presented to Auditor.

Sheriff Johnson and Cassie Jacobsen reviewed their budget and will be increasing the part-time deputies wages to \$27/hour which remains lower than Carroll or Crawford County. Discussed increase in budget for new patrol deputy canine vehicle and discussed other increases. Johnson stated they are waiting on an outstanding invoice for jail meals at this time. No decision by Supervisors made.

IT Director Ben Linde discussed his budget and will be correcting the figuring of his salary. His increase in Data Processing equipment would be for servers and Tyler software. No decision by Supervisors made.

Chairman Hansen stated that Attorney Swensen will be sending contract to Audubon City for rental of office space during the Courthouse HVAC project. Motion-Sorensen Second-Hansen to dismiss at 12 noon. Vote-all in favor.

/s/Heath Hansen
Chairman, Board of Supervisors

/s/Chassity Musfeldt
Audubon County Auditor Clerk