

Waterloo, Iowa January 6, 2022

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Black Hawk, in the State of Iowa, met in regular adjourned meeting at the Courthouse in Waterloo, County Seat of said County, and electronically via Zoom, at nine o'clock (9:00) a.m., pursuant to law, to the rules of said Board, and to adjournment. The meeting was called to order and on roll call there were present: Linda Laylin, Tom Little, Dan Trelka and Craig White, Chair.

Absent: Chris Schwartz.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

Moved by Little, seconded by Laylin that the AGENDA be received and place on file with the County Auditor as approved. Motion carried.

Trelka moved the following resolution seconded by Laylin.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED to approve the combining of Cedar Falls Ward 2 Precinct 3 and part of Cedar Falls Township into a single election precinct and direct the Chair to sign for same.

AYES: Laylin, Little, Trelka, White.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Schwartz.

Schwartz joined the meeting.

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION – The Board considered various aspects of the FY23 Black Hawk County Budget. Finance Director James Perry reviewed budgets along with the involved officers for the County Attorney's Office; County Engineer's Department; County Health Department; and County Sheriff's Office.

County Attorney Brian Williams explained his request to add a second part-time assistant attorney position to be responsible for the autonomous Conservation, Health and Veteran Affairs Boards, and to handle post-conviction civil proceedings.

County Engineer Cathy Nicholas presented an increased capital funding request to purchase new equipment, including replacing two Volvo motor graders for \$780,000, and replacing a single- and a tandem-axle dump truck for \$160,000 and \$235,000 respectively. Nicholas also discussed her request to create a new roadside biologist position, which Black Hawk County hasn't had since the 1980s. Nicholas said half of Iowa's counties have a similar position. She said the biologist would better manage 4,300 acres of county road right-of-way. Nicholas and others visited other counties with roadside management programs and believed Black Hawk County would benefit from the position. Little asked about funding for the position. Nicholas said her office would not be filling an office specialist post, and the roadside biologist would cost \$60,000 to \$65,000 annually. Perry noted most of the engineer's budget is not in the general fund.

Sheriff Tony Thompson presented his budget, noting most additional expenses were related to personnel costs and worker's compensation rates. Little questioned whether the county could use federal American Rescue Plan Act funds to buy patrol vehicles. Perry cautioned against using ARPA money for vehicles in an annual replacement program because it would result in a large funding increase in future years. ARPA funds should be used on large, one-time projects. Little asked whether it was time to rebid health care services for the jail. Thompson said his office had a good relationship with the current provider but agreed it may be time to seek bids in the next couple years. Trelka was asked whether he wanted to discuss deputy staffing levels in the courthouse. Trelka said he had discussions with the Sheriff's Office and agreed the service is necessary.

Sheriff's Capt. Mark Herbst presented a request to use an estimated \$1 million in ARPA funds to construct a new evidence-processing facility at the Sheriff's Raymond training center. The center would serve local law enforcement agencies. Little said the project was a good idea if it doesn't require additional staffing. Jail Administrator Capt. Nate Neff presented a request to use \$2.2 million to \$2.4 million in ARPA funds to add approximately 30 beds to the jail, specifically designed to help keep vulnerable inmates, such as teenagers, from adult inmates. The request would require hiring 10 new detention officers but would reduce liability concerns.

On motion and vote the meeting adjourned.

Craig White, Chair, Board of Supervisors

Tim Jamison, Systems/Real Estate Tax Manager