

Waterloo, Iowa January 13, 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, Chris Schwartz, Dan Trelka and Craig White, Chair.

Absent: None.

Unless otherwise noted, all actions were approved unanimously.

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

DISCUSSION/POSSIBLE BOARD ACTION – Consideration of all aspects of the FY23 Black Hawk County Budget. Presentations were given by Northeast Iowa Food Bank and Operation Threshold. Trelka said that in the funding of agencies that fulfill a public purpose he would like to identify five categories: (1) Stable and secure housing, including but not limited to legal services and assistance for rent, heating and utilities, and mortgages. (2) Nutrition and hunger. (3) Education, job training, basic skills training, and special needs training and assistance. (4) Employment opportunities and economic development. (5) Crisis prevention and assistance, violence prevention, and assistance for victims. Laylin said that the topic could be put on an agenda and other supervisors could suggest additions. She said that the Board needed to address both the agencies that would be approved for funding for FY23 and those that were budgeted for FY22 but had to be re-evaluated after the Auditor of State told counties that they could only fund non-profits that fulfill a public purpose under an agreement with the county. Schwartz said that no action could be taken on FY22 situations until they were placed on an agenda, but that he thought the Board could establish a placeholder of \$100-200,000 for potential FY23 approvals, with the funds coming from reserves.

Little moved the following resolution seconded by White.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED to allocate \$100,000 from FY23 reserve funds for agencies that fulfill a public purpose.

AYES: Laylin, Little, Schwartz, Trelka, White.

NAYS: None. Resolution adopted.

The supervisors discussed requests from watershed management districts, and agreed that they should be supported in maintaining administrative services that apply for grants etc.

Schwartz moved the following resolution seconded by Laylin.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED to allocate \$8,000 from FY23 reserve funds for The Middle Cedar Watershed Management Authority and the Upper Wapsipinicon River Watershed Management Authority.

AYES: Laylin, Little, Schwartz, Trelka, White.

NAYS: None. Resolution adopted.

Perry discussed property valuations, saying the net effect of valuation and rollback increases and decreases in various classes of property was a 3.33% increase in total taxable valuation, or \$189,647,713. He said that with the FY23 budget in its current state (which includes a removal of \$3,936,840 in taxes for mental health-developmental disability services, now funded by the state) would result in an 9.09% decrease in tax askings, a 12.93% decrease in the urban tax rate, and an 9.14% decrease in the rural tax rate. This would result in a 16.25% decrease for residential property taxes, 12.81% decrease for rural residential, 12.73% decrease for commercial and industrial, 5.76% increase in agricultural (due to a 5.96% increase in the ag rollback) and 17.58% decrease in multi-residential.

County Engineer Cathy Nicholas said that the county is transferring 100% of the maximum transfer from the General Fund to the Secondary Roads Fund and 95% of the maximum from the Rural Fund. She asked that the Board increase the Rural Fund transfer to 100%.

Laylin moved the following resolution seconded by Trelka.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED to increase the Rural Fund transfer to the Secondary Roads Fund from 95% of the maximum transfer to 100%.

AYES: Laylin, Schwartz, Trelka, White.

NAYS: Little. Resolution adopted.

Laylin said that Black Hawk County's per capita funding of libraries is far below that of other urban counties and of the statewide average and suggested that the Board approve the libraries' request to increase funding to \$170,000, or 17.9% per capita.

Laylin moved the following resolution seconded by Schwartz.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED to allocate \$170,000, or an increase of 6.83%, to Black Hawk County libraries for FY23.

AYES: Laylin, Little, Schwartz, Trelka, White.

NAYS: None. Resolution adopted.

Perry said that using American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding for capital expenses could cause a sharp decrease in tax askings that will lead to a future spike, so he wanted to shift some capital expenses from Secondary Roads funding to level out the tax rate. He said that he would advertise for a public hearing on February 8 after publishing the maximum that the county will levy in FY23 for general county services and rural county services. He said the final public hearing and budget approval should be done by March 1 at the latest. Schwartz advised explaining that "maximum levy" doesn't mean the maximum amount the county may levy by law, but merely the maximum that the county will levy for FY23 based on the present condition of the budget to be approved. He said they should stress that there will be an overall tax decrease.

Perry reviewed the Phase 2 projects proposed for use of ARP funds, which stood at \$6,603,386. He stressed that while this will be included in the FY23 budget, it will have no effect on tax askings. Little said he wouldn't support the Sheriff's request that included two new positions, since they would remain after ARP funds are gone. He also opposed purchasing a vehicle for the Medical Examiner because he thought Mercy One would be willing to negotiate down their \$700 ambulance charge and the county would avoid the cost of maintenance, drivers and insurance. Schwartz said that a number of Building Maintenance requests would

be contingent on the results of the space needs evaluation, but that he was ready to approve the remaining items that were not questioned by Little. Perry said the new amount would be \$2,781,386.

Schwartz moved the following resolution seconded by Trelka.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED to approve the Phase 2 American Rescue Plan projects proposed by the Health Department, Auditor/Elections, Information Technology, Conservation, and Veterans Affairs, and the evidence intake building proposed by the Sheriff.

AYES: Laylin, Little, Schwartz, Trelka, White.

NAYS: None. Resolution adopted.

On motion and vote the meeting adjourned.

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Craig White, Chair, Board of Supervisors

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Grant Veeder, County Auditor