

May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Des Moines County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the Court House in Burlington at 9 AM on Tuesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with Chairman Tom Broeker, Vice-Chair Bob Beck and Jim Cary present. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic declaration, this meeting was held electronically via Webex and YouTube live streaming. Public input was available through board email or call in.

Unless otherwise noted, all motions passed unanimously. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Meet with Department Heads: County Auditor Terri Johnson gave a Primary Election update. To date 4,580 absentee ballots have been sent and 1,359 have been returned. Yesterday 809 ballots were returned, and 56 voters did not sign the affidavit envelope. The office has been busy calling those voters to give them two options: they can come to the courthouse and sign the envelope, or they can request a new ballot to be mailed. Johnson reminded anyone requesting an absentee ballot to make sure they sign the absentee request form and designate the political party ballot they want because "No Party" or "Independent" ballots are not an option. After receiving the official ballot and voting, the voter needs to sign the affidavit envelope before mailing the ballot back to the county. Sheriff Mike Johnstone stated everything is going well and business as usual. They are social distancing in the office and splitting staff. He stated service calls are up and so are domestic calls. Dispatch is completing COVID screening before sending officers to respond to a call. Clerk of Court Jackie Myers stated her office is running as normal as can be and the staff is still splitting their time. They are screening appointments. Myers stated domestics are up and so are mental cases. IT Director Colin Gerst reported his office is busy. Via Webex: Maintenance Supervisor Rodney Bliesener reported his department is staying very busy. County Engineer Brian Carter reported the Iowa City Road mainline paving was done last week. There is a partial close on Pleasant Grove Road as they work on the new intersection with Iowa City Road. On North Gear Avenue another section of mainline paving was done last week. The Mediapolis Road bridges are moving along, more pilings and pouring abutments. The contract rock haul will finish up the south portion today. The county-wide dust control will be completed the last week of May. Conservation Director Chris Lee reported the campgrounds opened last weekend on limited basis by Governor's Proclamation. Conservation is following their phased reopening plan. All campsites will be open. Outhouses are open but the shower house at Big Hollow will not reopen until further notice. Environmental classes will restart on a limited basis when the Nature Center reopens. Camping at Big Hollow was at half capacity last weekend. All reserved sites at Big Hollow are sold out for the coming weekend. Thru a grant they purchased a new kayak launch dock at Big Hollow, it is a big hit. Lee stated the fishing is great and the DNR did a biannual Muskie release on Monday. Lee wanted to remind everyone Starr's Cave is a state preserve park. Consumables, such as mushrooms, cannot be taken from this site. Jail Administrator Doug Ervine stated everything is good at the jail. Population is 66 and 5 or 6 of those are waiting to be transferred to prison, maybe in early June. The state will be reimbursing counties for housing their prisoners at \$50 a day. However, he has not seen the reimbursement yet. Video visitation is working and eliminates having to move prisoners around. CDS Director Ken Hyndman reported the Governing Board meeting is tomorrow. The SEIL Stakeholder meeting was cancelled. Assistant Land Use Administrator Jarred Lassiter stated they have received a fair amount of new inquiries. A couple of subdivisions are out for review. SEIRPC is working on the finishing touches of the Hazard Mitigation Plan. County Treasurer Janelle Nalley-Londquist reported her office is very busy processing tax payments and vehicle licenses thru the drop box, mail and phone. County Attorney Lisa Schaefer stated her office is quiet for now. There is an uptick of drug arrests and domestics. They are preparing for June 1<sup>st</sup> opening of non-jury trials, etc. and mid-July when jury trials will start. Deputy Recorder Natalie Steffener reported they are busy conducting business thru phone calls and mail. Safety Director Angie Vaughan reported her office is keeping busy. Emergency Management Coordinator Gina Hardin reported they are still finalizing the Hazard Mitigation Plan and will be requesting an extension. COVID-19 update, they are getting lots of questions from entities, people, etc. She is waiting on the Governor's news conference today to see what else will open. PPE orders have slowed down. The EOC is only open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Local Health Administrator Christa Poggemiller stated Des Moines County has 40 COVID cases and they are doing contact tracing. Chairman Broeker stated GRMC has never been pressed to capacity due to COVID-19.

County Engineer Brian Carter presented an Engineer's Report of Bid results for the DMC Hwy 99 Bridge (T29). Low bid was Iowa Bridge & Culvert LC, from Washington, Iowa for \$2,395,936.85. The bid was below the Engineer's estimate of \$2,937,559.00.

Maintenance Supervisor Rodney Bliesener presented a quote for a new Courthouse Chiller. Arnold Refrigeration Inc had the low quote of \$50,578 for Model MAZ040A Daikin. Cary motioned to approve and

seconded by Beck.

Personnel Actions: Correctional Center – Alexis Abney, Correctional Officer Part time. Resignation effective 5/6. Alexander Elliott, Cook Part time. Reclassification from Assistant Cook Part time to Cook Part time. New rate \$13.08 hr., effective 5/12. Beck motioned to approve both actions and seconded by Cary.

Local Health – Aurey Kramer, Secretary. Unpaid leave of 78.46 hrs. from 4/19 – 5/2. Beck motioned to approve and seconded by Cary.

Sheriff's Office – Alfred Waterman, Deputy. Discharge effective 5/4. Cary motioned to approve and seconded by Beck.

Reports received and filed in the Auditor's Office:

General Assistance Monthly Report, April 2020

Recorder's Report of Fees Collected, April 2020

Sheriff's Monthly Report, April 2020

Beck motioned to approve the May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 meeting minutes and seconded by Cary.

Committee reports. Cary had an Early Childhood ZOOM meeting. They reviewed five RFP's and approved two RFP's at this meeting. They will review the other three at the next meeting. One of the RFP's is for Burlington Community School District to help with early childhood ages 0-3 and 4-5-year old and will be at Corse School. Beck had a telephone conference with the Conservation Board. \$133,000 of grant funds for trails was released. A 20% was required and the county's projects were much higher than the grant. The grant was turned over to the City of Burlington to finish their trails. Conservation Director Lee reported the largest Chinkapin Oak tree in the State of Iowa is on the Leopold Recreation Area located east of Starr's Cave. It is estimated to be 85' tall with about the same size of crown. Broeker has been attending the EOC meetings.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:48 AM.

Following the meeting a work session was held with the Clerk of Court, Judge Brown, Auditor, Jail, Local Health, Sheriff, and IT to discuss the resumption of non-jury legal proceedings at the courthouse on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The Courthouse will maintain the same current operation until June 1<sup>st</sup>. After June 1<sup>st</sup>, in-person criminal proceedings will be scheduled. On June 15<sup>th</sup> civil matters will proceed and on July 15<sup>th</sup> jury trials will begin. Currently the courthouse is not ready to open as safety features and supplies still need to be obtained and installed. Discussed a soft opening on June 1<sup>st</sup> for courts only with only one entrance into the courthouse being available. The handicap entrance in the basement will be used and a screening area will be setup. The Health Department will provide personnel for the screening area. The public coming in will be escorted to their court appearance. County business will continue by appointment only until further review. After one-week protocols will be reviewed and the next phase will be discussed.

This Board meeting is recorded and kept on file for two years. The meeting minutes and audio are posted on the county's website [www.dmcounty.com](http://www.dmcounty.com)

Approved May 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Tom Broeker, Chairman

Attest: Terri Johnson, Auditor