

The Fremont County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on Wednesday, November 20, 2024, in the Fremont County Courthouse Boardroom, with Clint Blackburn and Dustin Sheldon present. Let the record show that Chris Clark was not present for this meeting. A quorum was declared, and the meeting was officially called to order at 9:00 a.m. The agenda was approved as posted. Minutes of the previous board session were read and approved.

Let the record show that Sanitarian Caleb Hammons, EMC Clayton Long, Sheryl Sanders, and Maintenance Manager Zach Benedict were present for this meeting.

Sheryl Sanders with the Southern Loess Hills Welcome Center met with the board to update them on happenings at the welcome center. They have been open since June 2023. They restored and refurnished the building. They ended up with a squatter behind the property. They had him removed. She said she secured a mower to mow the front and back to avoid any more squatters. They are revamping the sign out front. They are working with Golden Hills RC & D for funding for new displays. They had money from the flood insurance to help make repairs. She stated their only expenses are for heating, cooling, mowing, cleaning, and snow removal. All others are volunteers. They are open 10-4 Tuesday through Sunday. They need more volunteers to be open 7 days per week. They are working on a Facebook page to get volunteers and to post goings on. They had 2300 visitors this year. The board consists of Sheryl Sanders, Pat Hume, Marsha Little, Phil Wing, Susan LaFollette, and Phyllis Collins. David Hume may be a new board member. The board thanked her for the update.

The board discussed the salary for the new sanitarian. Vice Chairman Blackburn stated that the board of health discussed giving him the salary of the full time sanitarian when he was on his own. Motion by Sheldon to raise his pay to former sanitarian wage. Motion carried unanimously. Hammons asked if that would be retroactive to October 19<sup>th</sup> when the former left. After discussion, motion by Sheldon to amend his motion to make the change retroactive to the date when the former sanitarian left. Motion carried unanimously.

Zach Benedict, Maintenance, met with the board regarding an updated bid for the boiler repairs. There is a part that the company couldn't get. The parts to replace that cost more than the original one in the bid. The new estimate is for an additional \$1,200.22. Motion by Sheldon to approve the increase for boiler repair estimate in the amount of \$1,200.22 bringing the total estimate to \$10,832.32. Motion carried unanimously.

The board discussed an email from Congressman Feenstra's Office regarding the Coast Guard's decision to remove the 36 Aids to Navigation (ATONS). That decision was based on a 2021 study that categorized the Missouri River as "navigationally non-critical". Supervisor Sheldon stated this is north of Blencoe. People in that area are against this and want the plan revoked and blocked as it would be detrimental to navigation on the river. Supervisor Sheldon said taking those out would allow more sediment to form and less volume to hold water. They would like a letter of support to stop this project. Sheldon continued saying if they don't stop the project it could negatively affect the economic development along the entire length of the river. The request for support has been distributed to the business owners in that location, Responsible River Management, landowners, and drainage districts. The board will act on this next week.

Claims were approved for November 22, 2024.

At 9:28 a.m., motion by Sheldon to recess until 10:15 a.m. for closed session. Motion carried unanimously.

At 10:15 a.m, motion by Sheldon to go out of recess. Motion carried unanimously.

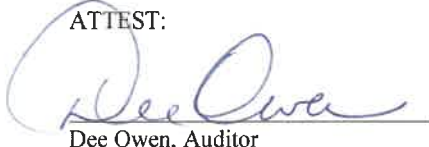
At 10:15 a.m., Jack Reed with INCS joined the meeting.

At 10:15 a.m., motion by Sheldon to go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 20.17(3) to discuss union negotiations. Sheldon, aye. Blackburn, aye.

At 11:02 a.m., motion by Sheldon to go out of closed session. Blackburn, aye. Sheldon, aye.

At 11:03 a.m., with no further business, Sheldon motioned to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously.

ATTEST:

  
Dee Owen, Auditor

  
Clint Blackburn, Vice Chairman