

The Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. January 23, 2024 with the following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Members of the public were also present.

The Board viewed correspondence from various agencies.

The Board acknowledged receipt of the following correspondence from:

Safety Committee Meeting minutes from 1/16/2024.

Chief Deputy Koranda regarding Matt Rowald, Correctional Officer eligible for 1st year anniversary pay change to \$24.20 effective 1/14/2024.

Cedar County Clerk for fees collected for the month of December 2023.

Manure Management Annual Updates submitted by:

Hermiston Farms Inc. #67097 for a site at 2361 250th Street, New Liberty.

It was noted the following Handwritten Disbursement was issued on 1/19/24 to the Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #437646 for \$2912.67-self funded medical claims.

Moved by Sup. Gaul seconded by Sup. Bixler to approve the agenda.

Ayes: All

Chairperson Bell addressed the public for comments. Kathy Tholen mentioned the pipeline will be near her home and asking the Board to help protect the citizens of Cedar County. EMA Director Freet mentioned a Presidential Disaster is possible with the past snowstorms.

Moved by Sup. Barnhart seconded by Sup. Bixler to approve the Board Minutes of January 16, 2024.

Ayes: All

Abstain: Kaufmann

Moved by Sup. Gaul seconded by Sup. Bixler to approve Claim Disbursements #437514 - #437645 paid on 1/18/2024.

Ayes: All

The Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.

At 9:00 a.m., the Board held a special monthly department head meeting to discuss the budget for FY24/25. Those in attendance were: Public Health Director Wagaman, EMA Director Freet, Auditor Wiese, Engineer Fangmann, IT Director Pierce, Head Custodian Gritton, Assessor Dauber, Sheriff Wethington, Attorney Blank, Chief Deputy Koranda, Chief Deputy Knoche, Treasurer Delaney, Conservation Director Dauber, Recorder Bahnsen, Environmental & Zoning Director LaRue, Veterans Service Officer Hamann and CPC Director Tischuk. Discussion was held on the shortfall in the General Basic, General Supplemental and Rural Services Funds. The Board advised Department heads to reference the code section on requirements of services that are mandated and provide a cost savings to Finance Director Dauber by Thursday.

Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Gaul that the Board will not receive a wage increase for FY24/25.

Ayes: All

Moved by Sup. Gaul seconded by Sup. Barnhart to approve a utility permit for Windstream on 290th Street and the \$100 fee applies.

Ayes: All

Discussion was held on a quote received for panic buttons. Safety Coordinator Boots, IT Director Pierce, Finance Director Dauber and EMA Director Freet were in attendance. The quote received was for \$33,409.00. Freet said she could apply for a Homeland Security Grant to help cover the cost, but the \$1,900 annual fee would still need to be budgeted. Discussion was held.

Moved by Sup. Barnhart seconded by Sup. Kaufmann to have EMA Director Freet apply for grant monies for the total package including a channel for the radios for the panic buttons.
Ayes: All

Phil Waniorek, Benefits, Inc. met with the Board to discuss FY24/25 health plan, rates and administration. Cedar County's Blue Cross Blue Shield renewal increase is 10.7%. No changes were made to our plan. Bell asked if the best option to save money would be to change the plan or change the percentage the county pays. Waniorek said it would be more equitable to change the percentage not the plan. Discussion was held.

Moved by Sup. Gaul seconded by Sup. Barnhart to approve and authorize Chairperson Bell to sign the Blue Cross Blue Shield renewal at 10.7% and approve and authorize Chairperson Bell to sign the Administrative Services Proposal.
Ayes: All

The Board recessed for five minutes.

Jeff Steiert, MCM Consulting met with the Board to discuss implementation on Phase II. Steiert informed the Board a kickoff meeting was held, and a project schedule was discussed. Director of EMS job description was reviewed and salary with early April date for hiring. Steiert said more meetings are scheduled for the future. Discussion was held.

Moved by Sup. Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve the job description and salary once Mike Galloway, Human Resources has approved.
Ayes: All

Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Gaul to approve a Work Request for Public Health to hang a 3-tier glove holder in the infirmary.
Ayes: All

Moved by Sup. Bixler seconded by Sup. Barnhart to approve the classification and wage change for Isaac Brennan moving to a Maintenance Worker II and a wage increase to \$29.07 effective 2/3/2024.
Ayes: All

Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Bell to approve the 28E Agreement with SARA Radio Network.
Ayes: All


Jack Wilson, Knutson Construction met with the Board to discuss the elevator project. Head Custodian Gritton was in attendance. Wilson said all the vendors are currently in the building working and aware of the deadline of February 16, 2024.

Safety Coordinator Boots met with the Board to discuss the use of space heaters. An incident occurred in an office with two space heaters running overheating the wiring and tripping breakers. Boots recommends no more space heaters in the courthouse.

Moved by Sup. Kaufmann seconded by Sup. Gaul to deny the allowance space heaters in the Courthouse.
Ayes: All

Moved by Sup. Gaul seconded by Sup. Kaufmann to adjourn at 11:43 a.m., to January 30, 2024.
Ayes: All


Stephanie Wiese, Auditor


Jon Bell, Chairperson