

April 18, 2024

The board met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Members present Diana Dawley, Jeff Tindle (via phone), and Jason Roudabush. Also present: Bart Klaver, County Attorney.

Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Tindle to approve agenda. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Moved by Tindle, 2nd by Roudabush to approve April 15, 2024 board minutes. 3 ayes. Motion carried.

Roudabush inquired with Attorney Klaver the status of the eminent domain for land by TA in Brooklyn in order to get right-of-way to build a turn-lane. Attorney Klaver stated he is working on getting the paperwork completed.

8:35 a.m. J.D. Griffith, Sanitarian/Zoning met with board to discuss Ordinance #16 – Junk Vehicles. Dawley stated she has had several complaints about a property located on Hwy 146 just East of Searsboro which has many vehicles, boat lifts, and other various items stored on the land and creating a nuisance. Attorney Klaver stated the only option would be for the county to send the landowner a letter to clean up the area and if the landowner does not, then the county could have recourse to clean up and assess the cost to the landowner. Griffith stated he will send a letter to the landowner.

9:00 a.m. Brian Paul, EMA Director met with board to introduce a proposed ordinance regarding open & controlled burning. Paul stated over the last several years, there have been issues with fire departments responding to fires during red flag warnings or during state burn bans. This puts the firemen at risk with their lives, their equipment and property due to individuals' carelessness. Individuals continue to burn during adverse conditions and there are not any repercussions to them. Paul would like to see an ordinance to establish requirements regarding controlled burns and to issue penalties/fines for those that disregard the red flag warnings or burn bans. Tindle inquired how a farmer would comply with DNR regulations where a field needs to be burned due to CRP regulations. Paul stated there is a process to obtain a permit through the State of Iowa to allow burning, with safety matters in place, during those conditions.

Board stated they will review the draft ordinance provided by Paul and will discuss it at a future board meeting to see if they want to proceed with the ordinance process. Dawley stated she wanted to also discuss this proposed ordinance with the Sheriff and will see if he can attend a future meeting to discuss.

9:45 a.m. Jeff Tindle had to leave meeting via phone to attend another meeting.

10:52 a.m. Moved by Roudabush, 2nd by Dawley to adjourn. 2 ayes. Motion carried.

Melissa Eilander, Poweshiek County Auditor

Diana Dawley, Chairman