

**UNOFFICIAL MINUTES OF THE JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

*\*Disclaimer-This document represents the "unofficial" minutes of the Jefferson County Board of Commissioners. At this point, it is a working document and does not become official until the Board approves the minutes at a subsequent meeting. It is to be used for informational purposes only.*

The Jefferson County Board of Commissioners met in regular session on July 12, 2021. Present were Commissioners David Christy and Lynn Luck. County Clerk Linda Buttron and Assistant County Counselor Alan Vester were also present. Commission Malm was absent attending the NACO annual conference.

Vouchers were reviewed and approved by the Board. David asked for discussion of the minutes. He asked that the minutes be corrected to specifically list the three bullet points contained in the letter from Attorney Timothy Resner regarding the Starr zoning case. David moved that the minutes of June 28 be approved as corrected. Lynn seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Health Department Administrator Crystal VanHoutan reported that the County has had 1,783 COVID cases with 73 hospitalization and 38 confirmed deaths. There is one death pending. There have been 16 cases with variants, the primary variant being the Delta variant. Cases have increased in the last couple weeks.

Emergency Services Director James Tweed presented a basic outline of how projects might be approved for payment with ARPA money. He also suggested that the Board approve an agreement using Brian Nyp as the accountant for the ARPA money. He will ask for a decision on the agreement next week. He reported that the new 800 megahertz tower came on line on June 29<sup>th</sup>. He can now pay the final invoices for the project and request reimbursement from the CERG grant. By consensus the Board approved the use of ARPA money to temporarily pay the final invoices until the CERG grant sends reimbursement. James asked for approval of an ARPA project. He would like to purchase an ambulance outfitted for COVID. He would like to purchase one this year and one next year. He has received two proposals for the ambulances. Pinnacle proposed a cost of \$185,588 and Osage Emergency Vehicles proposed \$198,145. Lynn moved to approve the purchase of one ambulance from Pinnacle. David seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

Ben Domann, Public Works Director met with the Board. Pat Sieve was presented with an award for 35 years of service. Ben will meet with INA Alert this week regarding alarms and camera systems. Chip & seal work starts tomorrow. Ben reported that another citizen offered cash to the crews. Ben turned the money into the Commissioners. It will be returned to the citizen. The Board signed right of way permits.

Kelly Woodward, Community Development Director met with the Board. Erin has been working on the wording for the resolution for the Starr case. A resolution will be presented next week for approval. With regard to the request for improvements in the customer service area of the office, Lynn moved that the Board approve the expense of up to \$18,000 for improvements in the office. David seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

County Treasurer Lisa Buerman presented sealed bids for lots. Cheryl Jones bid \$310 for Lots 752 Lakewood Hills and \$310 for Lot 733 Lakewood hills. Lynn moved that the bids be accepted as presented. David seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

David moved that the Board notify the County Clerk that it intends to exceed the revenue neutral rate and the proposed mill levy rate will be 72.777. The date of the hearing for the 2022 budget will be August 30 at 1:30 p.m. at the Jefferson County Courthouse, Oskaloosa, Kansas. Lynn seconded. All voted in favor of the motion.

At 1:30 p.m. a public hearing was held regarding vacating a portion of Washington street in Dunavant. Lynn opened the public hearing for the vacation. Jeff Hollaway was present for the hearing and explained what he wanted vacated. Lynn asked for other public comment. No other comment was heard. Lynn adjourned the public hearing. Lynn moved that the vacation of part of Washington street in Dunavant be approved as requested. David seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. Attorney Josh Ney will draft the vacation order.

Jeff Lane from Treanor Architects and Sheriff Jeff Herrig met with the Board to present information about expanding the jail and adding a mental health unit to the jail. The Sheriff is proposing to add five cells in a medical /mental health wing, separated from the other pods. The unit would have negative air flow for the

purposes of preventing transmission of disease. The project would also include kitchen area improvements. The changes would be proposed for the south side of the jail. Costs estimates range from \$2 - \$3 million. Jeff Lane also discussed replacing and fixing plumbing issues in the building.

Randy Ottensmeier, Oskaloosa met with the Board. Randy asked that more frequent grading occur on 70<sup>th</sup> and Marion Road. Potholes are a problem on the stretch of road. Ben addressed the issue and indicated that if Randy would make a courtesy call when there is a problem, the department would respond.

Crystal VanHoutan asked for an executive session. Lynn moved that the Board recess into executive session to discuss matters of non-elected personnel with regard to employee recruitment and retention until 2:00 p.m. David seconded. All voted in favor of the motion. The Board recessed at 1:51 p.m. Present during the session were Crystal and the Board. The Board reconvened at 2:00 p.m. The chair announced that no binding action was taken during executive session.

There being no further business to come before the Board they adjourned to meet in regular session on July 19.