

The Office of Mills County Auditor
Carol Robertson
Mills County Courthouse
Glenwood, IA

The Board of Supervisors met this 19th day of January 2021 at the Mills County Courthouse in Glenwood with Supervisors Lonnie Mayberry, Carol Vinton, and Richard Crouch present in person.

Supervisor Crouch opened the meeting and since the Courthouse opened to the public on July 13th the Board will no longer be streaming live. Once the meetings are over and approved at the next meeting, they will be posted to the County website on the YouTube Channel link which is provided on the Agenda and on the County website.

Motion by Mayberry, seconded by Vinton to approve the January 19, 2021 consent agenda which also includes approval of a Liquor License renewal for Glenwood Golf Course including ownership. Minutes for January 12, 2021 as presented. Motion carried on vote: Ayes-3, Nays-0.

John Paul representative of Mills County Compensation Board was present to discuss the recommendations provided to the Board of Supervisors in their meeting on January 6, 2021. Paul also said they had 3 new members to this board and felt they were a good group of individuals and brought a lot to the table and have taken all information received and questions were asked to the Elected Officials when they met with them. Paul said one of the factors they used was that the Union employees would be receiving a 3% increase according to their contract. Paul also asked for future meetings that they be provided the County financial report prior to their meeting. The second thing that the Compensation Board requested was that the Board of Supervisors let them know if they accepted their recommendation or lowered it. The Board of Supervisors doesn't approve the percent until March when they are certifying the budget. These requests were noted, and the Auditor will make sure they are notified as well as provided the County financial report prior to their meeting next year. Paul stated it was a unanimous motion by the Compensation Board to approve a suggested 3% increase across the board for all Elected Officials. Chairman Crouch thanked them for the diligent work and have currently allowed the departments to place this amount in their budgets to see how things look when they are finalizing things.

Motion by Mayberry, seconded by Vinton to accept the recommendation received from the Compensation Board. Motion carried on vote: Ayes; 3, Nays: 0.

Julie Lynes, Public Health Administrator and Larry Hurst Emergency Management/E-911 presented with updates. Lynes updated that we have 23 positive cases and the 14-day positivity rate has dropped to 10.4%. The 1B group to be vaccinated beginning around February 1st time frame once the vaccine is available. Lynes said they have gotten the former Shopko building set up and ready to go once the vaccine arrives. They are currently taking names and numbers of individuals that are eligible for the vaccine. When ready, they will contact the individuals and will do by appointment. They have hired extra staff to take calls, vaccinate & working on compiling a volunteer list of individuals to assist as well. The Public Health agency now have a dedicated phone line for taking names and information. This line is available M-F 11:00 am to 2:00 pm and you may also leave a message. The number is 712-274-3643. They just ask the public to be patient when calling since a lot of individuals are calling.

Mills County Engineer Cory Gaston joined the session for his regular scheduled appointment. Gaston stated he did not have any utility permits to report. The Engineer provided the Board with an updated copy of his contract that expires in May 2022. Gaston made some updates in the contract which would advocate for a 6% raise effective July 1, 2021. Gaston backed up his request by explaining to the Board that he polled Engineers in the State & he has more experience than most and his salary is less and with this increase he feels he will be more in line with other Engineers in the State with similar experience. Gaston explained this proposal was for the Board's review and was not anticipating any action on their behalf, he just wanted to put the contract before them. This contract would be for 2022-2025.

Gaston's next item on the agenda to approve final pay voucher for project STBG-SWAP-CO65(111)-FG-65L55 was tabled until next week because all information had not been received.

Mills County Libraries joined the session at this time for their annual request of funding and updates; representatives and information were presented for the following County libraries;

Glenwood, Emerson, Silver City, and a report from Malvern was received. Henderson and Tabor were not present for the meeting. All libraries reported on the challenges that COVID-19 closures had caused them. They all found ways that they could still serve the residents in their communities by doing online programs, curbside pickup, children & adult craft projects for pickup as well. None of the libraries were open to the public so many of their normal procedures as well as those coming in to use computers had been limited. They were all grateful of the support of the County as well as many of the townships were contributing to them as well. They will continue trying to be creative until they are able to open to the public again. Many of them shared things they were planning for the current year.

Sheriff Travis Oetter, Deputy Josh England and Sabrina Johnson, Office Manager joined the board session at this time to request the board to accept the retirement of Chief Deputy Kim Clark effective January 11, 2021.

Motion by Mayberry, seconded by Vinton to accept the retirement as presented. Motion carried on vote. Ayes: 3; Nays: 0.

Sheriff Oetter requested that the Board accept the request to appoint a Chief Deputy by promoting Josh England to this position effective January 31, 2021 at a salary of \$68,203.00.

Motion by Vinton, seconded by Mayberry to approve promotion of Josh England to Chief Deputy effective January 31, 2021 and at the salary requested. Motion carried on vote. Ayes:3; Nays; 0.

Sheriff Oetter requested permission to advertise and hire a certified Deputy at a starting salary of \$52,953.00 according to the union contract. Motion by Mayberry, seconded by Vinton to authorize the Sheriff to advertise. Motion carried on vote. Ayes; 3; Nays; 0.

Sheriff Oetter requested permission to purchase equipment for the Sheriff's 2016 Chevy Silverado to make it more safety compliant. Jones Automotive gave a bid of \$6,409.86. Motion by Vinton, seconded by Mayberry to approve the bid from Jones Automotive for the equipment. Motion carried on vote. Ayes: 3; Nays: 0.

Sheriff Oetter requested to promote two jailers as jail supervisors. Deputy England stated he as Chief Deputy will be over the jail, but the Sheriff would also like him to continue as a road deputy so therefore it will become hard to oversee the jail 24-7. He felt with the approval of these individuals; one for the day shift and one for the night it would help him with paperwork as far as scheduling and other things that are required by the jail. England said the plan was to make their positions supervisory but also keep their same jailer schedule and raise their salaries to \$45,736. The Auditor explained that currently there is not a jail supervisor position that has been approved by the Board of Supervisors, even though the Sheriff's department had posted and interviewed internally. Robertson also explained it may not be that easy to move their positions to supervisory since they are union employees. This may fall more under a lead jail position. Since the position has not been approved by the Board of Supervisors, approval from them will need to be on the agenda for approval. Robertson also stated we will need to consult our HR attorneys to follow the proper steps with regards to this position. No action to be taken today.

Motion by Mayberry and seconded by Vinton to approve the Cost Advisory Contract which provides reimbursement to the County for specific services used. Motion carried on vote. Ayes: 3; Nays: 0.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, they adjourned to meet on Tuesday, January 26, 2021.

Richard Crouch, Chairman

ATTEST:

Carol Robertson, Auditor