

The Pipestone County Commissioners met with Chairman Dan Wildermuth, Commissioners Chris Hollingsworth, Luke Johnson, Bruce Kooiman and Les Nath. County Administrator Steve Ewing was also present. Chairman Wildermuth called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM with the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

AGENDA

Motion by Nath, seconded by Kooiman to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Hollingsworth to approve the consent agenda as follows:

1. Approve Minutes of March 13, 2018
2. Approve Auditor Warrants from March 16, 2018
3. Approve Hospital Warrants in the amount of \$625,817.26

Motion carried unanimously.

STEVE WEETS – CREDIT CARD LIMIT INCREASE

Treasurer Steve Weets requested an increase to Sheriff’s Office credit card limits from \$1,500.00 each to \$3,000.00 each. Motion by Nath, seconded by Hollingsworth to authorize Treasurer Weets to request credit card limit increases to \$3,000.00 for all Sheriff’s department credit cards and to require badge numbers along with signatures for purchases. Motion carried unanimously.

SWHHS FUNDING REQUEST

Commissioner Nath presented information regarding a loan request by Southwest Health and Human Services for \$247,400.00 from Pipestone County. Auditor Tyler Reisch reviewed the history of contributions made to Southwest Health and Human Services since 2013 and stated that he would not recommend funding this loan until more information on what the loan will be used for is presented and more accountability for their spending issues has been demonstrated. Auditor Reisch and Treasurer Weets addressed a potential request to send the first half taxes collected early and stated that wasn’t the best option either since it was a short-term fix, although it would be preferable to funding a loan. Consensus of the Board to take no action and have

SWHHS Director Beth Wilms and the current SWHHS Finance Director attend either the April 3 or April 10 Commissioners Meeting to present more information on this funding request.

PERSONNEL

Human Resources Coordinator Cathy Feste requested approval to issue two new credit cards to the Sheriff's Office and to issue a credit card to County Administrator Steve Ewing. Motion by Kooiman, seconded by Nath to approve issuing two new County credit cards to the Sheriff's Office and a credit card to County Administrator Steve Ewing. Motion carried unanimously.

HR Coordinator Feste stated that the Personnel Committee has reviewed some options to replace the open positions of Veterans Service Officer and Deputy EMS and Deputy Emergency Management Director and would like to recommend that the County fill the Veterans Service Officer job as a full-time position and assign half of their time as the Deputy Emergency Management Director. The ½ time Deputy EMS Director position would be eliminated and EMS billing would be outsourced. Administrator Ewing has a specific request to outsource billing to be presented later in the meeting. Motion by Nath, seconded by Kooiman to approve the hiring of a full-time Veterans Service Office / Deputy EM Director and eliminate the Deputy EMS Director position. Motion carried unanimously.

SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION TANK PAINTING PROJECT UPDATE

Sons of the American Legion Members Scott Park and Ryan Lupkes joined the meeting to present an update on the painting project of the tank located on the Courthouse Lawn. They plan to move the tank on approximately April 15, have it professionally painted, and return it to the same location the first week of May. They have received adequate donations and funding to complete the project. Commissioner Kooiman stated that the Building and Grounds Committee are considering expanding the concrete area to incorporate a Veterans memorial and would like to have that done while the tank is being painted.

FEEDLOT PUBLIC MEETING – MATT BRINKMEYER – 10:00AM

Environmental Administrator Kyle Krier and Matt and Kelly Brinkmeyer joined the meeting. A feedlot public meeting was held for the following feedlot applications: Matt Brinkmeyer for the construction of a new feedlot located in the NE Quarter of Section 28 in Grange Township consisting of a total confinement barn with an under barn concrete manure storage pit. The barn will house 2400 swine finishers for a total of 720 animal units.

Matt Brinkmeyer for the construction of a new feedlot located in the SW Quarter of Section 11 in Grange Township consisting of a total confinement barn with an under barn concrete manure storage pit. The barn will house 2400 swine finishers for a total of 720 animal units.

Public comment was received by Elvin and Lorna Beyers and City of Holland Mayor Chris Lingen expressing concerns about proximity to the City of Holland and the possibility of the new barns affecting the water table in the area and reducing property values.

Chairman Wildermuth stated that the purpose of the meeting was to hear public comment and the Commissioners were unable to approve or deny the feedlot permit, but did ask the Brinkmeyers to do what they could to minimize the impact of a feedlot to City of Holland and other neighboring residents.

RESOLUTION 59-17-18 CORRIDORS OF COMMERCE RESOLUTION

County Administrator Steve Ewing presented a request from the City of Marshall to approve a Corridors of Commerce Resolution giving their support to funding the following projects: MN 23-US 59 Interchange, MN-23-MN19 interchange, MN 23 Pipestone-Willmar passing lanes request, and MN 23 four-lane segments between New London and Richmond. Administrator Ewing said they could approve all or part of these projects but stated that there is a limited amount of funding for the Corridors of Commerce program and that supporting other projects could potentially take away funding from Pipestone County's higher priority project of the Mill and Concrete surfacing of TH 23 from the intersection of TH 75 near Pipestone to the connection of the existing concrete surfacing on TH 23 near Russell. Consensus of the Board to take no action on the presented Corridors of Commerce Resolution for the projects of MN 23-US 59 Interchange, MN-23-MN19 interchange, MN 23 Pipestone-Willmar passing lanes request, and MN 23 four-lane segments between New London and Richmond.

AMBULANCE BILLING OUTSOURCING

County Administrator Steve Ewing and EMS/EM Director Casey Sievert requested approval to contract out Ambulance billing to Transmedic of St. Paul, MN at a cost of \$15.00 per billable call and 2.0% of net monthly revenues. Based on the number of runs in Pipestone, Jasper, and Edgerton in 2017, Transmedic would have collected \$25,360.30 from Pipestone County. In addition to the benefit of having experts in their field performing billing services, with the removal of current Ambulance billing software and the removal of the Deputy EMS

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Director position, outsourcing billing is expected to be a cost savings to the County. Motion by Kooiman, seconded by Nath to approve the contract with Transmedic of St. Paul, MN to perform Ambulance billing for Pipestone, Edgerton, and Jasper ambulance services at a cost of \$15.00 per billable call and 2.0% of net monthly revenues. Motion carried unanimously.

City Attorney Ben Denton asked to be added to the Agenda to discuss a financing option for the old Central school. Motion by Hollingsworth, seconded by Johnson to add Ben Denton to the Agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Denton stated that for certain capital projects, the school has the option to place it on the ballot as a referendum. A potential funding solution would involve the school district re-acquiring the tax-forfeited property known as the old Central School. The County and the school could have a purchase agreement in place contingent on the passing of the referendum, and the school would have the potential for preferential funding. Commissioners said they would take it under advisement.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Kooiman to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously.
Meeting adjourned at 10:49a.m.

Dan Wildermuth
Pipestone County Board Chair

ATTEST:

Steve Ewing
County Administrator

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