

**BOARD MINUTES
FEBRUARY 26, 2024**

The Keokuk County Board of Supervisors met in regular session, Tuesday, February 26, 2024, in the Board Room of the Courthouse. Present were: Michael C. Hadley, Daryl Wood, Fred Snakenberg and Christy Bates, Auditor.

8:30 a.m.- Meeting was called to order. Motion was made by Deke Wood to approve the agenda. Fred Snakenberg seconded the motion. All ayes and motion carried. Also present was Casey Jarnes, News-Review.

8:35 a.m. - Review and approval of previous board meeting minutes was held. Motion was made by Fred Snakenberg to approve the minutes of February 20, 2024, as submitted. Deke Wood seconded the motion. All ayes and motion carried.

8:45 a.m. - Meeting with Andy McGuire, Engineer regarding Keokuk County Highway Department was held. Andy stated plow trucks are being stripping down and will start to remove wings this week. Notice was received informing rock has increased from \$16.50 to \$17.50 per ton. Mike commented on budget hurdles and the importance of taking precautionary steps now. Deke shared inquiries relating to the big snow event and effects on Secondary Roads budget by Farm Bureau members last week. Andy responded employees maxed out on comp time, that will typically be used during ideal weather, of which equates to less being accomplished during that timeframe. Mike shared his opinion of aggressive ditching and tree removal helps to lessen damage in spring.

9:00 a.m. – Public hearing with Keokuk County Conference Board regarding FY 2025 Keokuk County Assessor budget was held with Drew Sanders, Assessor/GIS; Mayors: Bryan Lee (Webster), Chris Gammack (Hayesville), Jim Morlan (Sigourney); School Board: Cody Branstad (Sigourney), Michael Sieren (Pekin). Mike Hadley opened the public hearing. Drew informed no oral or written objections were received. Jim Morlan moved, Michael Sieren seconded to approve the minutes of the January 25, 2024 meeting as submitted and close the public hearing. A roll call vote was held: Mayors – aye; School Board – aye; Board of Supervisors – abstained due to lack of a quorum at said meeting. Motion carried.

9:05 a.m. – Discussion and possible approval of the FY2025 Keokuk County Assessor Budget was held. Mike Hadley started the discussion by apologizing for not being able to attend the budget meeting. Mike further informed that he must be fair to all employees and therefore cannot vote for a 5% wage increase for the Assessor employees when the balance of county employees is receiving a 3% wage increase, as is comparable to COLA, and secondly disallow the part-time employee request due to budget restraints. Drew reminded the Assessor’s budget/levy is not restricted like the county’s and he is trying to get his office ready for retirement plans in 2-3 years. Deke replied the decline in fund balance will be relevant in time. Motion was made by Mike Hadley to approve the budget with a 3% wage increase and denial of part-time employee hire. Bryan Lee requested time for mayors and school board members to discuss the matters at hand. Those members met in the rotunda on 1st floor and returned to the meeting with a decision within minutes. The motion died for lack of a second. Bryan Lee made a motion to reduce the wage increase to 3% and approve the part-time hire. Michael Sieren seconded the motion. A roll call vote was held: Mayors – aye; School Board – aye; Board of Supervisors – nay. Motion carried.

9:18 a.m. - Consideration and possible approval of setback variance for John Gent was held. John Gent wishes to add 12’ onto the end of the barn as nursery space at the Eagle View Pork LLC site located at

30501 125th Street, Kinross, IA – parcel #LBTFE-050250. Engineer McGuire has no issues with said request. Motion was made by Deke Wood to approve the setback variance as requested. Fred Snakenberg seconded the motion. All ayes and motion carried.

9:28 a.m. – Various Board and Committee reports were held. Deke Wood attended Farm Bureau and 1015 meetings. Mike Hadley attended a Semco meeting. Fred Snakenberg had no meetings last week.

9:30 a.m.- Discussion of old/new business and public comment was held regarding generator upgrade and process thereof.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Mike Hadley. All ayes and the meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The Keokuk County Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet Monday, March 4, 2024.

Michael C. Hadley, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

Daryl Wood

Fred Snakenberg

Christy Bates