

**BOARD MINUTES  
DECEMBER 14, 2020**

The Keokuk County Board of Supervisors met in regular session, Monday, December 14, 2020 in the Board Room of the Courthouse. Present were: Michael Berg, Michael C. Hadley, Daryl Wood and Christy Bates, County Auditor.

8:30 a.m.-Meeting was called to order. Motion was made by Mick Berg to approve the agenda. Deke Wood seconded the motion. All ayes and motion carried. Also present were Fred Snakenberg and Eric Coble.

8:31 a.m.-Review and approval of minutes of previous board meeting was held. Motion was made by Deke Wood to approve the minutes of December 7, 2020 as submitted. Mick Berg seconded the motion. All ayes and motion carried.

8:45 a.m.-Met with Andy McGuire, Engineer regarding the Keokuk County Highway Department.

1. Personnel Report retirement of an equipment operator was held. Motion was made by Mick Berg to approve the Personnel Report for Milo Greiner, equipment operator, Highway Department, effective January 4, 2021 as submitted. Deke Wood seconded the motion. All ayes and motion carried.

2. Personnel Report for Roadside Manager position was held. Motion was made by Mike Hadley to approve the Personnel Report for Steven Seeley, classification change from Engineer Tech II to Roadside Manager, and wage increase from \$23.08 to \$23.62 per hour, effective December 14, 2020 as submitted. Mick Berg seconded the motion. Deke Wood abstained. Motion carried.

9:00 a.m.-Acknowledgement of Personnel Report – job classification change for Jacque Palmer, HCA, Public Health Department was held. Motion was made by Deke Wood to acknowledge said Personnel Report regarding job classification change from part-time to full time effective December 28, 2020 as submitted. Mick Berg seconded the motion. All ayes and motion carried.

9:05 a.m.-Acknowledgement of Personnel Report – date of retirement for Margaret Kempf, HCA, Public Health Department was held. Motion was made by Mick Berg to acknowledge said Personnel Report, with a retirement date of December 25, 2020 as submitted. Deke Wood seconded the motion. All ayes and motion carried.

9:10 a.m.-Discussion and possible approval of resolution regarding increase of autopsy transport fees was held. Christy Bates informed the varied fees submitted by funeral directors within Keokuk County has once again surfaced and the need to establish a uniform professional service fee for county liable autopsy transports. Christy inquired of Eric Coble, Holland-Coble funeral director, what his understanding is on this matter. Eric responded it is in code that if the autopsy is ordered by the medical examiner/investigator, the county is responsible for applicable fees such as mileage, removal and transport. Motion was made by Deke Wood to table said matter to allow for further research. Mick Berg seconded the motion. All ayes and motion carried.

9:15 a.m.-Consideration and possible decision regarding Keokuk County Compensation Board's salary recommendations for FY 2022 was held. Compensation Board members present were: Eric Coble, Tony Pitsch, Dixie Shipley, Cathy Fry; as well as, Christine Edmundson, Treasurer; Drew Sanders, Assessor; Casey Hinnah, Sheriff; Adam Pence, Chief Deputy; and Pie Reighard, Conservation Director. Mike Hadley inquired of the Comp Board recommendation. Eric Coble replied 6% across the Board with a \$1,000 stipend for Christy Bates. Mike inquired if anyone wished

to speak. Eric Coble shared concern regarding the Sheriff's hiring difficulty due to low wages and the need to protect communities and schools. Cathy Fry said the Comp Board has been trying to increase wages to catch up with like counties and appreciates the welcoming atmosphere. Tony Pitsch stated Keokuk County is better than a bottom feeder and wants to see wages trend up. Dixie Shipley commented all elected officials live within the county and spend here. Adam Pence stated they have been working on hiring for over a year, lose good employees to higher wages in neighboring counties. Christine Edmundson commented on losing employees to higher wages. Amber Thompson stated although she is thankful for her job, she is the lowest paid full time County Attorney in the state and would like to see pay equal to population. Mike Hadley stated his plan for the past 10 years was to have a gradual wage increase of cost of living plus an additional 1% per year, although has been unable to accomplish that. Mike felt 3% is reasonable. Deke Wood commented he does not disagree and is concerned with salaries being below the population rank but also has to make the budget work, further stating some budgets were cut the past two years. Discussion arose regarding county finances, fund balances and valuation. Deke shared his rate is 2 ½% since that is what the union agreed upon as well. Mick Berg stated he was thinking 2%. Comments were made stating we will never catch up to where salaries should be. Drew Sanders stated Keokuk County ranks 78<sup>th</sup> in county valuation within the state, noting that is very close to our 72<sup>nd</sup> population ranking. Motion was made by Mike Hadley for a 3% wage increase for all elected officials for FY22. The motion died for lack of a second. Motion was made by Deke Wood to approve a 2 ½% increase for all elected officials, except the Board of Supervisors to receive 0% for FY22. Mick Berg seconded the motion. Mike Hadley voted nay. Motion carried. Christy Bates is to receive the \$1,000 stipend as approved by the Compensation Board to help offset election hours worked.

9:55 a.m.-Various board and committee reports were held. Deke Wood attended a RUSS meeting. Mick Berg participated in zoom Mental Health Coalition, Criminal Justice and SEIL-MH Region meetings. Mike Hadley attended the What Cheer City Council meeting to discuss waste management and law enforcement patrol last week.

10:00 a.m.-Discussion of old/new business and public comment was held. Drew Sanders, Assessor, stated it looks like valuation will be up around 5% this year, agland remains the same. Christy Bates shared she is working on the valuation report and readying for budget preparation but continues to get interrupted due to the close vote difference of the US Representative District 2 race regarding Hart and Miller-Meeks.

There being no further business, motion to adjourn was made by Mike Hadley. All ayes and the meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

The Keokuk County Board of Supervisors adjourned to meet December 21, 2020.

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Michael C. Hadley, Chairman  
Board of Supervisors

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Daryl Wood

Michael Berg

Christy Bates