Tuesday, December 8, 2020

The Cass County Board of Supervisors met at 9:00 a.m. with all members present: Steve Baier, chair, Stephen Green, John Hartkopf and Mark O'Brien onsite; and Frank Waters virtually. Agenda upon motion by Green, 2nd by O'Brien was approved. Minutes of November 30, 2020 upon motion by Green, 2nd by Waters were approved.

At about 9:10 a.m. the Board recessed and a public hearing was conducted regarding status of project to expend CDBG monies awarded to the county to increase the capacity of the food delivery system and food access in response to COVID-19

Notice of the public hearing was published in accordance with Iowa Code and this is the time and place for the hearing.

Hearing was conducted virtually with only four Board members and the Auditor on site. Baier stated that grant awarded was for \$86,580, and through Nov. 16, \$76,086.63 had been spent. Brigham Hoegh discussed how the project was implemented and the results to date.

After due discussion and about 9:16 AM, motion by Green, 2nd by O'Brien: to close hearing. Carried unanimously.

At about 9:16 AM the Board held the first hearing and reading on proposed Ordinance No. 37– READOPTION OF CASS COUNTY CODE. Auditor stated this was an administrative function to re-compile the County Code which is to be done at least once each five years. Three ordinances have been added since 2015 and the re-compile ordinance of 2015 is being repealed. No other changes.

After a brief discussion, motion by Green, 2nd by O'Brien: to close hearing. Carried unanimously.

In continued session: Motion by O'Brien, 2nd by Green: to approve Ordinance No. 37 "Re-adoption of Cass County Code" on first reading. Carried unanimously. Second hearing will be on Dec. 15.

Representatives of the Cass County Committee on Aging attended the meeting to state the committee's appreciation for its past and continued support of the Committee and its activities. Six of the eight cities in the county continue to have active groups, although activities have been lessened during the current pandemic.

County Engineer reviewed current roads activity including award of contracts for two maintenance projects.

Motion by Hartkopf; 2nd by Green: to approve contractor's bond for Project MP2020-343 awarded to Cramer and Associates, Inc. in the sum of \$193,079.65 (Project- bridge deck overlay, BR-121). Carried unanimously.

Board received notice of resignation, effective immediately, from Phyllis Nichols, a member of the county elected officer compensation board. (Compensation Board recommends annual compensation of elected county officials: the auditor, treasurer, recorder, sheriff, county attorney, and supervisors. This is a seven member board with two members appointed by the Board of Supervisors and one member appointed by each of the five other elected officials.)

Auditor reported that one application for appointment to that board was filed.

Motion by Green, 2nd by Hartkopf: to appoint Kipp Harris as member on the Cass County compensation board for the remainder of the 4 year term ending 6/30/21. Carried unanimously.

The County Sheriff has requested the establishment of a deputy position of sergeant and the approval to move two current deputies into that position. The positions would be non-union and the sheriff is requesting the positions be in place beginning 01/01/2021. After brief discussion the decision was to act on the request at the next board meeting.

The Board discussed Iowa Code 427.1(22) Natural Conservation and Wildlife Areas Property Tax Exemptions, as an application for a 'river and stream banks' exemption was filed with the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation Board. In accordance with Iowa Code, the board must "establish priorities for the types of real property for which an exemption may be granted and the amount of acreage." "A public hearing shall be held … at which the proposed priority list shall be presented." Cass County has not done that. Board decided to begin the process to make said 'river and stream banks' exemption available. Taken under advisement.

Attest: /s/-Dale Sunderman, Auditor

/s/-Steve Baier, Chair