

**MINUTES OF SIOUX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**  
**MEETING HELD ON MARCH 1, 2016**

**16-03-01 1** The Board of Supervisors of Sioux County, Iowa, met on Tuesday, March 1, 2016, at 9:00 o'clock a.m. with Chairman Mark Sybesma presiding. Members present were Al Bloemendaal, John Degen, Arlyn Kleinwolverink, Mark Sybesma and Dennis Wright.

**16-03-01 2** Minutes of the meeting held on February 23, 2016, were submitted and the chairman declared them approved.

**16-03-01 3** Thomas Kunstle, Sioux County Attorney reported that he received a sample 28E Agreement from Mark Cory, Bonding Attorney. Some of the language may be incorporated into a 28E Agreement between the County, and the Cities of Orange City and Sioux Center for the Regional Airport. Kunstle also reported that he attended a murder trial in Plymouth County yesterday.

**16-03-01 4** Motion by Degen and supported by Kleinwolverink to go into executive session according to Section 20.17(3), Iowa Code to discuss labor negotiations with labor negotiator, Jack Reed. Roll Call on Vote: Kleinwolverink, Yes; Degen, Yes; Bloemendaal, Yes; Wright, Yes; and Sybesma, Yes. Motion carried, unanimous in favor.

Motion by Degen and supported by Kleinwolverink to return to regular session. Roll Call on Vote: Roll Call on Vote: Kleinwolverink, Yes; Degen, Yes; Bloemendaal, Yes; Wright, Yes; and Sybesma, Yes. Motion carried, unanimous in favor.

**16-03-01 5** Lois Huitink, Sioux County Auditor asked when the board would like to discuss/approve the new Employee Handbook. Jack Reed will complete the final draft and then a time will be set up for the Board to approve the Handbook. The Handbook will take effect on July 1, 2016.

**16-03-01 6** Shane Walter, Community Services Director attended an open house yesterday in Sioux City at the Sioux Rivers Regional Assessment and Stabilization Center. A Director has been hired and the Sioux Rivers Board is hoping to hire nurses and technicians in the near future. This is an alternative to hospitalization and/or jail. Nine beds will be available at the Center.

**16-03-01 7** Doug Julius, Sioux County Engineer

- Asked for approval for a Permit Agreement for Northern Iowa Telephone Company so they may bury fiber optic cable in the rural areas around the City of Maurice. Motion by Wright and supported by Bloemendaal to approve a permit agreement for Northern Iowa Telephone Company to bury cable in the County Right of Way in Sherman Township. Motion carried, unanimous in favor
- Gravel crushing will begin when the ground firms up. The current stockpiles will be reduced to make more room for the new crushing.
- Reported that road crews are doing some sanding today. The snow removal budget showed that 98% of budgeted expenditures were used by the end of February. Last year expenditures were at 48% of budget at the end of February.

- Submitted a grant request to the DNR last week for asbestos abatement at the County Home. If the grant is approved, up to \$10,000 could be received for asbestos removal. Some of the doors and other items may be recyclable. This grant would promote reuse of building materials. If the grant is received Julius stated that asbestos could be removed by September and the building could be razed by November.
- Degen asked Julius to report on filling a position in the Hawarden Shop. Julius replied that interviews will begin when road work slows down.

**16-03-01 8** Gordon Pottebaum, Sioux County Conservation Board member along with approximately 30 interested citizens discussed adding another naturalist to the Conservation Department's staff. Pottebaum stated that some educational opportunities are limited in number of attendees that can participate. Often parents call in and find that all of the slots have been filled. John Linquest, from Sibley, State Coordinator for Pheasants Forever noted that Sioux County is unique in being a growing County. He stated that the quality of life – jobs, housing, and education is something that Sioux County “does in spades”. He expressed the hope that the Board will take very seriously the addition of another naturalist in the County. Cliff Koele from Hull stated that he has been involved with hunting and fishing for a long time. He stated that we have an immediate need right now to get young people involved in conservation programs. He told the Board “Please don't kick the can down the road.” Adam Bonnema assistant Cub Scout director for Orange City expressed the need to get the scouts out into nature. Many kids are involved in sports; however some kids are very interested in animals, plants, fishing etc. Kids are excited about going to events held by Sunday Ford, the County's naturalist. Tom Anderson from Hull told the board that he would like to encourage hiring an additional naturalist for three reasons. His daughter-in-law who is a social worker appreciates the work that Sunday Ford does. His wife has also expressed her appreciation for the educational program of the Conservation Board. Anderson is a part time bus driver who takes the kids out for field trips and has seen firsthand the impact the program has on them. Lisa Doelman took her 13 year old daughter along to the meeting today. Doelman stated that her daughter loves Ms. Ford and has since she was in preschool. Kristin Oordt from Sioux Center is a new resident of the county. She has been impressed with the conservation program and with Sunday in particular. Oordt stated that his nieces and nephews are excited about the animals, plants and fishing programs. Sybesma told the group that the Board is striving to keep the number of County Employees in check, and that three new employees have been added to the Conservation program in the past few years. One interested citizen noted that there are many volunteers who also contributing to the program. John Degen has been involved with Conservation due to where he lives and expressed his appreciation to Rob Klocke, Conservation Director and also to Sunday Ford. Pottebaum stated that the “elephant” in the room is the budget. While additional staff has been hired, two more recreational areas have also been added: The Big Sioux Recreational Area and Sandy Hollow. Sybesma responded that all those who serve on these two boards are obligated to the taxpayers of the county. Sybesma added that agriculture is not providing the financial wealth that it has in the past. A naturalist from Woodbury County who was in attendance told the Board that she is so impressed with the outdoor education program in Sioux County, and that is the reason she attended the meeting today. She noted that Woodbury County has several naturalists and sees a need for another position in Sioux County. Pottebaum ended the discussion by thanking the Supervisors for their time, and also all of the people that came for this meeting.

**16-03-01 9** Committee Reports:

- **Bloemendaal** – Attended a Mid Sioux Meeting last week. Fifty-three homes were improved last year through the low income energy assistance program.
- **Degen and Kleinwolverink** moved everything over from the Election Room on third floor of the courthouse. Work has begun to remodel the area for Clerk of Court storage. Noteboom Electric is installing security cameras.
- **Kleinwolverink** – Attended a workforce development meeting.
- **Wright and Kleinwolverink** – Attended the Sioux Rivers Regional Assessment and Stabilization Center open house.
- **Sybesma** – Spoke with Harold Schiebout, Doug Julius and staff at the DOT in regard to applying for a RISE grant for the Regional Airport. There is some concern that this project doesn't fit the criteria for a grant because RISE applications are tied to employment criteria.
- **Wright** - Attended a Compass Pointe finance meeting last week. Attended a Sioux Rivers Regional Mental Health Board Meeting. Mark Sybesma and Shane Walter were also in attendance at the Mental Health Board meeting.

**16-03-01 10** The Chairman adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 8, 2016.

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Mark Sybesma, Chairman  
Sioux County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lois Huitink  
Sioux County Auditor