

## **MINUTES OF SIOUX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

### **MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 3, 2001**

The Board of Supervisors of Sioux County, Iowa, met pursuant to adjournment at 1:00 o'clock p.m. with Chairman Loren Bouma presiding. Members present were Mark Sybesma, Vernon Beernink, Loren Bouma, Bernard L. Smith and Stanley L. De Haan.

Other persons present at the meeting were Mark Schouten, County Attorney; Mert Vander Broek, Clerk of District Court; Harley Kleinwolterink, Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds; and John Lambert, custodian.

Leesa McNeil, District Court Administrator, met with the County Board of Supervisors in the Magistrate Room in the Court House. She reviewed a Press Release stating that an order entered on October 24, 2000 by the Supreme Court of Iowa authorized the chief judge of each judicial district to curtail the hours during which the office of the clerk of court is open to the public. The purpose of curtailing the hours is to provide the clerk's office with periods of uninterrupted work time as a means of dealing with reductions in staff caused by reductions in the amount of money appropriated by the Iowa Legislature for the Judicial Branch. The Sioux County Clerk of Court Office will be open to the public from 9:00 o'clock a.m. to 4:30 o'clock p.m. on Monday through Thursday effective December 10, 2001.

She stated that the Judicial Council developed a tentative plan for restructuring the state court system. The plan is to serve as a vehicle for public discussion. The Judicial Council is seeking public comment on the plan, which reduces the number of Iowa's judicial districts from eight to five, and reorganizes court services into 28 court service areas. Once the Judicial Council adopts a final version of the plan, the plan must go to the Iowa Supreme Court for its

consideration. In addition, certain aspects of the plan, including reducing the number of judicial districts and clerks of court would require statutory changes.

She stated that Sioux County has been selected as a regional court service center for the counties of Lyon, Plymouth and Sioux in the proposed plan. That means that Sioux County would need to find office space for an additional 10 clerk of court employees from Lyon and Plymouth counties. She also stated that additional courtroom facilities would need to be provided.

The Board of Supervisors then proceeded to discuss various options for additional space. They also inspected various areas in the Court House for possible options.

The consensus of the Board was to contact and instruct Todd Moss, architect for Ruble, Mamura, Moss, Brygger Architects, to conduct an initial Court House space feasibility study.

The Chairman adjourned the meeting until Tuesday, December 4, 2001.

Loren Bouma, Chairman  
Sioux County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: Dennis Lange  
Sioux County Auditor