

Guthrie County Board of Supervisors

Regular Session

January 16, 2024

The Guthrie County Board of Supervisors met this 16th day of January, 2024, in regular session in the meeting room at the Guthrie County Courthouse in Guthrie Center, Iowa with the following members present: Maggie Armstrong, Mike Dickson, Brian Johnson, Jerome "J.D." Kuster and Steve Smith.

The meeting came to order at 9:00 a.m.

Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion to approve consent agenda, which included minutes from January 11, 2024. Motion by Dickson second by Smith. All ayes.

No public comments were received.

County Veteran Affairs Administer, Beth Watson, presented her quarterly report for the final quarter of 2023. She has updated the application and process, as well as an overall ordinance for obtaining assistance through her office and guidelines by which her office operates. She discussed with the board a problem of homelessness and the lack of resources available to her to engage with homelessness and transiency within Guthrie County. She will be engaging at the State level to see what her options are.

Johnson had put on the agenda to discuss the practice of having an annual review for all employees. He asked the board to consider developing a unified review process. Dickson suggested that the Department Heads and Elected Officials may need some training in this area since the annual employee review has not been used by the County before. Kuster would like to discuss with the Department Heads and Elected Officials to get their ideas before it is implemented. Armstrong emphasized the importance of transparency in the process. Johnson discussed how it may provide an additional layer of protection for the County itself. Several Department Heads are already using some kind of annual review of employees, and Human Resources, Jamie Lindsay, discussed the importance of allowing the proper training and comfortability of the Department Heads and Elected Officials before it is put into action. No official action was taken but the Board will bring it up at a future Department Head meeting.

Johnson also informed the Board that the K-9 unit is over their budget for the year. This fund is primarily funded by donations. He questioned what the best way is to move forward to pay the bills for that program throughout the rest of the fiscal year. Dickson discussed that the expectation of the funds that the K-9 unit would bring in was perhaps overinflated at the time of formation. Auditor Dani Fink was instructed to advise the Sheriff's office to pay the bills out of the Sheriff's Budget as they have done prior to this year when K-9 funding ran out.

Armstrong asked to continue moving forward with acquiring a contract with Neopolitan Labs for the County website, with the involvement of IT Director Brian Hoffman and County Attorney Dana Minter, with consideration of the budget.

Smith had met with Region XII, and discussed their meeting with the Board. Kuster updated the Board on his meeting with County Emergency Management.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the Board adjourned at 9:58 a.m. until its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, January 18, 2024. Motion by Johnson second by Smith. All ayes.

J.D. Kuster, Chair
Guthrie County Board of Supervisors

Attest: Kelli Smith
Guthrie County Auditor Clerk