**INSIDE:** HHS announces two new children food assistance programs • See page 3

# PEN CITY CUR. It's Black & White and Read all over

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 | 6 pages | Volume 6 • Issue 176

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# www.pencitycurrent.com

# **County to buy EMS property**



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Lee County Supervisors have agreed to a \$70,000 purchase price for the three lots adjacent to the current Keokuk ambulance bay near the corner of 16th and Blondeau.

# **KEOKUK:** County prepares to build new Lee County ambulance building

**BY CHUCK VANDENBERG** PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - Lee County Supervisors made a quick course correction on new EMS Ambulance facilities in Keokuk Monday.

At the regular board of supervisors' meeting in Fort Madison, the board voted 5-0 to purchase three lots from Paul Rairden in Keokuk that are adjacent to the current facility.

Rairden owns the U-Haul lot on the corner of 16th and Blondeau and the two lots adjacent to the current ambulance and the county has agreed to a \$70,000 purchase price for all three of the lots.

Plans are to utilize the current facility until construction on a new building can take place, and then the current facility could be torn down.

Supervisor Garry Seyb said the county could then possibly look at selling off one of the lots to recoup some of the funds, if someone wanted to build next to the ambulance facility.

Seyb said current staff is sleeping on cots at the facility. Chuck Holmes suggested buying all three and then selling the corner U-Haul lot.

"Then we wouldn't be spending ten or twenty thousand dollars on demo on that corner lot and someone could

See **COUNTY**, page 6

# EMS committee moves toward Essential Services designation



**EDITORIAL** 



# **Green bean** diet takes pounds off farm dog

We put Buddy, our dog, on The Green Bean Diet. He was getting quite obese and we had to do something about it for his health. I don't allow obesity in myself, I don't allow it in our dog.

We had heard about The Green Bean Diet from someone else who put their dog on it, although they used French Style green beans. We started out using French Style green beans (we used the cheapest brand we could find—58¢ a can, which is cheaper than dog food) and Buddy slurped it right down, with a little dry-dog food crumblies on top. We soon learned that he liked regular green beans just as well. We really don't have to sprinkle dry-dog food on top. If it's people food, Buddy eats it.

We weighed him before starting The Green Bean Diet. I held Buddy and stood on Ginnie's bathroom scales with and without him. 33 lbs. Which is a lot for a little dog. To date, he has lost two pounds-a significant percentage. He's trimming down nicely, the blobs of fat on his belly are subsiding, and we can discern a waistline now. He's looking buff.

What breed is Buddy? He's a (we

### BY CHUCK VANDENBERG PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY - The steering committee that's been overseeing the county's ambulance service since July 1, 2022 has all but disbanded in favor of an advisory council.

The Lee County EMS advisory board met Monday and, after a lengthy discus-

sion, decided to move toward establishing Ambulance services as an essential service in the county.

To do so, state code requires the creation of an EMS Advisory Council, to create the language that would go on a ballot for voters to approve a tax to support the ambulance services.

The advisory council would research and make recommendations to the Lee

County Board of Supervisors as to funding levels, but would not be allowed to go over 75 cents/\$1,000 assessed valuation.

According to legislation signed in June of 2021, the measure would have to go on the ballot for a general election, city election, or special election called by the

think) Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen, and a rescue dog. I got him in Wayland, Iowa 11 or so years ago. Holly, our Jack Russel Terrier, had died, I was going through a divorce, and needed a dog. Buddy filled the bill nicely. He has been with me through thick and thin, a new wife, Ginnie, and moving to the Empty Nest Farm. When a pet has been

See **EMS**, page 6

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# WEATHER

	enWeatherMap
TUE 11 Oct	58° F 🗯
WED 12 Oct Partly sunny and cool, 67° F/	43° F 🕭
THU 13 OctSunny and cool, 58° F/	34° F 🛛 🌻

## IOWA LOTTERY

LUCKY FOR LIFE 10/09	
PICK 3 10/09 MIDDAY	
PICK 3 10/09 EVENING	
PICK 4 10/09 MIDDAY	
PICK 4 10/09 EVENING	
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See **SWARM**, page 3



# **Obituaries**

# **OBITUARIES**

# DAVID E. THOMAS

David Eugene Thomas, 62 of Keokuk, IA died Monday, October 3, 2022 at Aspire Nursing Home in Donnellson, IA.

He was born April 16, 1960 in Keokuk, IA the son of Kenneth Leroy and Marilyn Joy Mann



Thomas. He graduated from Keokuk High School with the class of 1978. David had been employed by several local businesses through the years including Walter's Roofing, Keokuk Steel Castings, Keokuk Contractors and Wells Way.

THOMAS

David enjoyed spending time outdoors boating and riding motorcycles. He also enjoyed playing cards, lifting weights and listening to music, especially classic rock. Most of all, David loved spending time with his family. He was a great dad and taught his children discipline.

He is survived by four sons, David Eugene Rogers, Daniel Leroy Rogers and Dakota Lee Rogers (Laura) all of Keokuk and Dustin Ray Rogers of Ottumwa, IA, six grandchildren, Nicholas Rogers, Haydynn Couchman, Jaxtynn Couchman, David Rogers, Rosalie Rogers and Dustin Curtis. He is also survived by four siblings, Bill Mann (Penny) of Ankeny, IA, Brenda Bawden of Hamilton, IL, Kenny Thomas (Angela) of Keokuk and Sherry Thomas (Jim) of Keokuk. He was preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held at 3:30 p.m., Friday, October 14, 2022 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, IA with Pastor Adam Johnson officiating. Burial will be at a later date in the Oakland Cemetery in Keokuk. Following the burial everyone is invited for food and fellowship with the family at Crossview Church in Keokuk.

There will be no visitation.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.





**District 2** Lee County Supervisor



**Donna Amandus** Democrat

versus

**Tom Schulz** Republican

# 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12

at the Fort Madison Elks Lodge, 719 Ave. H, Fort Madison

Sponsored by Mississippi Valley Publishing

Your chance to meet the candidates and ask questions about what matters to you.

# **OBITUARIES**

### DOROTHY I. **MENKE**

Dorothy Irene Rasan Menke, 97, of Tacoma, Washington, formerly of West Point, Iowa, passed away on May 13, 2022, in Tacoma, Washington.

Dorothy Irene was born on May 10, 1925, in Hazelton, Pennsylvania.

Dot was a women of generous spirit, an energetic worker, creative artist and musician, positive personality with a buoyant sense of humor. Most importantly she was a devoted wife and mother and person of devout faith.

She was a coal miner's daughter, growing up with her two sisters and their Lithuanian parents near the coal mines around Hazelton, Pennsylvania. She distinguished herself in Hazelton High school as the artistic director of the yearbooks, a majorette, first chair violinist in the orchestra and an excellent student. Her teachers and fellow students chose her to be one of the top 20 students in their senior class.

Graduating from high school as WWII was beginning, Dot enrolled in a registered nursing program at King's County Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. It was during her final year that she had one of her proudest opportunities, to play her violin with a nurses ensemble at a luncheon for the visiting first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt.

Following graduation, she was one of a select group of nurses sent to an army hospital in Tuscaloosa, Alabama. While there, she met and fell in love with an army technical training specialist, Richard Menke, from West Point, Iowa. When WWII ended the young couple had to decide on marriage or separation. They drove to Hazelton, PA where they were married and then drove to Rick's home town at West Point, Iowa, and began setting up their home. Rick and Dot owned a Plumbing and Heating company in West Point and raised five children there. Dot always proclaimed, "Rick and I are a great team." Rick and Dot instilled in their children the love of music, art and education.

Dot devotedly nursed her husband, Rick for many years before his death in 1994. Then she became a leader and energetic worker in St. Mary's Catholic Church and School. She supported the community concert series and the Southeast Iowa Symphony. Many of her art works won awards in local competitions.

When Dot's children brought her to Tacoma, Washington in 2005 her indomitable spirit continued as she delighted in entertaining her poetry group, playing cards, and attending church and concerts.

Dot's love of organizing fun entertainments with music, skits, and artistic touches will always be remembered fondly. Her loving, generous spirit will is deeply appreciated and sorely missed.

Dot's children and their families: Barbara Ann (Bami) Pinckney (Ron Pinckney); son: Christopher Garratt, wife: Angela; grandchildren: Aidan, Hudson and Leighton; Beth Ann McCabe (preceded her in death); son Sean McCabe and wife Gloria; Deborah Ann Cornick (Doug Cornick); son: Heath, wife, Kate; grandchildren: Dean and Nora; daughter: Heather Gathuru; Matthew Menke (preceded her in death); Lynn Ann Crozier (Rick Crozier); Daughter: Kari Dutcher; stepchildren: Justin Crozier, wife Stephanie; children: Camden and Piper, Eric Crozier, partner Amy.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, October 15, 2022, at Saint Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in West Point, Iowa, with Father Dan Dorau as celebrant. Burial will be held in Calvary Cemetery in West Point, Iowa.

A memorial has been established in her memory.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com. Schmitz Funeral Home of West Point is assisting the family with arrangements.

# Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.





October 7, 8, 9 & 14, 15, 16, 2022 Evenings @ 7:30 pm Sunday @ 2pm Tickets: Adult: \$15, Senior/Military/Vet: \$12, Student (Age 5-17): \$10 Produced by Special Arrangement with Samuel French Inc. & Concord Theatricals 725 Avenue G Fort Madison, IA 319-372-9559

### Charles Vandenberg, Editor

(319).371.1670 charles.v@pencitycurrent.com

## Lee K. Vandenberg, Sales Manager

(319).371.4125 lee.v@pencitycurrent.com

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Founded in 2016 P.O. Box 366 | Fort Madison, IA

# Iowa News/From the Front

# Diet better than training dog for treadmill

## SWARM - Continued from Page 1

through all that with you, you want to take care of him. And I do.

We could have addressed Buddy's weight problem by exercise—which is how I control my weight—an hour a day on the elliptical machine. But living in the country, on a gravel road, next to a busy highway, is not conducive to walks. I suppose we could have trained Buddy to walk on the treadmill, but that would have required time and effort. Time is something we don't have a lot of now that Ginnie and I are "semi-retired." Our lives are crazier than when we worked full-time, raised kids, and lived paycheck-to-paycheck. No fooling. Don't believe me? Try retiring and you'll wish you could go back to work to rest up.

Buddy is looking so good I might stay with The Green Bean Diet indefinitely. We buy the green beans by the case. He eats about three cans a day. If he starts looking too thin, we can add more dry dog food. Because of the liquid in the green beans, Buddy urinates a lot, but that's no biggie, and probably good for him.

And then there's Stormy, our rescue cat. He showed up on our doorstep, on New Year's Day, in a snow storm, as a kitten, a year-and-a-half ago hence "Stormy." He's also bipolar. Stormy scratched the begeebies out of my hand catching him, but he's been with us ever since. He now thinks he owns the house. We don't let Stormy outside, because of the highway. We had another cat, Barney, disappear on us. We think a hawk snagged him.

Stormy is my cat, which irritates Ginnie. He won't get on her lap, but smothers me. If I leave my clothes on the floor, Stormy curls up on them. So cute. He knows I'm the one who rescued him, and is grateful.

We don't let Stormy in our bedroom at night because he prowls and pounces on Ginnie's feet when she's asleep. I'm a very early riser, getting up anywhere between midnight and 2:00 am. No fooling. It's when I do my writing, reading and telecommunicating with God. When I exit the bedroom, Stormy is waiting for me. He curls up on my lap and is an inspiration. I call Stormy my muse cat.

A warm, purring, lap-cat is right up there with one of the finer comforts of life. I highly recommend pets for lowering blood pressure and raising God-consciousness.

Have a good story? Call or text Curt Swarm in Mt. Pleasant at 319-217-0526, find him on Facebook, email him at <u>curtswarm@yahoo.com</u>, or visit his website at <u>www.empty-nest-words-photos-and-frames.</u> <u>com</u>.



DES MOINES – The Iowa Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) announced two additional Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) food assistance programs today for families with eligible children.

The federal Continuing Appropriations Act, 2021 and Other Extensions Act allows states to issue emergency food assistance benefits for the Summer 2022 for Children Under Six and the Summer 2022 for School-Aged Children P-EBT programs. The Summer 2022 for Children Under Six program provides \$391 per eligible child who received SNAP benefits during the months of June, July, and August 2022. Benefits will be issued to the family's SNAP-EBT card between October 11 and 20.

The Summer 2022 for School Aged Children program provides \$391 per child who were in grades K-12 during the 21-22 school year. Additional information, including eligibility details, can be found on our web site (link below). Issuance details are being finalized, but it is anticipated that benefits will be issued to eligible children on new EBT cards mailed by the end of November.



<image><image><section-header><section-header><section-header><text><text><text><text><text>





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# **Classifieds/Public Notices**

### **PUBLIC NOTICE** PROCEEDINGS FORT MADISON **CITY COUNCIL** 10/04/2022

The Fort Madison City Council met in regular session at 5:30 P.M. on Tuesday, 10/4/2022, at City Hall, 811 Avenue E. Mayor Mohrfeld presided with Council Members Gray, Amandus, Schulz, Bowker, Cangas, Andrews and Rink present.

Mohrfeld proclaimed October 16-22 as Friends of the Library Week.

On motion, Council approved the agenda. On motion, Council approved the Consent Agenda: Minutes of 9/20/2022; Liquor License Renewals: Quicker Liquor, 1414 -48th Street, & Corks 'n' Barrels, 622-7th Street, effective 11/1/2022; Claims of 9/29/2022; and Payroll of 9/23/2022.

On motion, Council approved the first reading of an ordinance vacating

**EXPENDITURES** \$48,8 General Special Revenue 5. 10,5 Road Use 327,4 Capital 35,4 Water 20,8 Sewer Solid Waste/IWC 2.0 SW Utility 12, \$463,2 REVENUES General \$43,393.26 Special Rv 241,978.81 161,233.42 Road Use 819.23 Debt 17,720.55 Capital 312,870.41 Water Sewer 309.539.95 Sld Waste, IWC 69,671.06 17.017.18 SW Utility \$1,174,243.87

### CLAIMS - 10/4/2022

ABC FIRE EXTINGUISH-ER, ANNUAL FIRE EXT INSPECT ..... 1,041.00 ACCESS SYSTEMS. COMPUTER LEASE AHLERS & COONEY, PC, PROF FEE.. 1,650.00 ALLIANT ENERGY. ELECTRIC...... 5,498.67 AMERICAN TEST CEN-TER, ANNUAL SAFETY INSPECTION..... 1,636.00 ARAMARK UNIFORM SERVICES, CLOTHING ALLOW ...... 876.34 BARCO MUNICIPAL PROD INC., PAINT/ FLAGS..... 597.21 BJ 'S PERFORMANCE, **REP ALTERNATOR** BROWN SUPPLY CO. INC., SEWER CAPS **BURLINGTON MUNI** WATER, BACTERIA SAMPLE ..... 170.00 CALHOUN-BURNS AND ASSOC, PROF FEE CESSFORD CON-STRUCTION CO., WASHED CHIPS.. 770.75 CRESCENT ELECTRIC SUPPLY, FILTERS ..... 1,044.53 DODD PRINTING & STA-TIONERY, INK TONER

city right-of-way located between Avenue B and 117 – 16th Street. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2022-84, approving the Mayor's signature on Change Orders #6 and #7, for PIP 2019-05, Amtrak Station Platform Improvements. On motion, Council adopted Resolution No. 2022-85, approving the Mayor's signature on a Two-Year Exclusive Option to Purchase with Barker Financial for 732 Avenue G (James Block Building).

On motion, Council approved a commitment of \$75,000 for FY2022-23, and \$90,000 for FY2023-24, for financial support of the proposed Fort Madison Tourism Bureau.

The meeting adjourned at 6:58 P.M. until 5:30 P.M., October 18, 2022. /s/ Matt J. Mohrfeld,

Mayor

ATTEST: /s/ Melinda L. Blind, City Clerk

ung		
	PAYROLL	9/23/2022
884.07	General	\$216,763.53
743.35	Old Fort	4,646.27
573.73	Emp Benefits	7,457.38
103.85	Road Use	29,965.53
408.41	Water	28,908.70
892.43	Sewer	32,295.71
083.66	Solid Waste	16,899.78
218.08	Airport	315.09
207.58	Storm Water	2,957.62
		\$340,209.61

DONELSON CORPORA-TION, FILTERS EAGLE ENGRAVING, AXE PLAQUE...... 672.95 EASTIN, CHRIS, TRAIN-ING ..... 179.02 EASYPERMIT. POST-AGE POSTAGE 

**EUROFINS ENVI-**RONMENT TESTING, SLUDGE TEST..... 308.16 FARM & HOME PUB-LISHERS, SAFETY ITEMS..... 174.99 FARM & HOME SUPPLY, **CLOTHING ALLOW** FIRE SERVICE TRAIING **BUREA, TRAINING** FLORIDA OF IOWA AERIALS, MAPS FOR TOURISM ...... 775.00 FORT MADISON WATER DEPT, WATER @ RV PARK ..... 60.18 GREAT WESTERN SUP-PLY CO. TOWELS HACH CHEMICAL CO., **TESTING SUPPLIES** HALL'S EXCAVATING & SEPTIC, PUMPED CIS-TERN..... 500.00 HAMPTON EQUIPMENT INC., HEAT BLANKET 

### HOTOP FABRICATION, **REPAIRED ALUM. BOX** STAPLES CREDIT PLAN, ..... 143.38 SCALE..... 172.74 HUFFMAN WELDING STATE HYGIENIC LABO-& MACHINE, GRASS SEED..... 1,343.98 HUMBURD'S AUTO SERVICE, ALIGN/RO-TATE TIRES ......211.00 **IDEAL READY MIX COM-**PANY, FILL SAND **INDUSTRIAL ELECTRIC** MOTORS, HVAC FAN/ BLOWER ..... 175.00 **IOWA WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT, WORK-**MAN'S COMP.... 8,782.00 JEO CONSULTING GROUP, PROF FEE **AIRPORT LIGHTING KEMPKERS TRUE VAL-**UE, PARTS/SHIPPING/ RENTALS ..... 1,559.92 KIMBALL MIDWEST, **TIES/FITTING/CLEANER** KNAPHEIDE EQUIP CO., RESERVOIR ...... 255.79 LEE COUNTY RECORD-**ER, RECORDING FEES** LIBERTY UTILITIES, HEAT/GAS..... 225.86 LYNCH DALLAS P.C., PROF FEES ..... 9,066.63 MACQUEEN EQUIP-MENT, INC, SWEEPER PARTS...... 564.31 MADISON TURF & TIM-BER, BELT ..... 163.90 MARTIN EQUIPMENT, END LOADER MCFARLAND JANITORI-AL, SUPPLIES..... 378.46 MELLER EXCAVATING & ASPHALT, DEMO @ 1713 H ..... 19,538.00 MUNICIPAL EMERGEN-CY SERVICE, BATTER-IES.....2,182.00 **MICROBAC LABORATO-RIES LLC, FLOW TESTS MIDAMERICAN ENER-**

RATORY, WATER SAM-PLES ..... 150.00 STEINDLER ORTHOPE-DIC, ON JOB INJURY TRI-STATE LAWN SER-VICE LLC, NUISANCE ABATEMENT ..... 1,022.95 TRUCK REPAIR INC., **REPAIR TIRE/WHEEL** UPS, SHIPPING ..... 45.86 USA BLUE BOOK, SUP-PLIES ..... 1,979.73 VEENSTRA & KIMM, INC, PROF FEE - 10 ST COMBINE...... 5,288.00 VISU-SEWER, INC, STRONG SEAL W L MILLER COMPANY, 2022 SEALCOAT/AS-PHALT PROJECT WATER SOLUTIONS UN-LIMITED, CHEMICALS TOTAL ...... 463,207.58 GENERAL ...... 48,884.07 SPECIAL REVENUES ROAD USE ..... 10,573.73 CAPITAL PROJECTS WATER ...... 35,408.41 WASTEWATER SOLID WASTE .. 2,083.66 AIRPORT...... 2,606.61 STORM WATER TOTAL ...... 463,207.58 **PUBLIC NOTICE CENTRAL LEE** COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT **REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE OCTOBER 11, 2022** DISTRICT OFFICE GY, HEAT/GAS ..... 578.94 DONNELLSON, IOWA 52625 **TENTATIVE AGENDA** TLES..... 54.12 WORK SESSION 5:00 P.M. 1. Call to Order 2. Workshop - Elemen-INC, BEARING ...... 38.60

f) November Board Meeting - 11/8/2022@ 6 p.m. HS Library Due to Election

g) Vacancies 5. Consent Agenda

(Motion) (Exhibit I) a) Approve minutes b) Financial Reports:

General and Schoolhouse Funds, Clearing Account, Hot Lunch Account

- c) Approve prepaid bills
- d) Approve monthly bills

e) Overnight Trips: 1. National FFA Con-

vention, Indianapolis, Indiana - 10/25/2022 to 10/28/2022

2. Varsity Girls'/Boys' Cross Country to Ft. Dodge, Iowa - 10/28/2022 3. High School

Girls' Volleyball Team to Coralville. Iowa -10/31/2022 to 11/3/2022 4. Iowa State Dance/

**Drill Team Competition** to Des Moines, Iowa -11/30/2022 to 12/2/2022

NEW BUSINESS 1. First Reading of Policy No. 710.4 - Non-Instructional Operations and Business Services

(Motion) (Exhibit II) 2. 2022-2023 SBRC Allowable Growth - At Risk (Motion)

3. Approval of Increase Substitute Teacher Pay from \$120.00 to \$130.00 per day (Motion)

4. Approval of Licensed Employee Retirement Policy No. 407.3 (Motion) (Exhibit III)

5. Introduction of Board Policies - 800 Series (Motion)

6. Title 1 Application Submitted

7. Approval of Mapping Strategies Agreement for Reviewing/Redistricting of Board of Directors Districts (Motion) (Exhibit IV)

8. Approval of UMB Bank Bond Schedule Direct Payment/Direct Deposit via ACH (Motion) 9. Approval of High School Stage Improve-

ments (Motion) (Exhibit V) 10. Approval of 28E

Agreement with Lee County Sheriff's Office for School Resource Officer (Motion) (Exhibit) (Exhibit VI)

11. Transfer: Effective FY23-24 (Motion)

a) Katie Koller- Teacher to Teacher Librarian

12. Contract Approvals: a) Chris Gray- Mainte-

nance Position

b) Chris Rule - Full-Time Bus Driver c) Mike Schmidt- Sub-

stitute Bus Driver 13. Resignation: (Mo-

tion)

a) Cassidy Adams -**Teacher Associate** 14. Volunteer Contract Approval: (Motion) a) Cody Swan - High School Basketball Coach 15. Board Reports 16. Adjourn (Motion)



# **PUBLIC NOTICES**

MUNICIPAL SUPPLY COMPANY, TRACER WIRE/TUBING/TEES .....5,911.59 NATIONAL ASSOC OF FIELD TRAINING, FTO TRAINING ...... 400.00 NFPA PREVENTION WEEK, SUPPLIES NORRIS ASPHALT PAV-ING, PATCHING ... 388.93 POSTMASTER, FORT MADISON, WATER **BILLS/PAST DUES** ......1,853.52 QUILL CORPORATION, CALC RIBBON/SHEETS SHOTTENKIRK SUPER-STORE, REPLACE MAP SENSOR ..... 147.99 SOUTHEAST IA RE-GIONAL MED, MEDICAL

MIDLAND SCIENTIFIC

MIGUEL LANDEROS,

NUISANCE/MOWING

MOTION INDUSTRIES

INC., DISPENSING BOT-

tary & Middle School Presentations 3. Adjourn

### **REGULAR MEETING** 6:00 P.M.

1. Roll Call

2. Approve agenda

3. Receive Visitors:

a) Visitors to speak about items not on the agenda

b) Ag Ed Presentation 4. Superintendent's Report:

a) Enrollment Update -10/11/2022

b) IASB Board Convention -11/17/2022 & 11/18/2022

c) Strategic Plan Update

d) Local Legislators Visit - 10/18/2022 e) District Goals Update

# Do you have time to help stop crime?

Visit any of these Facebook pages to learn more about what the Neighborhood Watch Program is & how to start your own group or join an existing group!

# Join us today to help keep our communities safer!





# From the Front

# County sets public hearing for CDBG application

# **COUNTY** - Continued from Page 1

put that building to good use," Holmes said.

But Seyb said he would like to see the new construction on the lot facing the street that would allow easier entry and exit for ambulance services to 16th Street.

"If we bought the whole thing for \$70,000, then we could turn around and sell the residential lot once we've got the construction done," he said.

"I really think from my point it would be nice if we could keep the egress out toward the business district."

Seyb made the motion to buy the entire three lots from Rairden and all five supervisors voted in favor.

The county had initially considered purchasing a building and garage on Main Street for about \$200,000, plus the cost of renovating the building and a new larger garage which hovered around \$150,000.

In other action, the board:

• voted 5-0 to approve a resolution to reimburse new hires for the ambulance staff up to \$2,100 for training expenses on conditions that the staff pass all course work and exams and stay with the county ambulance service for at least one full year.

• voted 5-0 to hire an engineer to design the new Keokuk ambulance bay.

• voted 5-0 to set a public hearing for Oct. 24, 2022 at 10:01 a.m. to consider an application for a Community Development Block Grant for up to \$800,000 to help with costs of a new Lee County Health Department building.

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# Panel chair pleads for EMS panel to monitor quality closer

## **EMS** - Continued from Page 1

county. The measure would have to be approved by a 60% majority of votes cast. If approved by voters, the tax would begin being collected in the following fiscal year. Because Lee County is not one of the state's 11 most populous counties (22nd), the levy would remain in place for 15 years and the funds would have to be placed in an EMS trust fund and used for expenses spelled out by Iowa Code and the EMS Advisory Council.

The move comes in the wake of close to \$1.1 million, according to supervisors, in added costs with the Sept. 30 closure of Blessing Keokuk Hospital and its Emergency Department.

County supervisors would have to publish the resolution to declare Emergency Medical Services as essential services at least 60 days prior to the first reading of the resolution. Supervisors would have to approve the resolution at three separate meetings.

### QUALITY METRICS

Steering Committee chairman Jim Steffen cautioned the board to not abandon the quality metrics.

We have to have data for quality. I know we hit response times and chute times, but we need that core data. It's not the micro level, it's the macro level data.

Steffen said the county wants to have a quality ambulance service even when everyone is busy.

He said he was hearing that some of the quality indicators may have slipped through the cracks.

"The original intent of this board was to make sure we were delivering a quality ambulance service. To do that, we have to have quality measure data," he said. "It seems as though we've gotten away from it."

Steffen said he was hearing concerns from staff.

"We need to make sure we're not having issues. And, as chairman of this advisory board, I haven't seen enough to ensure this isn't happening."

When the committee was formed, a subcommittee was formed that included the fire chiefs from Keokuk and Fort Madison, representatives of both Fort Madison and Keokuk hospitals, rural fire associations, and two at large members.

Committee member Denise Fraise asked how often that subcommittee had met and Bryor McMillen, a representative from the Wever Fire Department, said just one time in the fall of 2021.

He said the committee had little direction.

"One of the things that would be good is clear direction and a statement of purpose," he said, "Clear up what our expectations are and how we go about doing them and executing them."

Steffen said that the ambulance service ensures a measure of quality and then the subcommittee makes sure that nothing is being overlooked or swept under the rug. "I'm not saying that it is, I'm just saying that that's what we decided we wanted to do."

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