

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and **Read** all over

Friday, June 28, 2024 | 8 pages | Volume 8 • Issue 114



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County wants talk on utilities

ORDINANCE/ZONING: Chair wants to talk about possible utility regulations in county

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – A very preliminary discussion took place Monday around possible ordinances or zoning to give the county some control over the influx of utility projects in southeast Iowa.

The Board of Supervisors held a work session to discuss the issue and brought in some planning experts from Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, including Jarred Lassiter, senior planner, and Mike Norris, SEIRPC Executive Director.

Board Chairman Garry Seyb said the discussion is beginning because of the recent large projects and proposed

projects including solar, pipeline, and wind projects that have had companies' eyes focused on the county.

Norris said SEIRPC staff aren't attorneys, but they would be happy to take the lead on the discussion and see how they can help the county.

"What we're hearing a lot from constituents right now is there is a concern about utilities," Seyb said opening the discussion.

"It's been three-fold. It's been everything from pipelines to solar, and now we're experiencing some wind discussion. There've been more and more people come to the

See **UTILITIES**, page 8



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Workers continue to construct the path that will run up 48th Street north to Bluff Road, the newest addition to the P.O.R.T trail in Fort Madison. Traffic cones dictate the flow of traffic on the roadway on Fort Madison's west side.

HOLIDAY SAFETY

Best You reminds residents the 4th is a deadly time on Iowa roads

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

As the nation celebrates Independence Day, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), the Lee County Sheriff's Office, The Best You

Coalition, and the Ft. Madison Prevention Coalition, remind Lee County drivers that Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving. In 2022, a person was killed every 39 minutes in a drunk-driving crash on our nation's roads, even though it is illegal to drive while impaired by alcohol. Every

year, the Fourth of July holiday stands out as one of the deadliest times on the nation's roads. From 2018 to 2022, there were 2,228 traffic crash fatalities during the holiday, 1,414 of whom were

See **HOLIDAY**, page 3

STATE AUDIT

BOS giggered on state audit for opioid transfer

PRECAUTION: County moves money back to opioid fund after state recommendation

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The Iowa state auditor's report for Lee County was made public Thursday and the county had 12 reported findings, seven of which are recurring from previous years.

The audit summary indicated there were no issues of non-compliance material to financial statements, and no material weaknesses in internal control over major programs.

The audit also disclosed no findings which were required to be reported under Uniform Code guidance.

One recommendation included in the auditor's report was a direction to reimburse the county's opioid fund \$230,000 that was transferred to Lee County EMS in 2023 to pay salaries and benefits.



The money was transferred from the county's Opioid Settlement Fund to the EMS according to guidelines put forth in settlement agreements with companies tied to the distribution of opioid medications.

Per those agreements, 75% of all opioid funds are required to be spent on core abatement strategies such as drugs to reverse overdoses, medication assisted treatment, treatment for pregnant women and neonatal treatment, hand-off programs, treatment of those incarcerated, and prevention programs.

Up to 25% can be spent on support treatment; recovery; connections to care; preventing over prescribing opioids; first responder support including, leadership, planning and coordination of care; first responder training; and research.

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WEATHER

FRI 28 Jun Showers likely, 80° F/ 71° F ☁
SAT 29 Jun Mostly cloudy, slight chance of thunderstorms, 88° F/ 62° F ☁
SUN 30 Jun Sunny and cooler, 78° F/ 57° F ☀

IOWA LOTTERY

DOUBLE PLAY 06/26 4 19 27 37 56, Powerball: 21
LOTTO AMERICA 06/26 11 12 27 38 48, Star Ball: 6 All Star Bonus: 2
LUCKY FOR LIFE 06/26 5 12 36 39 40, Lucky Ball: 6
PICK 3 MIDDAY 06/26 5 5 1
PICK 3 EVENING 06/26 4 9 7
PICK 4 MIDDAY 06/26 8 1 9 7
PICK 4 EVENING 06/26 8 6 2 3
POWERBALL 06/26 4 9 36 47 56, Powerball: 7 Power Play: 5

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OBITUARIES

HERBERT L. DAVISON

Herbert L. "Herb" Davison, 91, of Donnellson, Iowa, passed away at 11:42 a.m. Wednesday, June 26, 2024, at Arbor Court in Mt. Pleasant, Iowa.

He was born on March 30, 1933, in Liberty, Iowa, the son of Jesse O. and Pansy M. (Huss) Davison. On September 4, 1955, he married Alice Mae Anna Windom in Malvern, Iowa. She preceded him in death on October 11, 1922.



DAVISON

Survivors include his three daughters: Pamela Jo (Steven) Hennefent, Julie (Larry) Mohr, Amy (Rod Stone) Reid; seven grandchildren: Lucas (Kelly) Bennett, Nathan (Shawna) Bennett, John Larson, Mary Larson, Kelli Larson, Alice (Joe Cook) Reid, Cora Reid; ten great grandchildren; sister: Alice Woods. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife: Alice; brothers: Vern, Glen, Keith; sisters: Lucille Beasley, Donna Davison; sisters-in-law: Phyllis Davison, Darlene Davison; brothers-in-law: Everette Woods, John Beasley; nephews: Leland and Roger Beasley and Lester Davison.

Herb was a 1951 graduate of Osceola High School and a 1960 graduate of Iowa State University. He worked for the Department of U.S.D.A. Soil Conservation Service. He was a member of Embury United Methodist Church, George Washington Masonic Lodge A.F. & A.M. #618 and Gillaspay-Moodie Donnellson American Legion Post #474.

The family will receive friends from 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Saturday, June 29, 2024, at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

A Masonic service will be held at 11:00 a.m. by the George Washington Masonic Lodge A.F. & A.M. #618. A memorial service will follow the Masonic service with Mark Philp officiating. The services will conclude with a flag presentation by the Gillaspay-Moodie Donnellson American Legion Post #474.

Burial will be held Monday, July 1, 2024, at Keokuk National Cemetery in Keokuk. A memorial has been established in his memory for Every Step Hospice.

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

Bird joins injunction to block Biden student debt cancellation

DES MOINES—Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird, alongside 10 other states, secured a nationwide injunction to block Biden's illegal student debt cancellation. Attorney General Bird released the following statement:

"I am glad the district court ruled to block Biden's illegal student debt cancellation and protect American families' hard-earned money as we continue to make our case in court.

With this win, we are on track to save hundreds of billions in taxpayer dollars. Many Iowans work hard to pay off their debt or start a family, join the military, or go straight into the work force. They should not have to foot the bill for someone else's loans.

The U.S. Supreme Court made that clear a year ago. And the district court sent Biden a message again today: you can't break the law to buy votes with taxpayer money."

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A summer of the alebrijes with Sheri Lozano

what is an alebrije?
Alebrijes is the style of mexican folk art featuring vibrantly painted animal figures.

when?
Fort Madison Area Arts Association
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Sundays from June 23-August 11th
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For the Record/From the Front

For the Record

Fort Madison Police Report

06/26/24 - 1:54 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2600 block of Avenue L.

06/26/24 - 8:27 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1400 block of 33rd Street.

06/26/24 - 11:08 a.m. - Fort Madison Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 4600 block of Avenue J.

06/26/24 - 9:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested Travis Dean Burk, 38, of Fort Madison at Richards and Alta Drive, on a charges of possession of a controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of marijuana. He was held at Lee County Jail.

06/26/24 - 9:08 p.m. - Fort Madison Police arrested James Michael Janic, 44, of Fort Madison at Richards and Alta Drive on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia or possession of a controlled substance - marijuana.

Keokuk Police Report

06/21/24 - 8:17 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 800 block of S. 7th Street.

06/21/24 - 11:37 a.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Thurman Purdiman III, 33, address not provided, in the 2000 block of Main Street on warrants for trespassing and 3rd-degree theft and charges of trespassing and interference with official acts. He was held at Lee County Jail.

06/21/24 - 6:22 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 3100 block of Main Street.

06/22/24 - 10:45 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 100 block of Bel Air Street.

06/22/24 - 11:13 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to

a report of a property damage accident in the 300 blok of Main Street.

06/22/24 - 11:25 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a hit and run in the 300 block of Franklin Street.

06/22/24 - 2:58 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Chad Lawrence Stark, 34, of Keokuk, in the 300 block of Main Street on a charge of domestic abuse assault. He was held at Lee County Jail.

06/22/24 - 4:40 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 800 block of S. 14th Street.

06/22/24 - 10:57 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 800 block of Johnson Street Road.

06/22/24 - 11:46 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Payton Xavier Blankenship, 21, of Keokuk, in the 800 block of Johnson Street Road on a charge of 3rd-degree criminal mischief. He was held at Lee County Jail.

06/23/24 - 3:37 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of Main Street.

06/23/24 - 6:34 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1600 block of Palean Street.

06/23/24 - 7:14 a.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of vandalism in the 600 block of Main Street.

06/23/24 - 10:36 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 2400 block of McKinley Avenue.

06/23/24 - 11:11 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Christina Marie Casley, 49, of Keokuk in the 3100 block of Main Street on a warrant for 4th-degree theft. She was held at Lee County Jail.

06/24/24 - 5:34 a.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Montana Gracey Lamma, 26, of Keokuk, on a charge of violating a no contact order. She was held in Lee County Jail.

06/26/24 - 2:57 p.m. -

Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 600 block of Morgan Street.

06/26/24 - 4:11 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 700 block of Orleans Ave.

06/26/24 - 7:16 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1100 block of Blondeau.

06/26/24 - 7:52 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a burglary in the 1000 block of Main Street.

06/26/24 - 7:53 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested a 15-year-old female in the 1000 block of Main Street on a charge of 5th-degree theft. She was released to a parent.

06/26/24 - 8:05 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested a 15-year-old male in the 1000 block of Main Street on a charge of 5th-degree theft. He was released to a parent.

06/26/24 - 8:08 p.m. - Keokuk Police responded to a report of a larceny/theft in the 1500 block of Fulton Street.

06/26/24 - 10:18 p.m. - Keokuk Police arrested Gabriel Lawrence Williams, 37, of Keokuk, in the 600 block of Palean St. on a charge of providing false identification and an active arrest warrant.

Lee County Sheriff's Report

06/26/24 - 9:11 a.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Andre Bertrain Dumas, 58, of Montrose at the sheriff's office on a warrant for a hold. He was held at Lee County Jail.

06/26/24 - 10:26 p.m. - Lee County Sheriff's deputies arrested Kainen Stanton-Boyd Lee, 18, of Argyle, in the 2500 block of Hwy. 2 in Fort Madison on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and speeding. He was held at Lee County Jail.

Those listed above are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law

Another groups urges caution celebrating 4th of July

HOLIDAY - Continued from Page 1

the driver. Thirty-nine percent (545) of those drivers were drunk. Of the 1,414 drivers killed, the 21-34 age group had the highest percentage (50%) of drunk drivers.

"If you sense any level of buzz, it is your duty to stay away from the driver's seat. For some people, even one drink is too many to drive safely. Individuals typically plan with friends and family for their Fourth of July festivities, including deciding on the food and beverages that will be served. In the same vein, it's crucial to plan for a sober ride home and completely rule out drinking and driving," said Lee County Sheriff, Stacy Weber. "We're partnering with NHTSA, Fort Madison Prevention Coalition, and The Best You Coalition to share the reminder that Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving. Celebrating our nation's independence responsibly is vital to prevent endangering the relatives or friends of others."

Drivers should be safe during this Independence Day holiday by planning ahead if they intend to drink. They shouldn't wait until after drinking to plan how to get somewhere. Impairment clouds a person's judgment. Drivers should secure a designated sober driver or call a taxi for a sober ride home. In Fort Madison Check Flag Taxi Services is available at (319) 470-3145 and in Keokuk United American Cab at (319) 527-5555 are your local taxi services, utilize their services for your safety and others.

If a driver finds they cannot drive, they should give their keys to a sober driver so that person can get them home safely. When a friend has been drinking and is considering driving, friends should be proactive — take away the keys and help them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots a drunk driver, contact local law enforcement.

Drive 100% sober, because Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving. For more information on impaired driving, visit www.nhtsa.gov/riskydriving/drunk-driving.

SCC brings on Estey as VP

WEST BURLINGTON, Iowa — Southeastern Community College (SCC) is pleased to welcome Dr. Amanda Estey as its new Vice President of Academic Affairs. Dr. Estey began her role on June 10.

Dr. Estey comes to SCC from Seminole State College in south-east Oklahoma where she held a similar role since 2022. Previously, Dr. Estey was the dean of academics at Iowa Valley Community College in Ellsworth, IA.

She holds a doctorate

in education with an emphasis in leadership and policy studies from Iowa State University.

Dr. Estey was selected from a shortlist of candidates identified through a nationwide search and succeeds Dr. Janet Shepherd, who will retire later this month.

"Dr. Estey was a

standout throughout the process," said SCC President Dr. Michael Ash. "She is an excellent addition to the team and I'm confident the leadership handoff from Dr. Shepherd will be smooth. She will do great."

Barely a week into the job, Dr. Estey already has a big to do list.

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Member **LION Publishers**
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Pen City Current, www.PenCityCurrent.com, and Pen e-Saver are products of Market Street Publishing, LLC. Pen City Current is published Monday through Friday mornings by 6AM.

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

Sports

Area fishing heating up as water temperatures do the same

The following is the weekly fishing report from the Iowa Dept. of Natural Resources for southeast Iowa.

Big Hollow Lake

Water temperature is in mid to upper low 80s. Water is clear. Duck weed is along the edges of the lake where the wind blows it; much of the lake remains open water. Bluegill - Fair: Work the edges of the flooded trees in 6 to 7 feet of water. The bite has slowed down with the heat. Channel Catfish - Good: Normally it would be early to talk about fishing for spawning catfish, but they are starting to spawn in the rocks along the face of the dam. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Try fishing the flooded timber where bass are chasing the little bluegills.

Iowa River (Columbus Junction to Mississippi River)

The Iowa River in this section is headed for flood stage by this weekend; mostly from water coming down the Cedar River.

Lake Belva Deer

Water temperature is in the mid 80s. Water clarity remains decent at just under 4 feet. Curly-leaf pondweed beds are gone with the heat. Black Crappie - Fair: Find crappies in 10 to 12 feet of water by vertically jigging or slow drift trolling. Bluegill - Fair: Try fishing in the early morning (before 10 am) in 6-8 feet of water along the edges of the last of the curly-leaf beds and out a little deeper in the flooded trees. Channel Catfish - Good: Work the edge of the rocks

along the face of the dam. Largemouth Bass - Fair: You can still find nice-sized bass along the edges of the weed beds, especially early in the morning; work the edges of the old creek channel with jigs.

Lake Darling

Water temperature is reaching 86 degrees in the afternoon. Water is getting green. Water clarity is 13 inches. Black Crappie - Fair: With the hot weather, expect crappies to remain around the deeper (10-12 feet) habitat. Anglers are vertical jigging for them. Bluegill - Fair: Most males have moved out to the mid-depth habitat in 6-8 feet of water. Channel Catfish - Good: Try fishing around the rap shoreline; chicken liver is a favorite

bait. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Look for bass to be hunting for bluegills and green sunfish along the rocks and edges of the weed beds early in the morning or late evening. They retreat out to deeper water during the day.

Lake Geode

Water temperature is 84 degrees in the morning, hotter later. Water clarity is about 6 feet; more green color to the water. Black Crappie - Slow: Vertical jig for crappie over the fish habitat in 8-10 feet of water or slow troll along the edges of the long mounds across from the beach. Bluegill - Fair: Bluegills have moved to their summer spots. Try slow trolling (drifting) with a small jig tipped with bait until you locate them and then vertical-

ly jigging. Largemouth Bass - Fair: Most bass have headed out to deeper water; expect to find them hunting the tree falls for bluegills and green sunfish on cloudy mornings.

Lost Grove Lake

Water temperatures has reached the mid-80s in the afternoons when the sun is out. Black Crappie - Slow: Crappies are bunched up at between 13 and 18 feet down in the lower half of the lake in the flooded trees. Vertical jigging and moving around works best to find them. Bluegill - Fair: Try fishing the outer edges of the deeper weed beds and back in the deeper flooded brush in 6-10 feet of water. Channel Catfish - Good: Catfish like the heat. Look for spawning males around

the rocks and culvert piles where they are sitting on the nests. Females are more difficult to find; look for them to be anywhere water is running into the lake after a good rain.

Largemouth Bass - Fair: Look for bass during the first and last hours of daylight to be hunting the outer edges of the weed beds; jig for them along the deeper water habitat in 13-18 feet of water.

Skunk River (Rose Hill to Coppock)

Skunk River water levels came up a little, but is still manageable for boating. Channel Catfish - Good: Use minnows and cut bait.

For more information on the above lakes and rivers call the Lake Darling Fisheries Office at 319-694-2430.

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Opinion/From the Front

County doesn't lose any money in audit correction

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

The county used the \$230,000, which will be less than the 25% of the amount the county has already signed agreements to receive, to offset payroll and benefits for additional staff that was brought on in the wake of the Keokuk Blessing hospital closure.

County Attorney Ross Braden issued an opinion on the usage of the funds saying the county needed to go beyond just payroll and include brochures and education for patients who suffered injuries that could require opioid pain management. He also recommended bi-annual trainings and a campaign for Lee County's Operation Against Opioid Use.

Braden issued that opinion and recommendation in February of 2023.

Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb said he saw the recommendations from the auditor's office and signed off on them and the county we'll be taking the auditor's recommendation and reimbursing the opioid fund.

"There is no money lost to the county taxpayers. This is a recommendation from the auditor's office and we are going to go at their direction," Seyb said.

"We just didn't act quick enough on these plans. We had a hospital close, the ambulance department was still in its infancy, and it didn't get done. But I still believe those plans need to be done because we need to address this issue here," Seyb said.

Lee County Grant Writer Chuck Vandenberg said he has been handling the compliance requirements on the opioid funding, including reports to the National Opioid Settlement Trust and the Iowa Attorney General's office, and has to date received no reports of violations or recommended actions from those settlement monitoring agencies. The latest report was submitted on Nov. 29, 2023.

The Lee County Board of Supervisors will be voting on a budget amendment at its next meeting that includes transferring the funds back to the opioid settlement fund. The opioid fund currently has \$291,048 and, with the transfer, will have \$521,048 in an interest bearing account.

An opioid fund committee is currently completing an application process for organizations and agencies to apply for funds from the account. Currently the county has settlement agreements that will total close to \$2 million over the next 15 years. Over the 15 years current agreements, the \$230,000 would represent about 11.5% of the county's disbursements.

Other notes on the audit include: a recommendation to remit property tax on farmland the county owns and leases; independent contractor pay, including clothing as part of taxable fringe benefits; handling outstanding checks of more than two years; one repeated travel reimbursement, minutes submitted for publication from Lee County PSAP, use of debit cards vs credit cards; and segregation of duties notes.

Miller-MEEKS dead set against Biden's attempt to stifle 2nd amendment

Our Constitution's framers affirmed our right to bear arms through the Second Amendment for an important reason; to provide Americans with means of protection and self-defense. They made this very clear when they wrote "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Unfortunately, the Biden Administration has chosen to disregard this principle on which our nation was founded by attempting to impose some of the strictest gun laws in American history.

As the Representative for Iowa's 1st Congressional District and a staunch supporter of the Second Amendment, I am proud to defend Iowans' right to bear arms by voting against measures that seek to restrict or ban firearms in the United States.

On January 31, 2023, Biden's unelected bureaucrats at the ATF published their final rule 2021R08F, "Factoring Criteria for Firearms with Attached Stabilizing Braces."

This rule would have retroactively turned millions of law-abiding gun owners - including many disabled veterans - into criminals for simply attaching a stabilizing brace to their pistol to help shoot safely and accurately.

Lawful gun owners could have faced up to 10 years in federal prison, become felons, and received a \$250,000 fine for having a stabilizing brace on their lawfully-purchased firearm.

I cosponsored legislation that passed the House to protect millions of gun owners by



MILLER-MEEKS

nullifying this blatantly unconstitutional pistol brace ban rule.

When Democrats tried sneaking a "red flag" provision into the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that would have allowed military judges to issue gun confisca-

tion orders without the servicemember even being present in court to defend themselves, I was quick to push back against it and refused to vote in favor of the bill until that provision was removed.

Recently, I voted in the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for H.R. 705 (the Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act). This bill ensures no veteran loses their Second Amendment right because the VA appoints someone to help manage their VA benefits. H.R. 705 prohibits the VA from automatically sending these veterans' names and information to the FBI simply because they have a VA-appointed fiduciary. Our veterans deserve the same due process as any other American.

While President Biden penalizes law-abiding American citizens, he lets illegal, criminal aliens run amok across our nation. More than 9.5 million illegal immigrants have crossed the border since Biden took office, and not a single one of them has had a background check.

If he were as focused on securing our border and prosecuting actual criminals as he is punishing law-abiding citizens, we would undoubtedly see a drop in violent crimes around the country.

WARNING SIGNS OF T1D



- Headaches
- Weight Loss
- Blurry Vision
- Extreme Thirst
- Frequent Urination
- Increased Appetite
- Fruity Breath Odor
- Fatigue and Weakness
- Rapid Deep Breathing

As we remember and celebrate all who fought for our independence, Pen City Current will not publish an e-Edition Tuesday through Tuesday, July 2nd through the 9th. The e-Edition will resume Wednesday, July 10th.

Please celebrate safely and responsibly. We care about all of you.

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PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
MAY 6, 2024**

The Board of Supervisors of Lee County, Iowa, met on Monday, May 6, 2024, at 10:00 a.m., at the County Administration Building, 933 Avenue H, Fort Madison, Iowa.

Present: Garry Seyb, Tom Schulz, Ron Fedler, Chuck Holmes and Matt Pflug

All votes are unanimous unless indicated otherwise.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Seyb amended the agenda adding discussion of going out for

bids for the new Health/EMS Building. Moved by Schulz, seconded by Holmes, to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried.

Public Input: Holmes offered a prayer for long time Health Department employee Laurie Mullins who recently passed away. Emily Biddenstadt from the Health Department spoke on Laurie's accomplishments while employed by the County.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve a Section 130 Crossing Safety Improvement Agreement with BNSF Railroad for crossing #078040R on 245th Avenue. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to approve raising the starting

salary for an Assistant County Attorney from \$85,000 to \$105,000. Motion carried.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Holmes, to approve an Agreement with Fitch and Associates for consulting services for EMS. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve updates to the EMS Supplement to the Personnel Policy. Motion carried.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Pflug, to approve the ARPA Compliance Report for FY23. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Schulz, to approve a letter of support to the City of Keokuk for reassignment of the Lincoln Ridge Sewer

Drainage System. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve a letter of support for a grant application for a new shelter house in Chatfield Park. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Seyb, to approve change orders 5 through 8 for the Keokuk Ambulance Building. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve submittal of a Geographic Name Proposal Recommendation Form to the U.S. Board on Geographic Names, approving the name of Horner Lake. Motion carried.

The Board held a discussion on going out for

bids on the Health/EMS Building.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve the Consent Agenda that included the April 22, 2024 Board minutes, the claims for payment and a Class C Retail Alcohol License for Green Bay Bar & Grill, for the period April 22, 2024 through April 21, 2025. Motion carried.

Moved by Schulz, seconded by Pflug, to approve a step increase for Sharon Bullard, Custodian, from \$15.43/hr. to \$15.81/hr., effective 4/23/24, a transfer from part-time to full-time for Matthew Heckert, Paramedic, salary unchanged at \$22.96/hr., effective 5/30/24 and a transfer from part-time to full-time

for Sydney Nelson, Paramedic, salary unchanged at \$22.96/hr., effective 5/22/24. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Commission of Veteran Affairs Quarterly Report for January through March 2024, the Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting for March 19, 2024, a Manure Management Annual Update for Dobson Family Farm in Van Buren Township, a Manure Management Plan Form for Schwartz Farms in Marion Township and the Sheriff's Monthly Report for April 2024.

Committee Reports: Holmes reported on a Children First Board meeting.

At 11:05 a.m. it was moved by Pflug, second-

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ed by Fedler, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, May 13, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. at the Administration Building in Fort Madison.

Garry Seyb, Chairman
Attest: Denise Fraise,
Lee County Auditor

Claims paid May 6, 2024

ABRA Auto Body, svs 9803.55
AC Contracting, svs 58375.00
Access Enrgy, svs 201.10
Agrineed, splys 979.30
Airgas USA, splys 106.74
All Amer Snntn, svs 640.00
Allen Precsn Equip, equip 215.33
Alliant Energy, svs 3014.95
Amazon, splys 70.91
Ape & Sons, Rock 3651.66
B&B Propane, fuel 458.67
Blades/Green, svs 3180.00
B Bonar, exps 200.00
Bound Tree Med, splys 3624.95
R Braden, exps 120.00
R Bradley, svs 130.00
Carroll Cnstrctn, svs 709.66
CenturyLink, svs ... 169.74
ClickStart Web, svs 44.85
Commerce Bank
1Password, svs 19.95
4Imprint, splys 563.75
ADOBE, subs 275.46
Airport Holiday Inn, lodg-
ing 244.16
Alliant, util 323.86
[Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com), splys 6,283.91
American Heart Shop,
sply 232.42
[Apple.com](https://www.apple.com), svs 64.20
Beacon Hills, meals 75.46
Building Materials, splys 51.96
Burlington Trailways, fare 46.50
Caseys, fuel 162.81
Centurylink, svs ... 1,812.11
Chilis, meals 48.77
Claim MD, subs 100.00
Comm Wholesale Tire,
sply 808.96
Court Avenue Brewing,
meals 424.67
Creative Safety, splys 19.99
Crown Awards, splys 27.29
Dairy Queen, meals 34.39
Dish, svs 84.48
Dodds Printing, splys 177.00
Dogs for Law Enforce-
ment, splys 990.00
Dollar General, splys 130.90
Donnellson Tire, svs 35.00
DSM Park, fee 50.00
EMC Ins, ins 1,533.00
Fareway, meals 15.39
Fongs, meals 12.55
Forestry splys, splys 217.67

Galls, unif 2,954.87
Goodyear Auto, svs 107.85
Grayline Medical, splys 30.94
Great River Medical, svs 50.00
Hancock Cty Journal, pub 1,962.01
Hilton Hotels, lodging 2,344.92
Huffmans Farm, splys 2,004.11
Hulu, svs 19.25
Humburd Auto, svs 15.08
HyVee, splys 152.33
IL Prof License, svs 163.60
IN National Assoc., dues 400.00
International Svc Fe, fee 0.20
[iowaema.com](https://www.iowaema.com), edu 155.00
Iowa Events Ctr, fee 12.00
[lowacountiesit.org](https://www.lowacountiesit.org), fee 50.00
Jethros, meals 32.32
Jim Baier, svs 163.00
Jimmy Johns, meals 12.87
Joann, splys 29.95
Josh's Frogs, splys .. 26.05
Kempkers, splys ... 701.85
Kum & Go, fuel 71.32
Legends, meals 68.45
Lowe's, appliances 1,226.98
Malo, meals 66.92
Marriott, lodging ... 244.16
McFarland Swan, splys 597.88
McKesson Medical, splys 769.26
Mediacom, svs ... 4,300.00
Medpro Waste, svs 91.51
Menards, splys 257.70
Monterrey Mexican,
meals 37.98
MSFT, software 308.00
Mullets Uptown, meals 22.73
[Netflix.com](https://www.netflix.com), svs 24.60
Office Depot, splys 989.10
Oreilly Auto, parts ... 46.85
PB Leasing, lease 1,436.11
Phillips 66, fuel 30.00
Pickelmans, meals .. 41.74
Pilot, fuel 65.09
Positive Promotions,
sply 265.45
Quadient Finance, lease 1,401.51
Quill Corp, splys ... 263.92
Rathbun Water, water 181.50
Residence Inn, lodging 1,201.77
Scott Café, meals ... 36.00
Shottenkirk, svs 92.65
Sirchie, splys 46.91
Sit Healthier, office furn 949.90
Site Mart, fuel 42.00
Smashburger, meals 22.22
Subway, meals 37.54
Teleflex, splys 677.50
Tmobile, svs 1,866.97
Turbo Wash, svs 10.00
US Cellular, svs 1,800.07
Unitypoint, fee 195.00
USPS, svs 46.79
Verizon, svs 950.90
Vista Outdoors, splys 73.35

Walmart, splys 525.20
West Point Lumber, splys 11.99
Winners Circle, svs 86.86
Yesway, fuel 65.47
Zoom, svs 0.01
Comm Action, svs 1773.66
Electrical Engrg, svs 2051.32
Cook Appraisal, svs 4800.00
CJ Cooper/Assc, svs 105.00
M Cooper, exps ... 266.50
D Covert, svs 313.91
H Curtis, svs 142.50
Democrat Co, publ 110.02
Dly Gate City, publ.. 80.80
Darkside Tint, splys 1635.00
DM Co. Engineer, svs 12500.00
DM Co Hlth Dpt, svs 6289.45
Dmnd Mowers, parts 775.93
Disct Tire, svs 65.95
Dodd Prtg/Stat, splys 362.68
Donnellson Lmbr, equip 2474.13
Donnellson Tire, svs 124.00
Drake Hdwr, equip 1564.00
ES&S, svs 4137.00
EMSLRC, edu 230.00
Farm/Home Sply, splys 193.46
5th dist Co Adtr's, edu 50.00
Floyds EZ Way, svs 75.00
FM Water, svs 3787.90
D Fraise, svs 40.00
Garratt-Callahan, svs 750.00
L Gatton, rent 300.00
N Granaman, svs 1705.50
Grandinetti's, svs 5000.00
Grt Prairie AEA, svs 279.60
GrtAmer Financial, equip 176.70
S Hanan, svs 14.00
Healthcarefirst, svs 3103.11
Hill Prtg, svs 279.97
Huffman Welding, svs 448.70
HyVee, splys 728.28
ICRA, edu 300.00
Intrstte All Bttry, splys 43.23
IA Dept Pub Sfty, splys 1866.00
IA DOT, svs 2493.00
IA GEMT Pymt prog, svs 10223.47
A Jacobs, exps 16.15
T Jacobsmeier, svs 400.00
Jays Auto, svs 402.70
Jet Gas, fuel 12309.83
Jireh Inc, fuel 488.22
JJD Contracting, svs 51119.50
T Johnson, rent 300.00
P Kaltefleiter, exps .. 54.20
Kempkers, splys 8.58
Keokuk Water, svs 617.98
Klingner Assoc, svs 7406.50
Know Ink, svs 4410.00
Kohlmorgan Hlg, svs 325.00

R Kuntz, svs 200.00
Lee Co Auditor, Ctrl Purch 3046.36
Lee Co Eng, svs ... 682.50
Lee Co Health, svs 3615.14
Lee Co Recorder, splys 51.41
Lee Co Sheriff, svs 795.72
Lee Co Treas, fees 550685.14
Lee Co Treas, fndg 238894.37
Liberty Utility, gas 2242.16
C Liles, svs 816.00
Mail Svs, pstg 1188.64
Martin Equip, equip 432.66
McFarlands, splys 179.88
McKesson Med, svs 55.58
Menards, equip 92.52
MidAmer Enrgy, gas 1281.57
Midway Frtlnr, svs 157258.64
Midwest Alarm, svs 4058.64
Mdm Imaging Sol, svs 359.80
Montrose Rvfrnt, rent 225.00

Nelson Family, rx 41.96
O'Reilly Auto, parts 40.78
OMG Midwest, svs 3591.99
R Pttrsn Rahn, exps 51.07
MPflug, exps 40.00
Prairie Farms, splys 381.80
Purchase Power, pstg 1622.94
Quadient Finance, pstg 4000.00
Rairdens Auto, svs 150.00
Rathbun Water, svs 147.50
RJ Thomas Mfg, equip 2407.00
L Roxberg, rent 300.00
T Schroeder, exps 8.48
SIADSA, svs 1537.22
SE IA Garage Door, svs 2551.80
SE IA Reg Med, svs 325.00
SpectraCorp, splys 49.30
P Spiekermeier, exps 19.00
Clay Steele LLCB, unif 88.00

The Law Shop, svs 397.50
The Toner Place, splys 101.00
TNVC, equip 693.08
Trinity Musc Pub, svs 26848.96
P Tripp, exps 3.00
US Cell, svs 650.69
VA CCN, rfnd 60.28
E Van Ausdall, rent 250.00
VB Co Child Abuse, svs 479.94
Van Meter Instrl, splys 46.13
Verizon, svs 590.65
Vertical Comm, svs 45.90
M Walker, svs 200.00
Washington Co Pub, svs 18522.84
Wayland Stone, Rock 1327.56
C Wells, exps 138.45
L Wessel, svs 1220.00
West Group, splys 1107.45
Wex Bank, fuel 739.85
B Wyatt, svs 200.00
3819 Main St, Rent 300.00

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From the Front

County engages SEI Regional Planning in regulation talks

UTILITIES - Continued from Page 1

board and ask what the board may be able to do to program, limit, direct, how those utilities may not be allowed into the county.”

He said right now Lee County doesn't have anything other than right-of-way and road use agreements for projects.

Norris said the county also has a flood-plain ordinance.

“Lee County did adopt a general plan in 2013 to give the county the ability to do tax abatement when the fertilizer plant was coming,” he said.

That was to allow options for incentives for the county with the fertilizer plant. He said it was a “general plan” in 2013 and not a comprehensive plan due to the sensitivities of zoning requirements that many rural property owners are not in favor of.

“A comprehensive plan gives a municipality of the state the basis to enact zoning ordinances. A general plan does not do that, which is why they went the general plan route,” Norris said.

He said the plan had goal-setting and potential economic development corridors and didn't do some of the other things that would be done in a comprehensive plan to include land use mapping.

Lassiter was the point person for SEIRPC when Des Moines County set up a wind ordinance. Lassiter went into the finer points of the process that county went through, including options they considered.

Seyb asked if the county would be required to have a comprehensive plan in place before considering a wind ordinance similar to Des Moines County.

Norris said the county wouldn't be restricting a land use, they would be restricting where something can go.

Lassiter said Des Moines County was unique because they have jurisdiction outside the two-mile extraterritorial jurisdiction of the largest city which is Burlington. He said Henry and Louisa both have countywide zoning in the unincorporated areas and Lee County has nothing in place.

Lassiter said Henry and Louisa address wind through their zoning, so when Des Moines County looked at some regulation, they had to choose between zoning which would give control only in that specific zoned area, or a county-wide ordinance.

Seyb said current contracts for easements are with the owners and not the county.

“What seems to happen is those that don't want things to happen, they come to the board thinking we have regulatory authority to affect things one way or the other,” Seyb said. “Right now, the board has really zero impact on much of anything other than our own infrastructure, which would be our roads.”

“I guess I view the ordinance along those lines. We just set some general guidelines saying you have to be this far away from something x, y, or z. So we would limit not any one person, but certain standards would have to be applied for that contract to take place on that portion of ground.”

Norris said it also gives the county some enforcement such as possibly a bond to ensure things like decommissioning doesn't get passed to the taxpayer.

Seyb asked if the ordinance is something that could be done fairly quickly, whereas a comprehensive zoning plan is more time consuming.

Norris said that would depend on what the agency was looking for.

“It really is up to the locals on how detailed they want it to be and what the scope is,” Lassiter said.

Seyb said he would like to explore an ordinance

because it gives them some ability to affect at least a standard of where things go. He said it also protects all taxpayers from a bonding standpoint, for example, if they sign with a company and that company goes bankrupt then the property owner isn't necessarily on the hook.

“We would be saying, for example, you have to be bonded to be able to take that down. In other words, you're not putting it up unless you can take it down.”

He said local property owners may miss that depending on their private knowledge and legal representation.

Board member Ron Fedler said he's hearing that the landowners want the county to have something in place to protect their land.

Seyb said he's hearing people say they don't want the project here.

“An ordinance does not do that. I want everyone to understand that. What it does is just set standards and conditions for how something would be put in. Whereas zoning may say we have planned usage for this and, if you put this here, it could affect our future use and we really don't want it.”

Lassiter advised the board to keep in mind that zoning and even ordinances are never one size fits all.

Seyb asked that the issue be put on the agenda for the next meeting as discussion only.

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