

WAPELLO COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS

DATE: 8-23-2016

TIME: 5:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Greg Kenning, Chair; Jerry Parker, Vice Chair; Steve Siegel, Supervisor; Mary Gaskill, State Representative; Mark Newman, Courier; Paul Culver, IT Director; Sharon Stroh, OEDC; Megan Yeager, Job Corps; Brian Morgan, Emilie Rendes, Larry Seals, Nick Davis, KBIZ; Joe Damerval, Dot Maudlin, Beth Waldon, KTVO; Alex Stroda, Wapello County Progressives; Paul Munley, Stacey Hirchak, Madyson Randall, Melissa Garrett, Beth Sawyer, Mike Inman, Mike Grooms, Gary Oldenburger, County Attorney; Andy Morris, City Administrator; Thomas Box, John Cardenzana, Bob & Kristi Meyers, Kevin Kelly, Levi Grenko, Skip Stevens, City Council; Matt Dalbey, City Council; Kelly Spurgeon, Auditor; Pam Norton, Auditor's Clerk.

Chair Kenning opened the meeting. Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARING for the FIRST READING UNDER TITLE I, CHAPTER 8, POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION FOR CONSIDERATION OF ADOPTION OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A WAPELLO COUNTY MINIMUM WAGE. Chair Kenning said, in his experience, it's never been a role of the county supervisors. But the general assembly is reluctant to take on this issue, so counties are forced to take it on. We need to raise this minimum wage. We want to know what you think.

Vice Chair Parker said he'd received an email (written comment) from Joe Damerval. No other written comments were received.

Supervisor Siegel informed those present the intentions of the Board and this ordinance. Chair Kenning then asked for public comments.

Keith Caviness said he was interested in the Board's back door approach. He said the legislative body in Des Moines has cussed and discussed this several times. Johnson County is the only county to pass. Wapello County is the poorest county in the state. Ask merchants to discuss whether they can stay here or not. I don't know many people actually getting minimum wage. Hobby Lobby starts at \$11/hr part-time, \$15 full-time employees. It will hinder growth in our community.

Supervisor Siegel said he doesn't agree with that concept. Both Linn and Polk Counties are about to pass it. Good for economic development, people going to spend it here in

the community. I don't know anyone else who has to go 10 years without getting a pay raise. He said every state around us except Wisconsin has passed increases.

Madyson Randall, being a student, thinks it's a great thing what you guys are doing. I'll be getting a job soon, paying tuition and rent. I hope it gets passed.

Chair Kenning said of 6 states that surround us, 5 have a higher minimum wage. If you think lower wage attracts economic development, we'd be flooded with those wanting to set up here.

Bob Myers thinks it seems to be paramount businesses talking to the supervisors of what will happen if it's increased. People doing the hiring don't think businesses think minimum wage is an issue.

Mike Inman doesn't know how long they can do business in Minnesota. I don't believe this is a county issue. After giving this payroll increase, we'd have to go from 9 employees to 6 employees to maintain the same profit margin.

Alex Stroda said single people need \$9.60/hr to meet bare minimum. It's not your employees fault if you're not making a profit. That is why this ordinance is required.

Mike Inman works for Pizza Hut. Used to make all food on premise, now we get precut foods. There is a reason you see self check out at Walmart.

Keith Caviness said it's not the responsibility of employers to guarantee a living wage for anyone. Sometimes improving their education is equally important. In the past, federal and state government had policies of raising the minimum wage, not the counties job.

Paul Munley said he knows plenty of people living on minimum wage. With \$30,000 college debt, working 40 hours at \$7.25/hr is \$14,500 a year. In this town, rent for a single person can be \$500/mo. With water bill, electricity, cell phone, car and insurance, gasoline, food if not on government assistance, and clothes to buy that leaves less than \$180/mo to live on. I'm thankful you're talking about this, but it's not going up enough.

Supervisor Siegel said most on minimum wage are really on government assistance.

Alex Stroda said you (supervisors) have every right legally to do what you're doing. No back door. This is a direct result of the House and Senate not doing their job. We're lucky enough to have board of supervisors who are willing to do their job. Thank you, I appreciate you willing to back door, doing your job.

Melissa Garrett said I have a brother 28 years old, graduate school, but lives with parents and works 2 minimum wage jobs. He has \$60,000 school debt. Our house payment is about \$900/mo. We have 5 kids, my youngest is 3. My husband is a program director, we squeak by. No government assistance, we don't meet the guidelines. It's hard for young people today. I just want to thank you.

Matt Dalbey said he supports this. Our demographics are different than these other counties. I support a living wage. I hear arguments on why we shouldn't advance this. No money at the end of the month for college education. There are a lot of benefits for middle wage earners that lower don't have. I ask where are we going to be in 10 years if we fail to act. We're going to increase the poverty rate. Folks that make \$7.25/hr can't do anything but survive. Those dollars would be spent in the community. I applaud you for doing this.

Mary Gaskill, State Representative District #81 said she supported the minimum wage the last time at the State House. It hasn't been raised but not for lack of some of us trying. I point to the leadership in the House. I don't know where the Governor's position is, but think he would support it. Thank you for taking this on.

Chair Kenning asked Rep. Gaskill if they had debated this. She said not on the House floor, maybe in a subcommittee.

Supervisor Siegel said he believes the Governor said he was open to improving the minimum wage.

Vice Chair Parker said this option has been given to us for a reason. When legislators are in deadlock, things need to be corrected. We're right here closer to the people. We've been given the option to correct this. They (legislators) don't want 99 different wages out there, so they can easily override us. I would hope that they would do something. I've not seen a study that shows me that raising the minimum wage hurts economic development. Business people are smart and they're going to go where their business is best. What disappoints me, we're talking about our friends,

neighbors, relatives. Why would anybody begrudge them of getting more money. You have to get a car to get to work the next day. I don't understand it. I commend you who are here supporting this. These things are things that can hurt you in an election, but it's the right thing to do. My proposal is to amend this so we do the first increase 1/1/2017, the next 1/1/2018 and the third 1/1/2019. This would allow them to plan better. I would make that recommendation.

Kevin Kelly, Agency, I appreciate what you board of supervisors have done through the years. I encourage you to pursue it with due diligence. Finally getting a raise will give people pride.

Levi Grenko said he respects what the board of supervisors are trying to do. I've studied for several years and what Jerry said is right. There's no study out there that raising the minimum wage has hurt the economy.

6:33 p.m. Vice Chair Parker moved, Supervisor Siegel seconded to close the public hearing.

Vice Chair Parker moved to amend the Ordinance to extend the time frame to 1/1/2017 for \$8.20/hr and all other references changed to 1/1/2018 for \$9.15/hr and 1/1/2019 for \$10.10/hr. Supervisor Siegel seconded. Motion carried.

Supervisor Siegel moved, seconded by Vice Chair Parker to approve the first reading as amended. Motion carried. The second reading was set for Monday, August 29th, at 1:30 p.m.

Chair Kenning called for a short recess before continuing.

Following recess Supervisor Siegel moved, seconded by Vice Chair Parker to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2016 Board meeting. Motion carried.

Supervisor Siegel moved, seconded by Vice Chair Parker to approve hiring Travis Peel as a full-time deputy sheriff, hire date 9/7/2016 at a starting rate of \$21.40/hr. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to approve a contract with Vogel Traffic Services in the amount of \$95,934.23 for paint striping on all hard surfaced roads in the county. Motion carried.

Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to accept and file the Clerk of Court's monthly report of total fees collected in July 2016. Motion carried.

County claims in the amount of \$1,304,246.88 and payroll in the amount of \$762,935.25 were approved.

6:43 p.m. Vice Chair Parker moved, seconded by Supervisor Siegel to adjourn. Motion carried.

ATTEST:

Kelly Spurgeon
Wapello County Auditor

Gregory M. Kenning, Chair
Board of Supervisors