CALL TO ORDER: Swisher Mayor Christopher Taylor and Johnson County Board of Supervisors Chairperson Janelle Rettig called the joint Council and Johnson County Board of Supervisors meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. at Swisher Community Library, Swisher, Iowa on September 11, 2017.


Also present: Assistant Johnson County Engineer Neil Shatek, City Clerk Tawnia Kakacek, Swisher City Engineer Tim Custforth, Mike Hart of Northland Securities, Swisher Librarian Laura Hoover, City Superintendent Rodney McNeal, Jerry Hightshoe, Gene Beard.

Consent Agenda: Motion by Stagg, seconded by Hinrichs to approve agenda. Call for vote. All ayes. Motion carried.

Swisher Community Library Update: Librarian Hoover presented summary of last year activities, programs, funding, long range plan, upcoming challenges, etc. Circulation is up over 200% from last year and county residents account for 24% of the library patrons. She and the mayor listed several activities and partnerships the library has been involved in. Hoover stated they need two Kirkwood students to work at the library. Neuendorf arrived at 6:06 p.m.

City and County Projects: City Bonding Agent Mike Hart of Northland Securities gave recap of Swisher’s funding capacity towards the Division Street Project and noted the city debt limit is not enough to fund the whole project. Mayor asked the Board if they would partner with the City on the portion of the road surface that’s outside the city limits and how to proceed. Rettig stated the board does not like to do city streets connected with the county roads as some cities annex in the county portion of road/properties after the streets have been improved and been partially paid by the county. She mentioned several other partnerships outside of cities, like Highway 965 outside of North Liberty. She doesn’t know if the county can legally lend money to the city for the road. Mayor reiterated that the city was not asking the county to fund repairs within the city limits. Friese left at 6:29 p.m. Mayor stated the city has a maintenance agreement with the county for the city to do regular maintenance on Division/120th Street. There are other portions of the roadway where the city and county share responsibility but the city covers all the costs. Payment was fixed a culvert that was damaged/caused by property on the county side. Rettig suggested that maybe an agreement could be done for the project if the city wouldn’t annex property along that road for so many years. Mayor inquired how to work on the details with the county. Rettig recommended the mayor email Carberry and her to work on the details. Gudenkauf arrived at 6:38 p.m. County Engineer Shatek noted the county plans to work on 120th Street west of Swisher to county line in 2019. Rettig gave update on proposed trails and other road projects. The county would like to see a trail between Shueyville and Swisher in the future.

City and County Contracts: Rettig asked if the city is happy with the Johnson County Sheriff services. The mayor and council felt the Sheriff department is doing good work for Swisher. Mayor noted the last county representative appointment for the library board was never formally approved by the county. Rettig apologized for that not being done by the county and they were fine with who the mayor selected. Librarian Hoover stated this year’s contract was the block grant as they were waiting for the state to accredit Swisher Library, which it did in July. Retting asked the library to submit a proposed budget later this fall in time for the annual budget process.
Fringe Area Policy Agreements: Council and Board briefly went over the fringe area agreements. Retting noted if Swisher has any problems hearing from Cedar Rapids regarding zoning requests within the 2-mile fringe area, let them know.

Swisher TIF and Urban Renewal Areas: City Bonding Agent Hart stated that Swisher’s tax increment financing is going towards sewer bond and Division Street Project. Board was okay with this and Swisher Urban Renewal Areas.

Other: Retting thanked the Mayor and Council for meeting with the Board and discussing roads, etc. She asked the city to consider using the county ambulance service in the future as it will be located in North Liberty and will be closer than Cedar Rapids service.

Adjournment: Mayor Taylor and Chairperson Rettig adjourned meeting at 7:08 p.m.

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Tawnia Kakacek  Christopher Taylor, Swisher Mayor
Swisher City Clerk

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Janelle Rettig  Johnson County Board of Supervisors Chairperson