

**MINUTES OF THE INFORMAL MEETING OF THE JOHNSON COUNTY  
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:  
JUNE 23, 2011**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
SEATS Director Tom Brase: Service Contract Between TMS Management Systems and Johnson County SEATS .....	1
Social Services Coordinator Amy Correia .....	1
Sub-Contract with Aging Specialist .....	1
FY2012 Empowerment Contracts for Administrative Services .....	3
Communications Committee Member Vanessa Wierman: Social Media Use Policy .....	3
Board of Supervisors: .....	4
Resolution Establishing and Providing Rules for County Employee Parking Lots .....	4
Payroll Deduction Authorization for Parking Fees .....	5
Johnson County Auditor Tom Slockett: Redistricting Process .....	5
Board of Supervisors .....	18
Appointments to the Johnson County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Committee .....	18
Reports and Inquiries from the Board of Supervisors .....	19
Human Resources Administrator Lora Shramek: Step 3 Warson Grievance from Public Professional and Maintenance Employees (PPME) Local 2003 Administrative Unit for the Treasurer’s Office .....	19

Chairperson Harney called the Johnson County Board of Supervisors to order in the Johnson County Administration Building at 9:45 a.m. Members present were: Pat Harney, Terrence Neuzil, Janelle Rettig, Sally Stutsman, and Rod Sullivan.

**SEATS DIRECTOR TOM BRASE: SERVICE CONTRACT BETWEEN TMS  
MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS AND JOHNSON COUNTY SEATS**

SEATS Director Tom Brase said on October 1, 2010 they began a contract with Transportation Management Services (TMS) who brokers for the State of Iowa to do non-emergency medical transportation for Medicaid recipients. The County charged \$8.00 for local urban trips, \$10.00 for loading fee and \$1.40 per mile for rural trips, or trips outside of the County. Brase said SEATS would like to continue with this contract beginning this fiscal year with an increase of one dollar for the cost of a local trip.

Stutsman asked Brase if the costs are competitive with other groups providing the same service within the community. Brase said it is competitive. Only a few other medical transportation systems provide wheelchair accessibility.

**SOCIAL SERVICES COORDINATOR AMY CORREIA  
Sub-Contract with Aging Specialist**

Social Services Coordinator Amy Correia said she sent the Board a draft of the Aging Specialist Sub-Contract Agreement, including an updated version with revisions from the Attorney's Office. Correia said these changes were approved by the Board to allow a Fiscal Agent as part of the Livable Community for Successful Aging and utilizing the \$13,000 of Block Grant funds. The Livable Community for Successful Aging Policy Board (Policy Board) had wanted to shift that to save overhead costs and increase the available monies for direct action. Part of that would be shifting the Aging Specialist Sub-Contractor under the County with this agreement with the current Aging Specialist Mary Willie. It is clear that it is not an employment contract but rather sets out the rules and responsibilities for the Aging Specialist.

Stutsman asked if the Aging Specialist would still be housed at Elder Services of Johnson County, Inc. (Elder Services.) Correia said no, as a sub-contractor Willie does work out of her home. There is not a physical office location. Correia said the Executive Committee of the Policy Board supervises this position. The Policy Board is working on a strategic plan that would set out the goals of the Policy Board. They would be assigning the strategic initiatives for the Aging Specialist to implement. The Policy Board sets the overall direction, but the communication between the Aging Specialist and the Policy Board would go through the Executive Committee. This alleviates the concern that an individual Policy Board member could contact the Aging Specialist and misrepresent the goals of the Policy Board.

Stutsman asked who would handle the payroll for this position and clarified there would be oversight on the number of hours the person works. Correia said yes, and Social Services would receive a monthly invoice; it would be approved through the Executive Committee, and Social Services would make the payment. Rettig said it is important to note this position is an independent contractor and therefore the workplace and actual work hours cannot be designated. This frees up close to \$3,000 for programming. Correia said currently Social Services receives the payment invoice from Elder Services and reviews it, approves it and sends it through for payment. It frees up \$3,000 or a little less for the Policy Board to initiate Action Team projects, the website or other efforts to further the mission of the Policy Board.

Sullivan said the biggest piece of the work expected has to do with the website, which can be done from almost anywhere at almost any time. Stutsman said the contract says that additional work may be performed if the budgeted amount is raised. She asked who would raise the budgeted amount. Correia said the Policy Board. The Policy Board budgets a specific amount for Action Team projects and if that amount has not been fully expended, it could be shifted to pay for additional work hours for the Aging Specialist.

Rettig said shifting money to the Aging Specialist is already occurring. Willie's hours were finished, and due to the work load earlier in the spring and the fact that some Action Team budgets were not spent, Willie was requested to work more hours to get projects done. Stutsman said she does not have a problem with that, but she does think it needs to specify that the Policy Board raises the budgeted amount. Sullivan said it is important for the public to know that the Board provides a certain amount of money, but

they have not made any move to amend that money. This would occur if money is leftover from an already budgeted line item and it does not change the overall budget.

Assistant County Attorney Andy Chappell said he made the change because of concern that the original language was not clear enough that Willie was not authorized to work hours in excess of the amount budgeted. Based on a conversation with Correia, he wanted to make clear that it is possible for the budgeted amount to be raised.

### **FY2012 Empowerment Contracts for Administrative Services**

Correia said since they do not know when the State budget might be passed and Johnson County Empowerment (Empowerment) would have a firm allocation, they wanted to have the contract to the Board so they knew it had been approved by the Empowerment Board with the intention to move it forward. As soon as the State passes the budget and Empowerment knows its allocation, the Empowerment contracts could be brought before the Board. The contract would be for 12 months with one and a half staff members including a full-time Empowerment Early Childhood Specialist and a part-time Administrative Assistant with a contract value not to exceed \$114,966.00. Correia said she is thinking the Board would move it forward as soon as the State budget is passed. It might not be next week.

Rettig said she hopes the State will think very seriously about cutting 18% or 20% of services and still keeping the same staffing level. She thinks hard choices have to be decided, and to deny people services while maintaining the same level of staffing is hard to justify. Sullivan said he has heard State legislators say Johnson County does not contribute to Empowerment. While it is true that there are no direct County funds going into the program, a lot of indirect County funds are allocated including office space, office equipment, meeting space, and financial services. It is a fairly significant County contribution even though there is not a large Block Grant. Correia said she thinks Empowerment tries to estimate the value of in-kind support and she will inform the Board of that dollar amount.

### **COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE MEMBER VANESSA WIERMAN: SOCIAL MEDIA USE POLICY**

Human Resources (HR) Coordinator Vanessa Wierman said she included an updated draft of the Social Media Use Policy in the Board's packet. The policy is intended to be placed in the Employee Handbook. It was presented to the Board in a Work Session in May 2011 and there was a lively discussion at that meeting. At that time, the Board requested the Social Media Subcommittee work on the language and update the policy to be congruent with the current technology policy. Some of the changes she made include: paragraph two now allows employees to engage in personal use of social media websites on County equipment during personal time such as breaks and lunch, and paragraph four and six should now better communicate the expectations and the potential consequences of misuse. Wierman said the Social Media Subcommittee recommends the Board approve this policy and approve placement into the Employee Handbook.

Harney said he thinks this is a good policy. Sullivan said he appreciates the work of the Communications Committee. Neuzil said he does not want to have any thoughts of trying to control what an employee has to say outside of their employment, and if they do not like what Neuzil does or what some County policies state, the employee certainly has a right to say it. Rettig said the changes are now consistent with other communication issues in the Employee Handbook and consistency is important.

Recessed at 10:01 a.m.; reconvened at 10:06 a.m.

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:**

#### **Resolution Establishing and Providing Rules for County Employee Parking Lots**

Sullivan said the ordinance gives the Board the authority to pass the resolution that spells out the actual rules for use of the parking lots. He said he, Wierman, Stutsman and Treasurer Tom Kriz looked through the information thoroughly and sent it to other members of the Parking Committee. Then Chappell put the information in the proper format.

Rettig referred to item number two on page two it said it reads as follows: "Employees will be charged for parking lots one, two, three, four and five when accessing the lot Monday through Friday between the hours of 5:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m." She said she thought they had discussed charging for parking during hours a lot closer to the hours of operation. Harney said he thinks it should be 4:30 p.m. or 5:00 p.m.

Sullivan explained that second and third shift employees in Ambulance and the Sheriff's Office begin work around 3:00 p.m., and since there is typically no demand for parking during those shifts, those employees would not be charged for parking. If they move the time back, it makes it difficult for employees working those shifts. Harney said he thinks those employees ID cards could be programmed so they would not be charged.

Rettig said she does not want employees to think they can park in front of the Health and Human Services Building at 2:30 p.m. and she asked if that is covered in the policy. Chappell said it is in paragraph four. Rettig read the text and agreed that it accomplishes just that. Neuzil said that between 8:00 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. to 3:35 p.m., there would be a general sense that employees would use the designated employee parking. The building is largely vacated after 3:30 p.m. or 3:45 p.m. Stutsman said they set the time at 2:30 p.m. for those who work the second shift. Rettig said now that she thinks about it, this paragraph addresses her concerns. It says they cannot park in public spaces during business hours. If it is close to closing time, they will not throw a big fit. Stutsman said the parking policy reflects supply and demand. There is a high demand for parking in this area between normal work hours, but after that it is not an issue.

Harney said his concern is that if someone works for the University of Iowa or somewhere else, they could legally park in a County ramp after 2:30 p.m. Neuzil said he does not think that is the case. The public should not park there unless they are doing

County business. Rettig said they need to install the signs which designate parking for employees only.

Sullivan said employee parking was the focus for all the members of the Parking Committee. He said Chappell brought up the concern that people store cars on County property or leave them there longer than they should. Stutsman said if they see someone parking on their lots and not engaged in County business, they now have the right to tow.

Harney said page four of the policy states that parking directly at the Administration Building is set aside for the general public and persons with physical disabilities visiting the building. He said employees in the Administration Building with disabilities should be assigned a space in this parking lot directly in front. Sullivan said that is addressed on page five in item nine. Harney said yes but it is contradictory between what is on page four. Sullivan said the other sections address the visitors, and the employees are specifically addressed under item nine. Harney said item nine addresses the employee lots, and this is addressing the public lot. Employees with disabilities need to park closer. Rettig said they have already told the department head to park there and have put a third spot in for that reason.

Chappell said item nine indicates that an employee with a state issued permit for persons with physical disabilities is entitled to a reserved parking space with that parking sign, which has already been done at the Administration Building and the Courthouse. They get the designated disabled parking space and pay for it as well. Harney said the text only says for people visiting the building, not employees, and he wants to make sure it will include employees. Chappell said he believes the concern is addressed in item nine. Stutsman said she would like the words "persons," "disabilities" and "parking" to be capitalized. Sullivan said procedurally, the Board has to adopt the policy next week in order for paid parking to begin with the beginning of the next pay period on July 3, 2011, so timing is of the essence.

### **Payroll Deduction Authorization for Parking Fees**

Rettig asked if Board members could pre-sign the authorization forms before formally voting on it. Sullivan said it says it is effective upon the Board formally adopting a resolution so it can be done before that. Rettig said there is a typo in that line, there is no space between the word "adopting" and "a".

### **JOHNSON COUNTY AUDITOR TOM SLOCKETT: REDISTRICTING PROCESS**

County Auditor Tom Slockett introduced the group working on reprecincting. He said Account Clerk II John Deeth probably knows more about state redistricting and senate and house districts than anyone. Deputy Auditor Mark Kistler is the Auditor's Office Geographic Information System (GIS) expert. GIS Technician Adam Gebhart is not present but he has helped significantly. Deputy Auditor Nathan Reckman is not present, but he has also assisted.

Slockett said to his left is Elections Technician III Bogdana Veltereau. She drew the rural precinct map presented to the Board today; she is a real asset to the staff. Deputy Auditor Amanda Stahle is doing a tremendous job as Elections Deputy. Also present is First Deputy Chris Edwards. Slockett suggested they quickly go through the packet of information which he presented the Board page-by-page and then address some specifics. He invited Board members to ask questions as they go along.

Slockett presented the Board with a handout on redistricting and reprecincting and said the map on the first page depicts 20 precincts. This map is a draft for the Board's consideration and includes one less precinct than the county has now. Currently there is a legislative district line next to the City of Tiffin. Therefore, Tiffin has to be a separate precinct. That is no longer the case after redistricting, so Tiffin is the logical place for the City of Clear Creek residents to vote, eliminating the need for one precinct. Another reason the number of precincts listed is smaller is because the City of Hills is a separate precinct because it is surrounded by a legislative district line and zero population other than within the boundary of Hills. It will be a separate precinct and the Board will not have to establish that precinct. Slockett said he would like to come back to that later.

Slockett said the next double-sided page includes a list of the Auditor's Office pros and cons about the precincts they have drawn up. The next page is a lengthy disposition about the legislative process by which redistricting occurs in Iowa, often viewed as a national good government model. It is non-partisan and has worked quite well. Slockett said it lists the state population and tells the ideal districts. As the Board knows, Johnson County lost a Congressional district because Iowa's growth was relatively small compared to other states. Of direct concern is information on reprecincting. Slockett said one of the limitations is that no precinct may have a population over 3,500 at the time of the Decennial Census. It also states that precincts cannot be divided by legislative districts.

Slockett explained important future dates: September 1, 2011, is the deadline for cities to certify their precincts; October 15, 2011, is the deadline for the Board to certify precincts; and the January 15, 2012, is the date when the precincts go into effect. The new boundaries will be in effect for elections held after January 15, 2012. The State caucuses are run by the parties, not counties. There is no definitive answer on whether the political parties will use the new or the old precincts for the caucuses. Slockett said for practical matters, he does not see how they could use the new precincts. The deadline for school districts to draw their district lines is May 15, 2012.

Slockett said pages six and seven indicate how Johnson County voters like to vote and how politically active they are. Johnson County ranks fifth in the state in population. Black Hawk County ranks directly above Johnson County and Story County ranks ninth. In the category of percent of population voting in the 2010 General Election, Johnson County ranks 18th among Iowa Counties. In the 2008 Presidential Election, Johnson County ranked third in the category of percent of population voting. Story County ranked 71st and Black Hawk County ranked 83rd. Traditionally the counties with the

highest votes are those with small rural precincts where people do not move very often, and they are all familiar with their polling sites, and they know each other. It is quite remarkable that citizens of Johnson County are that interested in and able to cast their votes in relatively high numbers.

Slockett said the next page shows Election Day costs broken down by precincts and arranged from the lowest to highest cost. A cost per vote is also included. The lowest costs are at some of the smaller precincts, as would be expected, and the highest costs are in the largest precinct, North Liberty 1. In the 2008 Presidential Election, the total Election Day costs for cities was over \$91,000, and in the rural areas, about \$29,000. Page nine shows the cost per voter, and the lowest cost per voter is in some of the smaller areas where there are a relatively large number of voters and few poll workers.

Stutsman asked if these costs are a reflection of everything that goes into opening up a polling place, including ballots and everything. Slockett replied that page 12 lists all the financial data on the costs. They are very detailed costs that are meticulously calculated. The chart includes all billable items. This is what the Auditor's Office bills the cities and school districts for elections and billing for administrative costs, such as voter registration and office management is not allowed. They are only allowed to bill for things that vary due to the election being conducted.

Slockett said of note is the cost per voter is highest in some of the smaller rural townships that do not have many voters. Iowa Law requires a minimum of three election officials, booths, signs and two pieces of voting equipment: the ballot scanner and the accessible unit. Laptops are also used in each precinct. Cost per vote increases in the smallest precincts. Rettig clarified that this cost per vote only includes Election Day turnout. Slockett said yes, this page refers to Election Day voter turnout. Slockett said he will give more information on the breakdown of how many voted early. The Board will see that the precincts with the highest cost per vote also had the highest percentage of voters voting on Election Day. This is their method of choice for voting and this is important to keep in mind.

Stutsman asked what is the highest number of poll workers required for a precinct. Slockett said North Liberty 1, the highest turnout precinct, would have the most. Stutsman verified that Iowa Code requires at least three staff at each precinct. Stahle said that is correct. Slockett said staff has to be balanced by political party. Rettig said North Liberty 1 cost \$5,303.72 and that seems to be the highest. Stahle said 18 people were working on Election Day at that precinct. Stutsman said the number of poll workers can vary from three to 18 people. Slockett said the Auditor's Office establishes the number of poll workers using a sophisticated method of looking at past performance in each precinct, population increases and voter registration increases. They are pretty good at predicting the outcome. They collect this information so they know how many poll workers, booths, parking places and ballots are needed.

Slockett said page 14 has some more information on voter turnout related to some of the questions the Board asked. In some of the smaller precincts, a higher percentage of

voters chose to cast their vote at the polls rather than vote early. For example, 78% of the votes cast in Monroe Precinct were cast at the polls, and in Hardin Precinct at St. Peter's Hall and Lincoln Precinct at the Hotz Machine Shed, a high percentage of those voters preferred to vote at the polls. Slockett praised Walter Plotz and Marvin Hotz, two local residents who allow the use of their machine sheds for voting. They have gone to considerable expense to make sure the site is handicap accessible and they installed phones. It turns out that machine sheds are pretty accessible facilities.

Rettig asked if the County pays rent to those places. Slockett said they pay those who ask for it. There are additional costs. On rainy days a lot of mud and grime is tracked into those polling places. Therefore, it is a legitimate expense. The Auditor's Office has a preference for public buildings because they are required by law to serve without charging rent. Slockett asked Board members to let Auditor's Office staff know of the availability of any public facilities in a precinct that could be used as a polling site.

Stutsman asked how the rent is determined. Slockett said the owners of the polling places bill according to their costs and some have more costs than others. There are different costs associated with different polling places. Sullivan asked if some of these locations are required to provide portable toilets. Slockett said yes. Stahle said Cedar, Monroe, and Newport townships are required to provide portable toilets.

Rettig said the packet of information says in 2008 Johnson County paid \$635 in rent and she asked how many locations that covered. Stahle said four precincts. Rettig asked Stahle to name them. Stahle said Graham, Hardin, Lincoln and Newport.

Slockett said page 14 lists voter turnout for all precincts, and page 15 breaks down voter turnout data by similar voting patterns. The top eight areas are described as urbanized area because they vote in similar percentages at the polls, all less than 50% at the polls. These eight areas include Iowa City, Coralville, Newport, North Liberty, Penn, Scott/West Branch, University Heights and West Lucas.

Slockett said the next group includes townships and town precincts. These include smaller towns and the towns that vote together with the surrounding township: Freemont/Lone Tree, Jefferson W/Swisher, Jefferson E/Shueyville, Liberty/Hills, Oxford (city/township), Solon, and Tiffin. Voters in these areas vote an average of 68% at the polls. Voters in more rural areas and in the less urbanized towns vote in higher percentages at the polls. The last category is the townships with no cities in them: Big Grove, Clear Creek, Cedar, Graham, Hardin, Lincoln, Madison, Monroe, Pleasant Valley, Sharon, Union, and Washington. Voters in these areas vote about 65% at the polls. It looks like the highest percent of votes cast at polls is 78% in Monroe Township.

Slockett said there were newspaper reports about a neighboring county wanting to combine and eliminate some of the rural polling places. He wanted to get an idea, and he thought the Board would also be interested in how rural voters felt about voting at their polling places on Election Day. The Auditor's Office staff prepared a survey and sent it to 15 precincts that did not have a small town within them, or where they were prevented

from being combined with a small town due to a legislative district line, or where there was no polling place within the precinct.

Slockett said 100 postcard surveys were sent to each of those precincts and as of June 22, 2011, 33% have been returned. Slockett said he is pleased with the response rate. The survey included three questions. One question was: "If your polling site was closed to save tax dollars, would you be able to travel to the polling site of another township or city precinct on Election Day?" Slockett said 84% of the respondents answered "yes." Of concern is that 16% said they would not. The next question asked: "If your polling site was closed to save tax dollars what would you most likely do?" Voters were not given the option to not vote but rather a choice between two options: "Option 1: vote on Election Day at another township or city at your new polling place", and "Option 2: vote early by mail or in-person." Slockett said 58% of the respondents chose Option 1 and 42% chose Option 2.

Slockett said he then tried to get down to the nitty gritty and asked a third question: "If your polling site was closed is there any possibility you might not vote?" Slockett said he was concerned that 37% of the respondents answered "yes." On the other hand, 63% answered "no." While the survey did not solicit comments, a number of people wrote comments and those are detailed on page 17.

Harney asked if they are trying to do redistricting by population or what the process is. Slockett said redistricting for the precincts established by the rural areas have never been according to the same population criteria as the cities because they have so little population and those voters have to drive farther. They cannot walk to their precinct. They do not have access to satellite voting as conveniently as other people do. These people have to get in a car and spend money on gas. The comments reveal that some people feel pretty dependent on the polling sites. Slockett said he spoke to *Lone Tree Reporter* Office Manager Kris Rife, who told him people were flagging her down saying they did not want their polling place closed. Other comments revealed that people feel their polling places have historic significance. Slockett said he received a call from a woman who said the County spends a lot of money making it convenient for students and city people to vote. A number of comments were to stop pandering to these folks and keep polling places open on Election Day.

Rettig said that according to the information Slockett sent to the Board on June 22, 2011, the Auditor's Office mailed 1,500 postcard surveys and paid the postage both directions. She asked what the random sample mailing cost as far as printing, postage and staff time. Slockett said it was \$0.58 times 1,500 plus the cost of the postcards and staff time. Rettig said that was not a budgeted item and asked how it was funded. Slockett said the Auditor's Office had money available in the Elections budget. Rettig asked which line item of the Elections budget. Rettig said she has a copy of the budget, and she was curious how much it cost. Stahle said the Elections budget has a postage line item. Sullivan asked about printing. Slockett said the postcards were printed on the Auditor's Office laser printers. Rettig asked if staff were paid overtime to conduct this survey. Slockett said no overtime was paid.

Sullivan said he takes issue with the interpretation of the results for a few reasons. First, the population sample included only rural voters, but everyone is paying for the elections. He asked why people in Iowa City, Coralville, North Liberty and other cities were not surveyed. Slockett said they were just surveying the people who might lose their polling place. Sullivan said that North Liberty could not legally lose a polling place, but Iowa City could, and he asked why Iowa City voters were not included in the survey. Slockett said the Auditor's Office is doing the reprecincting maps for Iowa City, North Liberty, and Coralville. Due to the way legislative districts cut off areas of the city, Iowa City is looking at proposals that have 24 precincts instead of 25. There would be one less precinct there. Sullivan asked why not survey the voters in Iowa City asking if they are concerned about losing a polling place. Slockett said he does not think it would appreciably affect anyone in Iowa City. He does not think there is any reason to be concerned. Sullivan asked how the effect was different in Iowa City than in Pleasant Valley Township. Slockett said Iowa City voters would have a convenient polling place but in a rural area, if a traditional voting place was eliminated it would significantly impact them. That is clear from the survey responses.

Sullivan said East Lucas already votes in town and Penn Township, a huge rural precinct, already votes in town. Slockett said there is no facility in Penn Township so they vote in North Liberty. Sullivan asked why not include those people in the poll as well. He said the poll is skewed because of the sample population. Sullivan said if Slockett had polled all rural residents, including the 2,000 or so people in Penn Township, the over 1,000 people in East Lucas, and the Clear Creek people who already vote in town, they would have responded that it does not affect them at all and the overall percentage drops significantly. In addition, because all taxpayers pay for this, there is no feedback from the folks in Coralville who might ask why they should subsidize a polling place that costs \$12 per vote.

Slockett said Congress passed the Help Americans Vote Act in 2002. Congress budgeted \$3 billion to replace voting equipment in every precinct in the United States and add a second piece of accessible equipment so people with disabilities could vote on their own. Significant attention was given to overseas military voters and new procedures were established. Uniformed and Overseas Voters can now request a ballot and register to vote at the same time, and can request to receive their ballot by e-mail. If they are in a war zone, they can mail their ballot back via e-mail as long as they sign a waiver of their right to privacy because of the way those ballots are processed.

Slockett said the County has considerable expense for handicap accessible voting equipment which includes one AutoMARK in every precinct. Considerable time is spent programming, maintaining, and shipping this equipment to precincts and this equipment is rarely used during an election. Rettig asked how much that equipment costs. Slockett said the precinct scanners cost \$4,756 each, the AutoMARK units cost \$4,950 each, the cost of the AutoKart used to transport this equipment is \$1,380 each, and the laptop computers are \$838 for each precinct. Each precinct has two laptops so there is a back-up. There is an average of eight voting booths per precinct and the booths cost \$109

each. There are two high-speed scanning machines that cost \$85,000 for the two of them. The total cost for voting equipment in Johnson County, not including some smaller items such as forms, envelopes and ballot boxes, is \$976,549.

Rettig said she was trying to get at the things for a new precinct. A scanner, an AutoMARK, an AutoKart, two laptops and eight booths would be needed. She asked if that would be enough for a larger precinct. Slockett said the cost to equip an average precinct is \$13,635. Rettig said the Board is prohibited by law from having a precinct with a population larger than 3,500. She asked what the net cost increase for voting equipment will be with the reprecincting. Slockett said the Auditor's Office provided reprecincting maps to Iowa City and they have not requested any more than 24 precincts, so there would be a net loss of one precinct there. Coralville is looking at seven precincts and the Auditor's Office will present them with a plan for eight precincts. North Liberty was presented with a map for five precincts and by law they could have as few as four, but their precincts would be right at the 3,500 population limit, so the Auditor's Office presented them with five precincts. North Liberty staff requested maps with six and seven precincts. Slockett said they believe North Liberty will go from two to six, which is an increase of four precincts. There would be a total of 60 precincts if they all were added and the County does not eliminate any. That is three more precincts than the County currently has. The county has 67 pieces of voting equipment which includes adequate backup to service them during the day and ensure there is no lack of service. Therefore, they would want to get three more pieces of the necessary equipment so that they have the ability to repair and replace equipment.

Sullivan asked if that would cost approximately \$50,000. Slockett said yes. Rettig said she is not sure if she is following. If North Liberty is likely to go plus four and Coralville adds either one or two, that is five or six more. Iowa City is going to lose a polling place. Rettig is curious why they would decrease when population is growing. Slockett said they are going to go to 24 precincts because of a legislative district line. If they kept the same number of precincts in that area the population per precinct would be significantly lower than in the rest of the precincts. If they decreased it by one, it would be a little higher than the other precincts but more comparable to the other precincts. It seemed rational to go with 24 instead of 25.

Slockett said establishing polling places can be complicated. They need available public facilities and they try to make sure someone across the street from a facility does not have to vote in another precinct, and observe the statutory limitations for legislative district lines. For council districts, there are stricter requirements for population variance. They are to be as close as possible, but there is an administrative rule which states they cannot vary more than 10%. This is not a restriction for precincts. In supervisor districts there is a 1% requirement in variance. All of these factors have to be thought through when making precinct lines. This has been aided significantly by GIS.

Rettig asked what the average cost estimate is of each additional precinct, or voting location, over ten years to all taxpayers. She said each new precinct will likely cost between \$2,500 and \$5,000 to operate for each general presidential election. Slockett

said the cost per precinct for equipment is approximately \$13,635. He does not think they have the cost of staffing the precinct; that would depend on the size of the precinct. The costs of urban precincts will be much higher than for rural precincts because of the additional staffing requirements. He said rural residents do not think it is fair for it to be made harder for them to vote because the cities are growing and need more service.

Rettig said she understands, but from FY05 to FY11, the Elections budget in odd-numbered years has gone up 26.26%. From FY06 to FY12, the Elections budget in even-numbered years has gone up 29.85%. That was before any precincts were added. She asked if they add precincts now, how much the Elections budget will grow over the next decade. Rettig said the normal increase is between 26% and 30% and if precincts are added, the costs will dramatically increase.

Slockett said there are many ways to cut election costs. There has been a national priority to help Americans vote. The federal government appropriated \$2.5 billion which resulted in new and additional equipment. The poll workers now operate a minimum of four computer systems at each polling place. The training costs have mushroomed. Elections budgets nationwide have skyrocketed during this time. The County's increases are actually quite modest compared to what is going on in elsewhere in the country. In Iowa, the Legislature is also concerned about everyone's vote. They have implemented a same-day registration law. One of the things the Auditor's Office staff hated most was the last ten or 11 days prior to an election because they had to constantly turn away people who were not already registered to vote.

Slockett said the Legislature decided that having people vote was so important it was worth the costs. Those voters who register on Election Day are probably the most costly voters to process. Slockett is very much in favor of this and he thinks it is worth every penny. That is an example of something that has increased costs. There are additional procedures requiring IDs and verification, and requirements that every registration be checked against Social Security Administration and the Iowa Department of Transportation records. There are also computer programs that identify convicted felons who cannot vote and programs to assure that every person who is allowed to vote is able to vote and to make sure they vote only once.

Rettig said she thinks the Board agrees with everything Slockett just listed. Sullivan said those are federal and state laws. He agrees strongly with all of them. The point is that the budget the County can control is still increasing. Slockett agreed. Sullivan said he does not know where the Board intends to go with this. He is sure the Board is not prepared to make any decisions today but knows they need to set a time when they do make decisions. Stutsman agreed. Slockett said the Board will need to hold a public hearing.

Stutsman said one of the survey respondents suggested saving money by cutting down on early voting. Stutsman would like a breakdown on early voting costs. She is supportive of early voting; she early votes and loves it. Johnson County has a lot of voting sites, and they start really early. She asked how many people vote at the Johnson

County Administration Building compared to the other satellite sites. Slockett said those numbers are on the Auditor's website but the laptop in front of him is not connected to the internet. He said the 2008 Election was an all-time record election in Johnson County, and 55% of the Johnson County voters voted early. Several of the survey respondents said they would vote at early voting sites such as the grocery store or the hospital. People love to be able to pick the time to vote. The State Legislature has made it incredibly easy to request a satellite voting site. A petition with only 100 signatures is all that is necessary to require the Auditor's Office to operate a satellite site.

Slockett said the Iowa State Association of County Auditors (ISACA) proposed legislation to make it more difficult to request satellite voting sites. Among the requests in the proposal is that the petition stipulate that the person signing the petition intends to vote at the site named in that petition, and that the person sign only one petition. The proposal also requests increasing the required number of signatures to a percentage of registered voters, such as 1% or 2%, instead of a raw number, 100. There are ways to save money, and they are working on them.

Sullivan said it seems incredibly inconsistent that Slockett is saying that at any costs keep every option available to every rural person, but take away options from urban people or students. Sullivan said he does not see that as being any different. Slockett said he does; the Auditor's Office has no intention of not serving people with satellite voting sites. He thinks enough people ought to sign the petition to make the site cost effective. Sullivan said he agrees with that and he asked why cost effectiveness does not apply to any other precincts and why it does not matter in the rural area. Slockett said cost effectiveness is considered for each and every precinct.

Sullivan said he is frustrated by this; Slockett has essentially fired the opening shot by telling Johnson County rural residents that the Board of Supervisors wants to cut back on their voting options. Slockett said that is not true at all. He said some of the respondents' comments thank them for considering saving costs. He simply wanted to know the opinion of rural voters; he is surprised Sullivan is not interested. Sullivan said he is interested in the opinions of all the voters that pay for this, and he thinks Slockett is picking and choosing the statistics he wants to skew the results in his favor. Slockett said he is skewing it to the people who might be affected by losing a precinct. Sullivan said the people in North Liberty who pay taxes are affected; everyone is affected if they pay property taxes. Slockett said North Liberty is significantly increasing their number of polling places. Sullivan agreed, and said Slockett is proposing increasing their taxes. Slockett said he is not proposing increasing taxes, North Liberty is proposing to increase them, and they are required to do so by law. Sullivan said he was discussing the overall costs.

Sullivan said that a person in Iowa City who would like to see the Elections budget stay the same or be lower does not get any input into whether or not there are less rural precincts. They still have to pay \$14 a vote at the most expensive rural precinct and they may not like that. Slockett agreed. He said the people of Iowa City cannot vote to reduce the number of rural precincts. The people of Hills cannot vote to decrease the

number of precincts in Iowa City. Only the Board can reduce the number of rural precincts and the Board can set any number of precincts they want. Slockett said he thinks the Board should know the opinion of the people whom it may affect.

Rettig said the Board is entitled to decide what opinions they survey. She asked why Slockett did not survey people in North Liberty, Coralville, Tiffin and Iowa City where the city councils have the discretion to change the number of precincts, but Slockett decided to survey only the rural residents and put the Board on the spot. As a citizen of Iowa City, Rettig would be concerned about reducing the number of precincts because many people in town do not own vehicles, and people who live in housing for the disabled and elderly do not have driver's licenses to get to the polls. She does not understand why these city councils are allowed such discretion, but Slockett superseded the Board's discretion with a costly and unbudgeted survey. The Board could have decided to do this survey and if they had she would have asked different questions.

Slockett said the Board can still do a survey. Rettig said it is a non-budgeted item and she is not interested in spending outside the budget.

Rettig said she would ask if people think \$12.68 per vote is a good expenditure of taxpayers' dollars when other precincts average \$2.34 per vote. She would also ask if voters would agree to vote in private residences or if that makes them uncomfortable. Sullivan asked why the Auditor's Office did not survey Penn Township residents who already go into town to vote. Slockett said the Auditor's Office will do that if the Board asks.

Sullivan said it is interesting that there is a 100% response rate to the question which asks if voters would vote on Election Day at another polling place or vote early by mail or in person. Sullivan said the way the question was phrased forced the respondents to choose a response that indicated they would vote a different way if necessary. Slockett said those numbers are there for the Board to see. Sullivan said if that number were 90%, then it would mean that 10% of the people have said they are not going to vote. That number is 100% in every case. Slockett said no one said they are not going to vote; 37% said they might not vote. Slockett said the answer you get depends on how you ask the question. Sullivan said that is exactly his point.

Slockett said the Board can develop a survey and the Auditor's Office will be happy to send it out. Rettig said the Board has to look at the whole picture and she does not feel a need to survey on every decision the Board makes. Slockett said he does not think so either. Rettig said Slockett obviously thinks there was a need to survey this decision because he was willing to spend a couple of thousand dollars doing an unscientific survey skewed to obtain the results Slockett wanted. Slockett said in his opinion the questions are not skewed.

Harney asked if the cost per voter per precinct includes early voters. Slockett said that is only for Election Day voters. Harney said it is not necessarily a true number per precinct because there are early voters. Slockett said the costs vary depending on a

number of variables: mail vs. in person ballot, large or small satellite, and type of election. Harney said the right to vote is very valuable, and that means they will have to spend some money for smaller precincts.

Sullivan asked if Slockett made recommendations to North Liberty, Coralville and Iowa City. Slockett said yes. The Board or the cities establish the precincts, and the Auditor reviews the plan and makes comments for establishing polling place locations. The Auditor's Office provides the Board with the best information they can to aid the Board in making decisions about precincts. Slockett referenced page two of the handout he submitted to the Board and said the County has traditionally combined precincts, and the Auditor's Office recommends continuing to do that.

Rettig asked if there are any changes from the last decade. Slockett said there have been changes because of legislative district lines. Additionally, the ability to combine relative to district lines depends on what selections the city makes for city precincts. Rettig asked what changes she would find if she went through the list and compared it to the current precinct map. Slockett said he was hoping to go over the precinct list he prepared but they probably do not have time for that. Essentially, all 20 locations are listed along with pros and cons. Rettig asked if what Slockett presented is a net reduction of one precinct. Slockett said yes, part of the reason for that is that Hills is now its own precinct, and the County does not establish that as a polling place.

Sullivan said his problem continues to be that Iowa City, Coralville and North Liberty work with the Auditor's Office up front. The Board has basically been given a proposal and he feels they are not treated the same as the cities. Slockett said Sullivan does not need to have this information if he does not want it. The Auditor's Office has worked with the city staffs, and they have wanted the Auditor's Office assistance with GIS and with drawing up the plans. It is much easier for everyone to work together and the Auditor's Office made it clear they would be happy to be involved up front, but it is not required. The Board does not have to use this information, and they do not have to work with the Auditor's Office.

Slockett said Sullivan asked for financial information about the precincts, and he thinks the Auditor's Office staff has done their best to provide good financial information. The Auditor's Office staff will provide any other information the Board wants. He thinks it was important to know the rural voters opinion because he represents them, as well. He is the Commissioner of Elections, and he cares what the voters think about elections and the ease of voting. Many of the rural voters feel that voting is much more difficult for them than it is for students and city residents. Slockett understands that.

Rettig says they have the exact same opportunities to vote at the Johnson County Administration Building, the grocery store or the libraries. The fact of the matter is there are not any grocery stores or libraries with space to justify a satellite voting location. If someone wanted to petition a satellite location in Sharon Center where there would be very few voters, they could do so. Slockett said the statistics show these people do not

want to vote at a satellite, they want to vote at their polling place on Election Day. Rettig said they have been a little disparaging of satellites, but the fact is if they did not have satellites there would be locations where people could not otherwise vote. She is not saying early voting needs to take place a month earlier, but she is grateful people choose to vote early at satellites because the polling places could not handle all of the voters on Election Day. There would be gigantic waiting lines and people would hate voting. All of the ways voting has been made easier is helpful.

Stutsman said she is glad Slockett reached out to the rural voters. The Board may not think this was the right way to do it, but Slockett is an elected official, he has a budget and discretion with how to spend it. She said Slockett obviously felt this was important enough to warrant the cost. Slockett said it was well worth it. Stutsman said there are some people in the rural areas who are not comfortable driving into Iowa City.

Sullivan said he is not suggesting that everyone drive into Iowa City and this seems to be a scare tactic. People living in Lincoln Township or Monroe Township may think the County is going to force them to drive into Iowa City. Sullivan said no one is saying that and he does not think anyone would suggest that. Slockett said some rural precincts do vote in Iowa City now. Sullivan said that is right, but no Supervisor has said that, and no one has made any proposal like that, but that is what people are hearing and that is what has got people upset. Slockett said maybe that is because Sullivan is telling people that because he certainly did not tell anyone that. Sullivan said no, he is not telling that to anybody. Sullivan said it is very easy to spend taxpayer money with the idea that the Board is going to support someone who wants to vote at a machine shed. Then, during budget time when taxpayers are complaining about how much they are paying in taxes, they have to look back at decisions like this. Sullivan thinks people need to understand that. He wishes some of the more conservative people who want lower taxes were paying attention to some of these conversations because he does not think they are.

Slockett said if Sullivan would like to see a list of county expenditures that have increased more than election costs, he would be glad to show him. Sullivan said they are only talking about elections today. Slockett said Sullivan is talking about taxpayers and their taxes, and that is not just elections.

Rettig said the biggest problem with the survey is this sentence: "This survey is being sent to a random sample of township voters in an attempt to determine the impact on voting resulting from the loss of rural township polling places." Rettig said this is the problem because she does not think anyone would propose that the 83 people in Lincoln Township drive into Iowa City and vote at City High School. Slockett said that question does not say they would vote at City High. Rettig said but the question refers to the loss of a rural polling place. She asked what the harm is of Lincoln Township voting with the other smallest precinct, Pleasant Valley. If Lincoln Township and Pleasant Valley Township were combined they would still be the smallest precinct in Johnson County.

Slockett asked what the next question is. Rettig said that is not a question, it is a statement. Slockett said the next question asks if the voter would drive to a neighboring

polling place or vote early by mail or in person. Sullivan said 100% answered yes. Slockett said no, they answered one or the other when they were only given those two choices. Sullivan agreed and said the total of those responses is 100%. Slockett said it is not 100%, since some people did not answer that question. Those were compiled as a total of the people who answered the question.

Harney asked when this process has to be completed. Slockett said by October 15, 2011. Harney said the Board can have more discussion later on this. Harney thinks the Board wants to look at whether some of the smaller rural precincts can be merged, whether they are merged between each other or into adjoining ones. He said the Board does not want to make it so inconvenient that people do not vote.

Sullivan asked if the Board would like Slockett to send a postcard survey to all voters. Stutsman said she would not, but maybe the Board could do a survey on the web. Rettig said that has no meaning. The respondents will be the people who have internet and happen to click on the survey. Slockett described how they conducted the survey. They used data from voters in the 2008 Presidential Election who voted at their rural polling place on Election Day. Sullivan said that skews it even more. Slockett said no, these are the people who vote at those sites. Sullivan said the people who decided to vote early do not have their opinion counted in the survey. A Lincoln Township resident who voted early by mail is not even counted in Slockett's survey. Slockett said no, the survey just asked the people who would use the polling site on Election Day. If someone votes elsewhere they would not be affected by a polling place closing.

Rettig said she thinks this discussion touches on other issues the County is experiencing. Johnson County is growing, and the budget cannot grow to keep up with it. The Board is asking everyone to find efficiencies and figure out how to save as much as possible. The County is facing a \$14 million cut in their ability to tax if the Governor and House Republicans get their way. She thinks if they ask people if a 30% increase in elections over the last six years is sustainable, and if they think a 50% increase over the next six years is sustainable, they will get a whole different answer. Rettig agrees with the AutoMARK and the technology needs of checking voter registration with computers and telephones. She does not think the County can sustain these rising costs in this budget or any other budget. She said she is not picking on Slockett; she thinks they have had this discussion with every department head. The County is under budget restraints right now, and they are facing uncertainty with whatever the legislature decides they are going to do to the counties. As they look at all of these issues in making a decision that will last a decade, they need to bring all of that into consideration and not get people in anyway thinking that any of the Supervisors think they should have to drive into Iowa City or Coralville to vote if they live at the edge of the county. It might make more sense to drive into the cities for residents of Clear Creek or Madison Township. She thinks they have to consolidate more of this; she does not think they can do it any other way.

Slockett said there are many ways to cut costs, and there are many ways to cut election costs. Many of the decisions made recently, such as the Help American Vote Act, which assists people with disabilities to privately vote, and same-day voter

registration, have run up election costs. Slockett thinks Johnson County has done everything it can to lower the barriers to voting and places a high value on voting and voter turnout. One way to achieve cost-effective voting is to just make it much more difficult to vote.

Rettig said she is very pleased Johnson County is the highest ranked urban county in the percentage of population voting and she thinks it is a testament to Slockett's work. She thinks Slockett was revolutionary in getting people to vote early and giving voters options to vote at their convenience. The question is how the County delivers services as cost effectively as possible without dramatically decreasing voters' abilities to access voting. Slockett said the word dramatically is a very subjective rule. In 1988, before satellite voting, Johnson County was ranked 26th in the state. In the 1992 General Election, Johnson County was one of two counties to first implement early voting. In the 2008 Presidential Election, Johnson County ranked third in the State in the percentage of population voting. Slockett said he is very proud of that.

Harney said in the interest of time the Board will need to move on. People may give ideas and suggestions to Slockett and then maybe the Board can have a work session to set those boundaries. Slockett said he does not intend to send out anymore surveys. Harney said he understands some of the rises in costs are due to disability accommodation requirements. Slockett said training costs have mushroomed nationwide. Harney said everyone is looking for cost saving measures and recommendations.

Slockett said if any Supervisors would like to work as a precinct worker in the school election they would get an idea of what it is like. Poll workers do remarkable work.

Sullivan said he would like to know how the Board feels about holding a work session to discuss how they want to proceed. Stutsman agreed to a work session. Neuzil said he thinks that would be helpful. He expected today's information was going to be general overview but he did not expect this depth of conversation. In hindsight they probably should have started this discussion in a work session, but it is also important for the public to see how this process works.

Stutsman asked Executive Assistant Andy Johnson to schedule a future work session on the redistricting process. Slockett said if the Board would like another survey, or just a sample to see if responses varied with different questions, the Auditor's Office would be happy to accommodate the Board.

### **BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

#### **Appointments to the Johnson County Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Committee**

Johnson said there are several openings on the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Committee which is a committee where any number of people can serve, and the categories are suggested, not prescribed. Rettig asked if they need to appoint three members. Johnson said there are two people who are interested in being

reappointed, one person is not, and there are no new applications. The action for next week would be to reappoint the two people who are interested in serving. Any number can serve, so if there are other interested people, or people they would like to recruit, that can be done at a later time.

### **REPORTS AND INQUIRIES FROM THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Neuzil said today is the last day of the Rebuild Iowa Offices in Des Moines. Neuzil served on the Rebuild Iowa Coordinating Council and he hopes the State will look at some of the recommendations their group put together and help resolve some of the flooding disasters. It will take strong will power from Iowa Governor Terry Branstad and the State to help enforce some of the recommendations. He encourages residents to look at what Rebuild Iowa was. It is unfortunate it is closing so soon, as they are seeing another flood occurring in another part of the state.

Rettig said the Board held a Joint Meeting with the Tiffin City Council and they learned a lot about Tiffin's projects, dramatic growth and their plans to finance those. She said this was their second such joint meeting, the Board met with Solon City Council previously.

Sullivan said the Integrated Roadside Vegetation Management Committee and Secondary Roads just won a national award for their work. They will receive that recognition at the National Association of Counties Convention in July 2011.

Harney said Joint Emergency Communications Center (JECC) Director Gary Albrecht will be in next week to give the Board an update from JECC.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES ADMINISTRATOR LORA SHRAMEK: STEP 3 WARSON GRIEVANCE FROM PUBLIC PROFESSIONAL AND MAINTENANCE EMPLOYEES (PPME) LOCAL 2003 ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT FOR THE TREASURER'S OFFICE**

**Motion** by Sullivan, second by Stutsman, to enter into Executive Session at 11:55 a.m. to discuss employee disciplinary matters in the Step 3 Warson grievance from Public Professional and Maintenance Employees (PPME) Local 2003 Administrative Unit for the Treasurer's Office under section 21.5(1)(i), *Code of Iowa*, "to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation and that individual requests a closed session." Roll call: aye: Harney, Neuzil, Stutsman, Sullivan, Rettig.

**Motion** by Neuzil, second by Sullivan, to leave Executive Session at 1:14 a.m. Roll call: aye: Harney, Stutsman, Neuzil, Sullivan, Rettig.

Assistant County Attorney Andy Chappell asked Shramek to provide for the record, the Iowa Code Section allowing employee to request an executive session for disciplinary matters. Shramek agreed.

Adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Attest: Tom Slockett, Auditor  
Recorded by Emily Lentz