

Minutes of the Bremer County Conference Board
January 25, 2023, 4:30 p.m.
1st Floor Meeting Room - Bremer County Courthouse

The Bremer County Conference Board met on the 25th day of January, 2023, in the multi-purpose room of the Bremer County Courthouse in Waverly, IA.

Chairman Ken Kammeyer called the meeting to order @ 4:30pm.

Roll Call of members present:

Board of Education

Denver CSD, Scott Krebsbach

Janesville CSD, Tracy Meier

Tripoli CSD, Larry Piehl

Waverly–Shell Rock Community Schools, Dennis Epley

Board of Supervisors

District 1, Ken Kammeyer

District 2, Corey Crewinske

District 3, Dewey Hildebrandt

Mayors

Readlyn, Dan Wedemeier

Sumner, Billy Lehmkuhl

Tripoli, Brendt Bernard

Waverly, Adam Hoffman

Also present: - Bremer County Assessor Staff: Aaron Betts, Jill Eckenrod, Heather McClatchey and Thomas Bovy, Darius Robinson – Bremer County Attorney, Larry Farley – Denver City Administrator

It is determined a quorum was established.

Betts reviewed with members voting action. Any action taken by the conference board, the mayors are one voting unit, the school boards are one voting unit and the board of supervisors are one voting unit, each unit having a single vote. No action is valid except by the vote of not less than two out of the three units. Betts also explained voice vote items versus roll call items. Roll call vote clearly indicates and makes public the vote of each individual member with votes shown in minutes. Betts also explained if member of conference board absent, their vote may not be cast by another person, except mayor pro-tem may vote for the mayor when absent.

Kammeyer asked for motion to approve the agenda.

Motion By: Hildebrandt to approve agenda.

Second: Kammeyer

All ayes, Motion carried.

Kammeyer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 23, 2022 Conference Board meeting.

Motion By: Krebsbach to approve minutes.

Second: Hildebrandt

No further discussion among units.

All ayes, Motion carried.

Kammeyer asked if there was any old business. None presented.

Kammeyer asked if there was any public comment. None presented.

Betts gave an office updated. Staff was introduced. Report was mailed out to all Conference Board members prior to the meeting. Asked if there were any questions or improvements on report sent to Conference Board members.

Hildebrandt commented the report was very detailed and informative.

No questions presented at time. Betts commented property tax reform is on legislative agenda and we will see what transpires from it. It is a complex system, ISAA and ISAC are always willing to assist with any questions.

2023 values were discussed. Assessment notices need to be mailed out by April 1st.

Values will be going up. Assessed values are to be at market value except for agricultural. A letter will accompany the notices explaining increases.

Betts reported on the that 2024 Reappraisal is going smoothly for the most part.

Kammeyer proceeded to discuss FYE 2024 proposed budget. Kammeyer asked Betts for any highlights. Betts added two additional years of actual expenditures at request of last years Conference Board. Betts discussed the overall budget and expenditures were lowered from last year. A large portion of this was from how legal expenses are levied. In the past \$50,000 was levied for each year. Betts decreased this to \$25,000 with additional available from reserves. Betts stated it is difficult to estimate this line item, an ear mark fund in reserves may need to be replenished if complex appeals arise. Bremer County has been fortunate to have help from Bremer County Attorney's Office on past appeals and foresee that trend to continue.

Betts presented the Beacon website tool as part of the budget that will show tax dollar distribution for a property. Since Conference Board is comprised of three main taxing bodies, Betts felt this board should approve within the budget.

Piehl inquired about health insurance line that has remained steady. Betts directed question to Board of Supervisors. Hildebrandt stated self-funding has kept it level but could be changing. Betts stated increased 5% that suggested by finance director, employee contribution will be discussed by Board of Supervisors.

With no further questions

Motion By: Krebsbach to approve FYE 2024 budget expenditures and salaries as presented

Second: Epley

Roll call vote was taken as follows with members present and the motion passed unanimously.

Board of Education		
Denver CSD, Krebsbach	Aye	
Janesville CSD, Meier	Aye	
Tripoli CSD, Piehl	Aye	
Waverly–Shell Rock Community Schools, Dennis Epley	Aye	
Board of Education vote		Aye

Board of Supervisors		
District 1, Kammeyer	Aye	
District 2, Crewinske	Aye	
District 3, Hildebrandt	Aye	
Board of Supervisors vote		Aye

Mayors		
Readlyn, Wedemeier	Aye	
Sumner, Lehmkuhl	Aye	
Tripoli, Bernard	Aye	
Waverly, Hoffman	Aye	
Mayors vote		Aye

Discussion on approval of notice of public hearing and proposed budget and date of public hearing by Kammeyer for FYE 2024 budget.

Motion by: Hoffman for approval notice of public hearing and proposed budget and date of public hearing for February 15, 2023 at 4:30 same location.

Second: Piehl

Roll call vote was taken as follows with members present and the motion passed unanimously.

Board of Education		
Denver CSD, Krebsbach	Aye	
Janesville CSD, Meier	Aye	
Tripoli CSD, Piehl	Aye	
Waverly–Shell Rock Community Schools, Dennis Epley	Aye	
Board of Education vote		Aye

Board of Supervisors		
District 1, Kammeyer	Aye	
District 2, Crewinske	Aye	
District 3, Hildebrandt	Aye	
Board of Supervisors vote		Aye

Mayors		
Readlyn, Wedemeier	Aye	
Sumner, Lehmkuhl	Aye	
Tripoli, Bernard	Aye	
Waverly, Hoffman	Aye	
Mayors vote		Aye

Other business discussed.

Betts informed the board that no Board of Review and Examining Board appointments are needed for this year since they were established last year.

Betts discussed use of outside counsel by Board of Review. Iowa Code 441.41 was added recently and addresses in Administrative Rules 701.71.28 and reporting of use to the Iowa Department of Revenue. Outside counsel is used seldom but may be needed in special / unique properties, for example large commercial or industrial properties. Residential is usually handled by the office. Hildebrandt asked and County Attorney Darius Robinson responded that the Bremer County Attorney's Office will assist with any cases that may arise.

Betts recommended the following statement: "The Conference Board approves the use of outside counsel for the Board of Review as recommended by the Bremer County Attorney's Office."

Motion By: Epley to approve statement as presented.

Second: Wedemeier

Roll call vote was taken as follows with members present and the motion passed unanimously.

Board of Education		
Denver CSD, Krebsbach	Aye	
Janesville CSD, Meier	Aye	
Tripoli CSD, Piehl	Aye	
Waverly-Shell Rock Community Schools, Dennis Epley	Aye	
Board of Education vote		Aye


Board of Supervisors		
District 1, Kammeyer	Aye	
District 2, Crewinske	Aye	
District 3, Hildebrandt	Aye	
Board of Supervisors vote		Aye

Mayors		
Readlyn, Wedemeier	Aye	
Sumner, Lehmkuhl	Aye	
Tripoli, Bernard	Aye	
Waverly, Hoffman	Aye	
Mayors vote		Aye


Kammeyer asked if there was any other business or questions.
Representative for City of Denver, Larry Farley, inquired about a couple valuation items
on graphs provided in Conference Board report.

Kammeyer asked for motion to adjourn.
Motion By: Hildebrandt to adjourn
Second: Meier

All ayes, Motion carried to adjourn at 5:05 p.m.

 Date: 2/15/23

Ken Kammeyer, Chairman
Bremer County Conference Board

 Date: 2-15-23

Aaron V. Betts, Clerk
Bremer County Assessor

Approved at Conference Board meeting:

_____ Date: _____

Clerk initials