

August 26, 2013

The Des Moines County Board of Supervisors met in Special Session at the Court House in Burlington at 12:30 PM on Monday, August 26th, 2013, with Tom Broeker, Bob Beck and Jim Cary present.

Supervisors met with members of CWA Local 7176 to discuss a proposal to privatize janitorial services. Mike Belknap, custodian, stated that he had contact with prisoners at the correctional facility and sometimes had to clean up body fluids. At times, he has had inappropriate language directed at him. Attorney for the union, Bonnie Winthur, asked if the workers for a private company would be trained on how to deal with these situations. Broeker responded that any contract would have to state that the workers be trained. Judy Stuecker stated her concern that employees of a private company would not have background checks. Confidential records and money would be at risk. Winthur added that taxpayers are concerned with confidentiality. She also asked if the private workers would be paid minimum wage. Concerns were expressed about security in the county buildings while workers are cleaning at night. The union conveyed their disappointment that this proposal was not discussed during contract negotiations. Broeker explained again that the Board was approached by the company after negotiations were over in March. Mike Cameron, President of CWA, stated that these were legitimate questions and he is confident the Board will find answers. Broeker stated that the Board does not have a timetable for a decision on this issue.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:42 PM.

This Board meeting is recorded and the tape is kept on file for two years. The minutes are also posted on the county's website www.dmcountry.com

Approved September 3, 2013

Tom Broeker, Chairman

Attest: Carol Copeland, County Auditor