The Board of Supervisors convened at 8:30 a.m. with all members present. Also present were Casey Ketelsen, Jessa Ketelsen, Pat Skuster, Amy Folkerts, Shannon Paulus and Tony Stonecypher. Due to the Corona Virus the meeting was made available to the public by video via “Go to Meeting” Motion by Smolik, second by Walk to approve the agenda. All voted aye.

Motion by Walk, second by Smolik to approve the minutes of the April 21st meeting. All voted aye.

County Engineer Rich Brumm stated that he will be receiving rock quotes this week. Bridge on 320th Street is being replaced. Roads department is doing routine maintenance.

Economic Development Director Tony Stonecypher discussed the next phase of the Commercial Construction Incentive Program. A current request was tabled for one week.

Motion by Smolik, second by Walk to approve a Liquor License for the Sunny Brae Golf and Country Club. All voted aye.

IT Director Casey Ketelsen stated that he is being deployed with his National Guard Unit and his last day will be May 12th. He stated that Samantha Scharper has IT qualifications and could fill in thru July of 2020. After discussion, motion by Smolik, second by Walk to approve hiring Samantha Scharper effective May 4, 2020. Her rate of pay will be $20.00 per hour with no benefits. The County Attorney will prepare an Independent Contractor Agreement for the Chair and Samantha to sign. All voted aye.

The FY 19 County Audit Report was reviewed. This will be placed on the May 5th agenda for approval.

Supervisor Walk responded to an article in a recent article in the Press News from Al Winters regarding the County using Urban Renewal and Tax Increment Financing as a tool for private development. Supervisor Walk stated he had contacted the Osage City Clerk and found out that the City of Osage plans on using over $1 million of TIF. Supervisor Walk demanded an answer from Al Winters why using TIF is bad for Mitchell County while Al Winters is silent about the City of Osage proposing to use over $1 million of TIF revenues this coming fiscal year. Al Winters was provided an opportunity to reply but did not.

Discussed a time frame for the Courthouse to reopen and what restrictions there may be when this happens. A special meeting with the Department Heads and the Board is being set for Thursday, April 30th at 2:00 p.m.
Items of note: Francis reported on the Avance, Economic Development, Board of Health, County Social Services and Children Social Services meetings. To be noted that $30,000 is to be transferred from the General Basic Fund to the Conservation Land Acquisition Fund and $624,613 is to be transferred from the Rural Basic Fund to the Secondary Roads Fund. Received manure management plan updates from the following Friesen Farms: East, Liberty 34 Site, North and Northeast.

Auditor Tesch gave an update for how the June 2, 2020 Primary Election will be held. Due to the Corona Virus there will be only one (1) Voting Precinct for the entire County and will be held at the Courthouse. Voters are being encouraged to request an absentee ballot and to vote them at their homes. The Iowa Secretary of State’s Office is sending the request forms to all registered voters in the State.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.

Lowell Tesch - Mitchell County Auditor  Barb Francis – Chair Board of Supervisors