

May 1, 2015 1:00 p.m. Emergency Special Meeting

Karl Helgevold, Chairman Board of Supervisors called the special meeting of the Wright County Board of Supervisors to order at 12:45 p.m. This special meeting was called due to the Emergency Declaration that was issued on April 30, 2015 in Wright County by the board due to the potential outbreak of the Avian Influenza. The Declaration reads as follows:

Emergency Declaration

The current widespread outbreak of the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) has been spreading rapidly this past week in Northwest Iowa.

Wright County leads the state in poultry population with nearly 15 million birds in more than 20 locations across the county.

The poultry industry in Wright County employs more than 600 people.

The potential effect of an outbreak of HPAI in Wright County is tremendous. Local school districts would see a decline in enrollment, local businesses and charitable organizations would see a loss of support and the residents would see a reduction in purchasing power for all poultry related products.

For these potentially severe economic reasons, the Wright County Board of Supervisors have declared a State of Emergency, in an effort to proactively assist local industry in taking uniform preventative measures across the country.

THEREFORE, the Wright County Board of Supervisors has declared a State of Emergency authorized under Iowa Statute and will execute the expenditure of emergency funds from all available sources, the invoking of mutual aid agreements, and the applying to the State of Iowa for assistance as necessary.

Jim Lester, Wright County Emergency Management coordinator presented Resolution 2015-13 on proclaiming civil emergency and authorizing chairperson to issue orders of road closure and/or embargo. Wright County Attorney, Eric Simonson, gave the background of the resolution and what the Board is looking to do in handling the Emergency Declaration. There was a motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Watne to approve Resolution 2015-13 on the emergency action. By roll call vote: Ayes – Rasmussen, Watne, and Helgevold; nays – none. Resolution 2015-13 duly passes and reads as follows:

RESOLUTION 2015-13

RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING CIVIL EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZING CHAIRPERSON TO ISSUE ORDERS OF ROAD CLOSURE AND/OR EMBARGO

Whereas, Wright County, Iowa, including both incorporated and unincorporated areas thereof, is currently experiencing significant risk of infection of its poultry by the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI); and

Whereas, Wright County may, pursuant to its home rule authority, exercise any power and perform any function it deems appropriate to protect and preserve the rights, privileges, and property of the County and/or of its residents, and to preserve and improve the peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of its residents; and

Whereas, the Wright County Board of Supervisors on 4-30-15 declared a State of Emergency in Wright County in an effort to take a proactive, preventative approach to the widespread Highly-Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI); and

Whereas, the Wright County Board of Supervisors has determined that it is necessary to

order the mandatory closing of certain roads of unincorporated Wright County and restrict movement of any poultry or poultry waste products within 0.5 miles of any poultry facility not owned by that facility, in order to protect or preserve life or property; to assist in disaster mitigation, response or recovery; and to generally preserve and improve the peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort and convenience of its residents.

Therefore, Be It Resolved by the Wright County Board of Supervisors that due to the current risk of infection of its poultry by the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in Wright County, Iowa, there is proclaimed to be a State of Emergency in the unincorporated areas of the County; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors may, in response to this state of emergency, issue Orders of Road Closure and/or Embargo for any part of unincorporated Wright County that the Chairperson deems advisable as necessary to protect or preserve life or property or as necessary to assist in disaster mitigation, response or recovery; and

Be It Further Resolved that any such Order of Road Closure and/or Embargo shall be made in writing and communicated in such a manner as to reasonably apprise the affected residents and the general public of the specific time and location of the roads to be closed and/or any restrictions on the movement of any poultry or poultry waste products; and

Be It Further Resolved that ingress and egress to and from any road designated by the County shall be limited to authorized law enforcement, emergency management personnel and other persons specifically designated by the County. All other vehicles are prohibited from travel on designated roads; and

Be It Further Resolved that the movement or transport of any poultry or poultry waste products is hereby prohibited within 0.5 miles of any poultry facility. This prohibition shall not apply to a poultry facility moving or transporting on or near its own facility; and

Be It Further Resolved that the Wright County Board of Supervisors hereby requests that the State of Iowa issue an embargo and/or take action to prohibit the movement or transport of any poultry or poultry waste products within 0.5 miles of any poultry facility in Wright County. This prohibition shall not apply to a poultry facility moving or transporting on or near its own facility.

Adam Clemons reported that all barricades are now in place on the designated roads. A press release will be prepared by Jim Lester and distributed to news media.

Motion by Rasmussen and seconded by Watne to adjourn the emergency special meeting. Motion carries.

Karl Helgevold, Chairman
Wright County Board of Supervisors

Betty Ellis, Wright County Auditor