

FORUM
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which has caused the board to get stricter with how the comment is allowed.

He suggested that public comment might be able to be added 15 minutes prior to before the meeting starts. "Emails are always welcome at any time," he said. "It is important to hear the constituents. Without them, who are we representing? But it does need to stay respectful."

Campbell: "I do have a question why our current county supervisors removed the public comment section of the meeting," Campbell said. "It's something I would love to see come back." Campbell said she believes public comment is important at all public meetings. "It's unfortunate that it has been taken away, but it's something that I would love to see reinstated back into the meeting minutes."

McClellan: McClellan agreed with both Granzow and Campbell's statement about public comment adding, "I, too, would like to have public comment come back. It's the board chair (BJ Hoffman) who has determined how public comments would be handled."

"The rudeness, I believe, got out of hand," McClellan added. "A lot of times it got to be personal." She said she was always open for comments and suggestions, however the rudeness just got to be worse and worse as time went on. She also added that she had received a lot of comments from the public saying it was nice to listen to a meeting without the rude comments.

Question 3:

The last two years have been relatively crazy. During Covid in many localities limited services, governmental entities, vaccine mandates on employees, requiring masks, etc. Hardin County did not mandate vaccinations. What are your thoughts on mandates that come from the county level?

Campbell: "My cur-

rent belief is that the county should follow the state and federal regulations and work with those medical professionals," Campbell said, noting that the supervisors and county building took the right steps in following Covid regulations. "We came out on the other side, we are unscathed." She also does not believe a private organization should impose vaccine mandates.

McClellan: She noted she sat on a county Covid response team and came up with recommendations, including the temperature machines installed, and they followed the state mask mandates. They also installed plexiglass. "We came through it pretty well unscathed."

Granzow: "We followed the CDC guidelines, on this," he said, noting that it was important to be aware of public safety. "We tried to step up."

Question 4:

What is your position on eminent domain with carbon capture pipelines?

McClellan: "I will say I'm against the use of eminent domain for any private use, and I would consider this CO2 pipeline probably a private use" she said, noting there are other pipelines underground - natural gas, etc. - but they are public use.

Granzow: "We have to tread lightly on this," he said. "Most things on this statement should be going through the county attorney. When it comes to the pipeline, I will leave it to the county attorney." Granzow also said eminent domain should be used for things such as the landfill, roadways, or bridges.

Campbell: "If all of the landowners want to go through and sign their easements, and be willing to have this pipeline go through their property, then that's their choice." However, she noted as a safety factor, she has concerns with the pipeline. She agreed with McClellan and Granzow about being asked eminent domain.

Question 5:

What do think should be done and explain how the funding source for men-

tal health impacts Hardin County?

Granzow: Granzow said that the way the state funds for mental health has changed. "I wish the state would come talk to us before they made decisions," he said. "Mental health is growing rapidly throughout the county, throughout the state, throughout the nation. It needs to get under control, and I don't have the answer. It will be expensive, but it is well-needed."

Campbell: Working in the school district, Campbell said she has seen growth in mental health issues. "There's a greater need," she said. "We need more professionals. I would love to see more dollars go to mental health, but I can't speak on that from experience."

McClellan: She agreed with Granzow and Campbell and noted that BJ Hoffman is chair of a 15-county region, and a new youth metal health facility will be built near Ames. "That will be a plus for our region."

Question 6:

Knowing what we know about population decline, what recreational opportunities are very important for families?

Campbell: "It's something that's important to my family," Campbell said, adding that some non-tillable woodland areas could be converted into parks, and applauded the Hardin County Conservation Director Wes Weise for the job he has done. She said creative ways will encourage people to get outside.

McClellan: She noted the completion of the River's Edge Trail near Eldora, and the fundraising and grant-writing efforts need to continue. "Our conservation department has done an excellent job," she said. "We have many resources other counties don't have."

Granzow: "Hardin County offers a lot," he said. "We need to allow people to understand what we have here." Granzow said he'd like to support businesses along the bike trail for the visitors, as

well. "Hardin County is blessed. We have it all. It's a great place to live and a great place to move to."

Question 7:

Hardin County was allocated funds from the American Rescue Plan. How are those funds being spent and what would you like to see them spent on in Hardin County?

McClellan: "We received half of our funds in September," she said. "Which is just over \$1.6 million. Hopefully we have the second half coming in the next month or so," noting a majority of those funds have not been spent yet. A committee has met to come up with recommendations, she said. "Nothing is set in stone at this point in time."

Granzow: "We have until 2024 or 2026 to spend the money. I don't know that there is a race to spend the money, let's be a little conservative," he said, noting that the money can be used for capital projects, but he wanted to use it in the right way, not the fast way.

Campbell: "Fiscally I agree with Lance," Campbell said, stating they needed to weigh the pros and cons and not depend on that money year after year.

Question 8:

In terms of confined animal feeding operations, what would you do in terms of the master matrix, and should there be a moratorium on those CAFOs?

Granzow: "There's a lot of room for CAFOs to be built if the landowner would like to and have a place for the manure to

go," Granzow said. "We are an agricultural community, as well." He said the master matrix is a tool for the county, and every January they are offered the opportunity to do the master matrix, and they do it, adding, "We have to protect the infrastructure underground, as well."

Campbell: Campbell said she had researched CAFOs and the master matrix and how they had been historically approved in the county. "We need to leave a legacy that allows our children to enjoy those natural resources as much as we did as children." She says neighbors and community members need more of a say where the CAFOs are being placed. "I know it's a hot topic."

McClellan: "People who are doing construction need to contact landowners or residents who live nearby, within a certain distance," she said, noting the supervisors always approve the master matrix each year and said manure is being applied properly. "It actually helps build soil health. We are a farming community. I don't see a moratorium in the near future."

Question 9:

Hardin County has more than 200 drainage districts. How does your work as a trustee impact your weekly work and what challenges does drainage present?

Campbell: "I'm intrigued with everything that goes on with those drainage districts," Campbell said. "I know they are very important; I know they are owned by the landowners and when one of those drainage districts has an issue, it's my

understanding that the county supervisor's job is to facilitate that gathering of those individuals and help come to an agreement on the procedure."

However, Campbell said there is a learning curve, and she is willing to hear from those parties involved with drainage districts on their properties.

McClellan: "We're trustees for the majority of the drainage districts," she said. "If there are drainage issues, it's up to the Board of Supervisors to see that those are repaired. It's not like we have a choice."

The county has many drainage districts over 100 years old, McClellan said, and they are required to see that they are fixed, but it is not a county expense. They hire contractors to repair, fix or update the drainage districts.

Granzow: "Drainage is a beast," he said. "It's a beast of its own because it has its own laws that we have to abide by." He said if any districts chose to be their trustees, they could petition and take it away from the supervisors. "We're trustees by default, not because we chose to," he said, adding that he enjoys doing it.

An in-county drainage engineer is used to do the repairs, Granzow said, adding that it could be done less expensive "on your own, but that's the choice you chose by not wanting to be your own trustees." Has also said draining covers almost half of Hardin County - 220 or 230 districts in the county.

In their closing statements, each candidate asked for the public's vote. ■

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