

April 2017 – From the Chairman:

The Board of Supervisors have been asked by a group of concerned citizens to pass an ordinance to allow for Off-Road Utility Vehicles (ORV) to be driven on the county roads. These vehicles are not considered All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV) as there is a difference.

What is the difference between the ATV's and ORV's? An ATV, according to the Iowa Code, is a motorized flotation-tire vehicle with not less than three and not more than six low-pressure tires that is limited in engine displacement to less than one thousand cubic centimeters and has a dry weight of less than one thousand pounds and the operator straddles the motor. The ORV, according to the proposed Fayette County Ordinance, is a motorized flotation-tire vehicle with not less than four and not more than eight low-pressure tires that is limited in engine displacement to less than 1,500 cubic centimeters and not more than 1,900 pounds in dry weight with a bucket/bench seat, in which the operator does not straddle the motor and is designed to carry two or more persons.

Chapter 321I in the Iowa Code addresses the use of ATV's in the State. However, ORV's are not addresses in the Iowa Code as to their use on the roads. Therein lays the problem. The individuals that want to use the ORV want to be legal and able to ride on the roads as the ATV's do. However, as of now the State Legislature have done some discussion concerning this issue and recently made it legal to cross State roads to get to a County gravel road, so there is some progress in the right direction according to the ORV users.

Many Counties have passed ordinances that govern the use of ORV's on their roads. Each County has a different set of rules/regulations that addresses the use of ORV's on their roads. By each County addressing the use of ORV on their county roads there is going to be 99 different ordinances governing their use in the State. There could/will also be different ordinances for the towns within those Counties as the County has no jurisdiction over what the town passes for ordinances concerning the ORV's, so for those who enjoy riding the ORV they would need to know the many different ordinances until there is one Code that covers the entire State.

The ordinance that is proposed for Fayette County will be printed in the Official Newspapers of Fayette County, the Elgin Echo, Fayette County Union and the Oelwein Daily Register. The first Public Hearing is scheduled to be held on April 24, 2017 at 11:00am.

You may contact me at: [jtellin@co.fayette.ia.us](mailto:jtellin@co.fayette.ia.us)

On a personal note: There is going to be a lot of activity at the Courthouse these next couple of months as the window replacement project has started, the geothermal installation will be starting soon and some painting also will be taking place. I am asking you, the public and employees alike, to be patient with all of these activities as the end result will all be worth it. Thanks.