

Board of Supervisors Minutes
January 13, 2025

The Tama County Board of Supervisors met at 8:30 a.m. January 13, 2025. Present: 1st District Supervisor, Curt Hilmer; 2nd District Supervisor, David Turner; 3rd District Supervisor, Heather Knebel; 4th District Supervisor, Mark Doland and 5th District Supervisor, Curt Kupka. Also, Tama County Auditor, Karen Rohrs, members of the public and Sheriff Schmidt.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve the agenda as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to approve the minutes of the January 6th regular meeting. Discussion: Doland and the board stated that minutes can be shortened with less detail. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Kimberly Dickey from NextEra Energy Resources, requested the board to amend their 1-6-2025B resolution to include a short statement saying that the moratorium does not apply to previously permitted projects. Several people from the public stated since it was stated during discussion time last week that the moratorium is not for permitted projects, they feel the moratorium does not need to be amended. Someone also stated they had done research and that surrounding counties use YouTube to stream their board meetings and that they do not have 1,000 subscribers. It was stated that it would be beneficial to not only livestream the meetings but to also have them available on YouTube for the public to watch at their leisure. Jim Smith was present to let those attending know that his mother had passed away last week. Visitation will be this Thursday, and the funeral will be on Friday. Public comments closed at 8:40 am.

The Board met with Ben Daleske, Tama County Engineer, to get a road projects report. He also asked the board to approve the chairman to sign the Tama County Pledge of Safety Action Plan. Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner to approve the board chairman to sign the Tama County Pledge of Safety Action Plan. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Tammy Wise, HR/Insurance Administrator, asked the board to table acting on some damage done to a culvert in the Chelsea area until she can gather more information. Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to table acting on damages until possibly next week's meeting when more information can be provided. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to table approving the Treasurer's Semi-annual Report until they can get clarification from the Treasurer of why the Calculated Ending Treasurer's Balance is different from the Actual Ending Treasurer's Balance. Discussion: The board would like more information from the Treasurer about why the Calculated Ending Treasurer's Balance is different from the Actual Ending Treasurer's Balance. Turner stated he would follow up with her once she is back in the office. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to approve the Sheriff's Year End Report. Discussion: The Sheriff was asked how many vehicles had been purchased in the last year. He stated 2. He was also asked what the LE contract was. The Sheriff stated it was the local law enforcement contracts with surrounding cities to pay for law enforcement. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The new county auditor informed the board that they need to act on approving to add her name to the Tama County Auditor's checking account and to remove the previous auditor's name so that she can begin writing checks from that account for her quarterly reports. Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Turner to approve adding Karen Rohrs, Tama County Auditor, to the Tama County Auditor's checking account with the State Bank of Toledo and to remove the previous auditor, Laura Kopsa. Discussion: It was asked if other accounts/credit cards needed this same kind of action. Rohrs stated she has not had time to see what other accounts her name needs to be added to, and Kopsa's removed from. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Kupka informed the board that he went out and got cell phone quotes from US Cellular and Verizon to provide county cell phones for each board of supervisor. Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to approve using US Cellular to provide cell phones for the board of supervisors. Discussion: Kupka stated it would be \$119 per month for 5 phones with US Cellular if auto pay is done. Rohrs stated the county is not able to do auto pay. This would then increase the monthly fee by \$25. This would still be more cost effective than receiving cell phone reimbursement. The phones would also include a hot spot that the supervisors could use at home. A couple of the supervisors stated they would prefer to have a separate county phone to keep their business separate from county business. Each supervisor would have a new phone, and the phones would then roll over to any supervisor that gets elected. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Doland stated he had received a text about repairing the courthouse clock. Dirk Henle, Tama County Maintenance Supervisor, stated that he is aware that the clock is not keeping time nor chiming correctly. He stated that he is the only person to do maintenance work for the county and that other projects have taken priority over the clock. He stated he would like to work on the clock when court is not being held and that limits the days he can work on it. He informed the board that he would try and get the clock repaired as soon as possible.

Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner to approve the Recorder's Quarterly Report. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Turner to approve re-appointing Sally Custer to the Board of Health. Her term had expired in December. Discussion: Hilmer stated that there are two board of health member positions open. He stated that he is following up with another person to get the last position filled. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Knebel, seconded by Kupka to approve purchasing a laptop, owl camera, and case to livestream board of supervisors meetings, and using YouTube to store the video for the public to view once the meeting is over. Discussion: Knebel stated she had checked with surrounding counties to see what they use to stream board meetings. For roughly \$1,618.98, a laptop, owl camera/microphone, and case for the camera can be purchased and then a link can be added to the website to direct the public to a YouTube channel to view the board meetings. Turner stated he also

did some research and would also recommend what Knebel is recommending. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Turner presented a Human Resources Audit Contract with PJ Greufe & Associates LLC in the amount of \$2,500. Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve the board chairman to sign the Human Resources Audit Contract with PJ Greufe & Associates LLC in the amount of \$2,500. Discussion: Turner stated when he was running for office that one of his concerns was to make sure processes are done properly. He stated other areas also need to be looked at. Knebel agreed that it is a good idea to have outside eyes to look at things. Doland asked if the firm would help with updating the county's ordinances. Turner stated they could for an extra cost. All voted aye. Motion carried.

While the board was still reviewing the list of claims public comments were heard.

Public comments: It was asked what needs to be reviewed every 5 years, which the reply was county ordinances. It was also stated that Dirk Henle does a very good job of keeping things up in the county. It was asked where the audit firm is out of. They are out of Davenport. It was asked how the public will interact if the board meetings are done online. It was stated that the public can still reach the board members by phone prior to the meeting to ask questions or voice concerns. A previous supervisor had a concern with the moratorium. He stated he feels it is not good enough just to state that the moratorium does not affect current projects, and he believes an amendment needs to be done. Someone else from the public stated that with Salt Creeks Phase 1 there have been variations on the turbine size and locations and feels the moratorium should give the board time to look into matters. The board was thanked for looking into Zoom and asked if microphones could be added so that the board of supervisors could be heard in the back of the room. Tammy stated she would look into microphones. Public comment closed at 9:33 am.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to approve the claims for payment as presented in the amount of \$197,690.05. Discussion: It was asked if the board could get the claims report prior to the meeting on Monday. Rohrs stated at this time it can't be done because the landfill usually doesn't get their claims entered until the weekend. Kupka stated he had talked to the landfill secretary, and she is going to try and get her claims entered on Thursday night to allow the auditor to get the report run on Friday for the board to review over the weekend before their Monday meeting. All voted aye. Motion carried.

It was stated that IPIB was giving training to elected officials and department heads at 10:15 am. The board of supervisors were not attending this training since they will be attending new county officers schooling on Wednesday and Thursday that will also offer this training.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Doland adjourned the meeting at 9:35 am.