

Board of Supervisors Minutes
March 3, 2025

The Tama County Board of Supervisors met at 8:30 a.m. March 3, 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 Kupka to approve the agenda. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Public comments were heard from Bill Faircloth and Larry Vest. Public comments closed at 8:34 am.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve the minutes of the February 24th regular meeting. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

At 8:45 am the supervisors held a public hearing to de-appropriate funds to county departments. Motion by Kupka, seconded by Turner to open the public hearing at 8:45 am. All voted aye. Motion carried. Public comments: There was discussion between the board and members of the public regarding the county's financial situation and departments spending. Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Turner to close the public hearing. Chairman Doland closed the public hearing at 8:55 am. Motion by Knebel to reduce the following department's FY25 appropriations, Conservation by \$100,000, Public Health by \$125,000, and General Maintenance by \$40,000, seconded by Kupka. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board met with Ben Daleske, Tama County Engineer, to get a road projects report. Daleske also spoke to the board about Bridge Replacement Project: BROS-CO86(116)—5F-86 in Section 6 Clark Township on S Avenue. Motion by Turner, seconded by Hilmer to approve the following bridge replacement project resolution:

RESOLUTION 3-3-2025A

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, hereafter referred to as “the Board”, believes the Bridge Replacement Project: BROS-CO86(116)--5F-86, hereafter referred to as “the project” is in the best interest of Tama, Iowa, and the residents thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Board has sought appropriate professional guidance for the concept and planning for the project and followed the steps as required by the Code of Iowa for notifications, hearings, and bidding/letting; and

WHEREAS, The Board finds this resolution appropriate and necessary to protect, preserve, and improve the rights, privileges, property, peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of Tama County and its citizens, all as provided for in and permitted by section 331.301 of the Code of Iowa; and

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED by Board to accept the bid from Peterson Contractors Inc. in the amount of \$479,993.20 and awards the associated contract(s) to the same;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed. If any part of this resolution is adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the resolution or action of The Board as a whole or any part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its approval as provided by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Tama County, Iowa, that after receiving the necessary contract documents, including but not limited to, the contractor's bond and certificate of insurance, Ben Daleske PE, the County Engineer for Tama County, Iowa, be and is hereby designated, authorized, and empowered on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of said County to execute the contracts in connection with the afore awarded construction project let through the DOT for this county.

Roll Call Vote: Hilmer, aye. Turner, aye. Knebel, aye. Doland, aye. Kupka, aye. Resolution passed and adopted this 3rd day of March, 2025. Mark Doland, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. Karen Rohrs, County Auditor.

Daleske also presented Bridge Replacement Project: BROS-CO86(117)—60-86 in Section 11 of Toledo Township on Highway E43. Motion by Kupka, seconded by Turner to approve the following bridge replacement resolution:

RESOLUTION 3-3-2025B

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors, hereafter referred to as “the Board”, believes the Bridge Replacement Project: BROS-CO86(117)--60-86, hereafter referred to as “the project” is in the best interest of Tama, Iowa, and the residents thereof; and

WHEREAS, the Board has sought appropriate professional guidance for the concept and planning for the project and followed the steps as required by the Code of Iowa for notifications, hearings, and bidding/letting; and

WHEREAS, The Board finds this resolution appropriate and necessary to protect, preserve, and improve the rights, privileges, property, peace, safety, health, welfare, comfort, and convenience of Tama County and its citizens, all as provided for in and permitted by section 331.301 of the Code of Iowa; and

IT IS THEREFORE RESOLVED by Board to accept the bid from Iowa Bridge & Culvert, LC in the amount of \$425,894.18 and awards the associated contract(s) to the same;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other resolutions or parts of resolutions in conflict with this resolution are hereby repealed. If any part of this resolution is adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the resolution or action of The Board as a whole or any part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from and after the date of its approval as provided by law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Tama County, Iowa, that after receiving the necessary contract documents, including but not limited to, the contractor's bond and certificate of insurance, Ben Daleske PE, the County Engineer for Tama County, Iowa, be and is hereby designated, authorized, and empowered on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of said County to execute the contracts in connection with the afore awarded construction project let through the DOT for this county.

Roll Call Vote: Hilmer, aye. Turner, aye. Knebel, aye. Doland, aye. Kupka, aye. Resolution passed and adopted this 3rd day of March, 2025. Mark Doland, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. Karen Rohrs, County Auditor.

Daleske also presented a Dust Control Policy to allow for self-application and that would include a fee. Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner to approve Dust Control Policy Resolution:

RESOLUTION 3-3-2025C

Tama County

Dust Control Policy

WHEREAS, vehicle traffic on rock roads stirs up dust that is undesirable to many individuals, and

WHEREAS, the Tama County Board of Supervisors desires to allow certain approved vendors or individuals to apply dust control on rock roads in the county,

WHEREAS, Chapter 318 of the Code of Iowa specifies a permit issued by the appropriate jurisdiction is required before work is performed by parties other than the jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, Tama County's responsibility to the motorist takes priority over an individual's desire to reduce dust,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tama County Board of Supervisors establish the following rules for dust control. These rules shall hereinafter be referred to as the Tama County Dust Control Policy.

TAMA COUNTY DUST CONTROL POLICY

March 3rd, 2025

- The interest of motorists to have a well-maintained road takes priority over the interest to suppress dust.
- Chapter 318 of the Code of Iowa specifies a permit must be issued by the appropriate jurisdiction before work is performed by parties other than the jurisdiction. A permit to place dust control (obtainable from the County Engineer's Office) will be required each year. There will be no deadline to acquire the permit, but the permit will expire October 15th each year.
- The permit will state the method of dust control. Specifically allowed methods include calcium chloride, magnesium chloride, and lignosulfonates. Other methods require specific approval. Note that the use of used motor oil is specifically banned by federal regulations. Any unauthorized material placed on the road will be removed.
- Vendors wishing to apply dust control must obtain approval annually. No dust control will be allowed unless prior approval has been given. There will be a \$50 fee per customer listed. Fees will be collected by the vendor directly and paid to Tama County. The vendor must provide a check payable to "Tama County Engineer." This check must be received by Tama County no later than September 1st of the current dust control season.
- Individuals wishing to apply their own dust control must obtain pre-approval and a \$50 permit from Tama County Engineer's Office. No dust control will be allowed unless prior approval has been given. An application to apply your own dust control may be obtained in the Engineer's office.
- All vendors and individuals applying dust control will supply Tama County with a **certificate of insurance naming Tama County as an additional insured**. The correct certificate must be provided before the permit will be approved. The required limits are as follows:

General Liability

- Each Occurrence \$1,000,000
- Personal & Adv Injury \$1,000,000

Automobile Liability

- Combined Single Limit \$1,000,000

Umbrella Liability

- Each Occurrence \$1,000,000

- Dust control will not be placed prior to May 15th, unless authorized by Tama County. Soft road conditions in the spring may cause Tama County to restrict placement to a later date. Each vendor or individual will provide Tama County with their desired application date at least three (3) weeks prior to placement of dust control.
- Most dust control products are placed twice in a season. A separate permit is not required for the second application in the season, but the same three (3) weeks' notice must be provided for the second application to allow Tama County to prepare the road.
- A permit obtained by a vendor may cover all of their customers. A typed list with their customers will be supplied to Tama County. The list may be provided after the application is received, as long as it is received by 8:00am at least three (3) weeks prior to their selected first application date. The list will show:
 - Name of the individual the dust control is serving.
 - Location (township, section and E911 address).
 - Length of application.
- After the dust control list is received, there will be a two-week grace period where add-ons will be accepted for a fee. Each add-on will incur an additional \$25.00 fee to be collected by the vendor and paid to Tama County. For any add-ons, a complete list must be received by 8:00am one (1) week prior to the selected application date.
- Any additional requests received outside of the two-week grace period may be approved on a case-by-case basis only. This must be authorized by Tama County and may be denied. Each request will incur an additional \$100.00 fee to be collected by the vendor and paid to Tama County.
- The vendor must provide a check payable to "Tama County Engineer" for any add-ons that were accepted. This check must be received by Tama County no later than September 1st of the current dust control season.
- Each dust control section shall be measured and marked by the individual or vendor. The location shall be marked with four visible flags at all corners of the dust control area. The flags shall be placed at least three (3) weeks prior to application of dust control. Flags will be supplied by the vendor or individual (vendors may place a supply of flags at the Tama County Engineer's office or shops to aid in distribution). Flags must be left in place for the duration of the dust control to help the blade operator identify the section. Failure to keep the flags up may result in the dust control section being bladed in a way that makes it significantly less effective.

- If given proper notice, Tama County will review the sections and determine the need for blading or additional rock prior to placement of the dust control. Failure to provide ample notice may result in poor performance of the dust control section and will likely require the dust control section to be obliterated. Tama County may blade through dust control sections prior to the second application each season.
- Dust control sections must be kept free of potholes. Individuals may collect granular material from the surface of the surrounding road to place in the potholes.
- Tama County reserves the right to blade through improperly performing sections or those not maintained by the individual. Tama County will try to schedule blading of dust control sections to coincide with fresh moisture, which helps preserve the effectiveness of the product.
- Dust control sections may be bladed through starting October 15th each year. Tama County may leave well-maintained sections intact until November 1st if fall weather conditions are favorable.
- The applicant shall assume full responsibility for any and all liability resulting from dust control material placed upon the public highway.
- Tama County will place and pay for dust control in the following instances:
 - Establishment of a detour for the paved road system expected to last more than 2 weeks.
 - Improperly blading through an existing dust control section.
 - A mandate by federal or state regulation.
 - Specific roads deemed necessary by the County Engineer.
- Tama County will not pay for dust control in the following instances:
 - Detours for road work on the rock road system.
 - Blading through an existing dust control that is improperly flagged or for which proper notification was not received.
 - Blading through a section improperly placed that is creating a hazard or causing damage to traffic.
 - Blading through a section that is not properly maintained.
 - Blading through a section prior to second application or at the end of the season.

Vendors shall issue the following statement to each of their customers:

“Tama County allows the placement of dust control on rock roads. The interest of motorists to have a well-maintained road takes priority over the interest to suppress dust. Dust control sections may be bladed through starting October 15th and may be bladed through at any time if the condition of the road impedes traffic. Preserve your dust control by keeping it properly marked and by filling potholes with rock. Tama County’s Dust Control Policy can be found on the county’s website.”

Roll Call Vote: Hilmer, aye. Turner, aye. Knebel, aye. Doland, aye. Kupka, aye. Resolution passed and adopted this 3rd day of March, 2025. Mark Doland, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. Karen Rohrs, County Auditor.

Doland stated the Board is looking at ways to cut county expenses. During the budget work session, the Board had recommended to the maintenance director to send out RFP's (request for proposal) for the county's cleaning needs to see if it would be a cost savings to the county verses two fulltime cleaning staff. Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve the maintenance director to send out RFP's for cleaning services for the county. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Doland stated the board is scheduled for another work session today at 12:30 pm to work on what to propose for county levies for FY26. Motion by Turner, seconded by Hilmer to table tax levy action. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Auditor Rohrs informed the board that the Gladbrook-Reinbeck School District will be holding a special election on March 4th to vote on a PPEL (physical plant and equipment levy). 1st and 2nd tier canvass dates and times need to be set. Rohrs suggested Monday March 10th at 8:00 am for the 1st tier canvass and Monday March 17th at 8:00 am for the 2nd tier canvass. Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to set the special election canvass dates for the 1st and 2nd tier for Monday, March 10th at 8:00 am for the 1st tier and Monday March 17th at 8:00 am for the 2nd tier. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Auditor Rohrs informed the board that they need to act on approving to add her name to the Health Fund checking account and to remove the previous HR/Insurance Director's name so that she can begin writing checks from that account. Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner to approve adding Karen Rohrs, Tama County Auditor, to the Tama County Health Fund checking account with the Lincoln Savings Bank and to remove the previous HR/Insurance Director, Tamara Wise. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Auditor Rohrs also informed the board that they need to act on approving to add her name along with the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer's names to the new EMS Levy account that is to be set up. Motion by Kupka, seconded by Turner to approve adding Karen Rohrs, Tama County Auditor, Amanda Kriegel, Tama County Treasurer, and Sara Gilbert, Tama County Assistant Treasurer to the EMS Levy account with the Lincoln Savings Bank. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Kupka, seconded by Turner to have further discussions regarding the posting of the VA Director/General Relief open position. All voted aye. Motion carried. Discussion: There was discussion if the position should be shared with another county. It was also discussed about not having two people in the same role for too long of a time due to budget constraints. The board would like a firm date of when the current director will retire so that they know when to have the new hire start. The current director, Elizabeth Ledvina, was present and stated that she will retire as soon as the new hire is certified and trained. General Relief is a mandatory thing the county has to offer but it can be done out of a different department. It was asked if a surrounding county could help us by doing a 28E agreement. Ledvina stated Tama County would have a hard time getting a surrounding county to enter into a 28E agreement with how busy they are.

Knebel stated an IT audit had been done and during that audit the audit team had suggested that Tama County should hire a fulltime IT Director. Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner to approve

posting the new IT Director position. Discussion: Turner stated he and Michelle from the auditor's office have been working on the new phone system but that having an IT director to work on it would be better. The IT Director would report to the Board of Supervisors. Hilmer stated that during the audit it was said that the county has open data, and he is concerned with that. Also stated in the IT audit was that 43 other counties in Iowa that are smaller than Tama County have an IT Director. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Doland stated going through the rest of this fiscal year budget and next year's fiscal year budget the board has been looking at what is essential services. The board agreed to implement a transition plan with Economic Development by fully funding Economic Development the first 6 months of the new fiscal year and then paying the per capita fee of \$3 per rural resident the remainder of the FY26. The Economic Development Director stated the Board is in a tuff position, but that she has \$500,000 worth of projects on her desk in two projects that are going to add value to buildings that were going to collapse and fall in and that she is the department that is the county's investment. Motion by Knebel, seconded by Kupka to approve sending a letter to Tama County Economic Development with the board's intent to withdraw from the Joint Agreement. Discussion: Knebel stated she doesn't want to see economic development go away and that Doland had done research to get them to be a 501(c)(3) where people can donate more money. If the county was in a better financial position, we would continue the way things had been, but the Board of Supervisors are not wanting to fund all of it. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner to approve accepting and filing with the county auditor, the letter dated 2-13-25 from Tama Soil & Water Conservation District regarding the Tama County Land Use Plan that states Tama County land above 60 Corn Suitability Rating 2 should be reserved for agricultural uses only. Discussion: It was asked who would enforce this. Zoning Director stated it was up to the Board of Supervisors to enforce. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to approve the contract for legal services with Holly Corkery from Lynch Dallas, P.C. regarding an IPIB matter, Tammy Wise v. Tama County. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Treasurer Kriegel would like the board to approve allowing her to open her office at 9:30 am on March 10th so that she can conduct an office meeting with her staff. Motion by Turner, seconded by Hilmer to approve the treasurer opening her office at 9:30 am on March 10th to conduct a staff meeting. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve the Sheriff to hire for the open deputy position in his department. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Doland stated there had been four applicants for the conservation board vacant seat. Supervisors Doland, Knebel and Tama County Auditor Rohrs interviewed two highly qualified applicants. The current conservation board members would like to see someone from the northeast side of the county added to the board. Doland would recommend approving to appoint Chris Behrens. Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Kupka to approve appointing Chris Behrens to the Tama County Conservation Board. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner to accept the proposed changes to the Tama County Land Use Plan. Discussion: The Zoning Board would like the Board of Supervisors to look at the proposed changes before they are approved. The changes will be finalized in an ordinance after an attorney looks it over and public hearings are held. Doland stated he appreciates the Zoning Board listening to people. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Doland stated during budget work sessions it was brought up about selling the county owned crop and pastureland. The landfill director has said he has a 25-year future plan that would not include the county owned land. It was said that land for the county shop and shooting range would need to be sectioned off. Knebel stated she would like to explore the county's options. She would prefer to not sell unless the county really must. Turner stated if the decision is made to sell the land that renters need to be notified before September 1st that the contract would be ending. It was stated if any public has feed back to reach out to the board. There have been discussions about the need to explore ideas for a bigger jail. The sheriff is spending a lot in housing inmates outside of Tama County and that the profit from selling the land could possibly be used to do a joint project with 911. Motion by Turner, seconded by Hilmer to move forward exploring the possibility of selling the land. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

There were no hiring freeze exemptions to act on.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to repeal the previous approved motion to take a loan from the health insurance fund to give to the general supplemental fund. There is no need for this loan thanks to the 911 Board returning unspent funds back to the general supplemental fund. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Each supervisor gave an update regarding committee meetings they have attended.

Supervisor Turner reported he had attended a supervisor meeting at the end of January. Stated he had spoke to Motorola about statewide connectivity for emergencies and he is satisfied with what they told him. He also spoke with people who are wanting to put in the CO2 pipeline. Nothing is planned for our county. He is speaking to people about the increase in medical bills for juveniles in detention centers. Other counties are having the same issue. He also discussed the new phone system progress.

Supervisor Kupka reported he had been driving around the county and that mowing and brush cutting is being done. He has spoken to the engineer about the Irving bridge. He stated not much is going on out at the landfill. An Aflac representative will be here on 3/17/25 to do a presentation. It was discussed that the county is bidding out to tear down the old shop so the county can make a little money. The county cannot store anything in the old shop due to insurance reasons. The shed must be torn down to receive the FEMA funding.

Supervisor Doland reported he had been working on mental health issues. He stated the state is going to be taking it over. Substance abuse will be left with the counties. The state may reimburse for mental health advocates, but they haven't said how much, and it doesn't mean that they will. He stated he is working with Libby on records that have been requested that are confidential.

Supervisor Knebel reported that departments were invited to a Heartland Risk Pool meeting about renewals and that it had been recorded for anyone who could not attend. She stated that conservation special events are not always automatically covered, and that conservation needs to make sure each event is covered before holding the event. She stated Paul is working on our insurance renewals. Knebel will be looking to make sure buildings are correctly covered. She met with the DECAT board which includes Jasper, Poweshiek and Tama Counties. This board supports families and tries to keep them out of DHS and juvenile detention. They are always looking for ways to help youths. She stated the board is working through budgets and are trying not to raise taxes.

Supervisor Hilmer reported that he also has been driving the county and that the roads are looking good. He stated that a Board of Health meeting was held last week that he was unable to attend. He also stated the board has been working on budgets and that cuts are going to have to be made. He is also on the Aging Board and that board has not met for months. He stated meals are only served in one location in the Tama-Toledo area. He stated the 6th Judicial has been taken over by the state. That committee had met monthly prior to the state taking over. Now they meet once a year and are an advisory committee.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to approve the claims for payment as presented in the amount of \$ 311,588.00. Discussion: The board pulled the Central Iowa Detention bill out in the amount of \$25,169.35 to hold payment to see if the state can help since it is a medical bill leaving \$311,588.00 in claims to be paid. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Public comments were heard from Karen Murty, Larry Vest, Laura Wilson, Carolyn Adolfs, Bob Vokoun, Richard Arp, Jeff Cizek, and Sheriff Schmidt. Public comments closed at 10:48 am.

Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Kupka to adjourn the meeting. Chairman Doland adjourned the meeting at 10:48 am.

These minutes are intended to provide a summary of the discussions and decisions made during the Board of Supervisor meeting. For the most accurate and comprehensive record, please refer to the audio recording of the meeting that can be provided upon request at the auditor's office.