

**Board of Supervisors Minutes**  
**March 31, 2025**

The Tama County Board of Supervisors met at 9:10 a.m. March 31, 2025 due to their public hearing meeting that was held at 8:00 am running past their regular start time of 8:30 am. Present: 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. Absent: 1st District Supervisor, Curt Hilmer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Kupka, seconded by Turner to approve the agenda. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Public comments were heard from Patty Suess, Lynn Cizek, Karen Murty, Tom Upah, and Kayla Kerkove. Public comment time closed at 9:23 am.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve the minutes of the March 24<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board met with Ben Daleske, Tama County Engineer, to get a road projects report.

The Wieting Theatre submitted a request for use of the courthouse lawn for July 14-18 for 30 minutes each day to allow their theatre camp students to enjoy lunch. The students will be chaperoned, and the group will bring their own garbage can to clean up after themselves. A completed Courthouse Grounds Policy Application and proof of insurance have been submitted to the county auditor. A \$100 deposit will be given to the county auditor. Upon the completion of the event the grounds will be inspected and if deemed left in pre-event condition the \$100 deposit will be returned. Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve the use of the courthouse lawn for the Wieting Theatre camp and have the chairman of the board of supervisors sign the Courthouse Grounds Policy Application. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Doland recommended appointing Turner and Knebel to represent the board of supervisors on hiring an IT Director. Motion by Knebel, seconded by Kupka to approve appointing Turner and Knebel to select, interview, and hire an IT Director for the county. Discussion: It was also stated that members from the ISAC audit team would be involved in the interview process along with the county auditor and HR consultant. All voted aye. Motion carried.

At the February 3, 2025, meeting Knebel stated in 2010 Ordinance VI.5 (6.5) came into place. Ordinance VI.5 (6.5) sets an assessment schedule capping out at 30%. It can be repealed if it is not benefiting the county. Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to repeal Tama County Ordinance VI.5(6.5) Wind Energy Conversion Assessment Ordinance. Discussion: Knebel stated the assessed value right now for the Vienna turbines is \$1.1 million. The wind project was repowered, and they only pay that 30%. We are in a budget crisis, and we heard everyone say we need to lower taxes. Well, this is the way to help bring in more tax revenue. Doland stated public hearings would need to be held to repeal or change the ordinance. Turner withdrew his previous motion. Turner then

made a motion to set a public hearing to repeal Ordinance VI.5 (6.5) Wind Energy Conversion Assessment for April 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:30 am., seconded by Kupka. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Knebel, seconded by Kupka to approve the annual liquor license renewal for Windy Goat Acres, LLC. Discussion: This is for an 8-month license. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Doland stated he had been approached by public health and the maintenance director to adjust their departments budgets to include the 2% wage increase for the next fiscal year. Both departments had declined taking the increase to wages to help reduce expenditures for the next fiscal year but would now like to have their departments included. There would be no increase to what has been published in the paper for the next fiscal year proposed budget. Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve adjusting public health and the general services budgets to include the 2% wage increase. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The engineer submitted a hiring freeze exemption request for mower operator positions. This would be for three mower operators for in the spring and fall. Motion by Kupka, seconded by Turner to approve hiring three mower operators. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The public health department submitted a hiring freeze exemption request for the open CEO/Executive Director position. Doland stated public health has their own board and that the board of supervisors has no authority over how they fill their positions. Lori Johnson has been appointed as the Interim Director and Jolynn Harger as the Interim Assistant Director effective 4/17/25 until the CEO/Executive Director position can be filled. No action is needed by the board of supervisors.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve the claims for payment as presented in the amount of \$398,494.67. Discussion: It was stated the amount of claims was higher this week due to the engineer hauling contract rock. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Public comments were heard from Sheriff Schmidt, Supervisor Doland, Supervisor Turner, Dirk Dahms, Karen Murty, Laura Wilson, Danielle Bartling, and Lynn Cizek. Public comment time closed at 10:32 am.

Chairman Doland adjourned the meeting at 10:33 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.