

Board of Supervisors Minutes
April 21, 2025

The Tama County Board of Supervisors met at 8:30 a.m. April 21, 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 Jim Smith, Laura Wilson, Karen Murty, and Richard Arp. Public comments closed at 8:39 am.

Motion by Kupka, seconded by Turner to approve the minutes of the April 14th regular meeting. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

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

Supervisor Turner asked to continue research regarding power over the Ethernet for the new phone system for the next couple of weeks. He stated he had been approached by Aureon asking if the county would entertain using them as a director. He asked that this item be on the agenda for the next few weeks until we get an IT Director.

There were no hiring freeze exemptions to act on.

Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Knebel to approve the claims for payment as presented in the amount of \$103,459.07. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

At 8:45 am the Board held a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed county budget for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner to open the public hearing. All voted aye. Motion carried. There were members of the public present. Public comments: No written comments were received. Questions about the budget and comments were heard from the public. Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to close the public hearing. Chairman Doland closed the public hearing at 8:55 am. All voted aye. Motion carried. Motion by Turner, seconded by Hilmer to approve the total amount of property taxes levied at \$13,093,274, an increase of \$1,107,190 from last year due to an increase from the voter approved EMS Levy and increased assessed property value and to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 4-21-2025A

The Board of Supervisors of Tama County hereby approves and adopts the 2025-2026 fiscal year budget making the total property taxes levied \$13,093,274. The Board further notes that the budget was published in official newspapers for Tama County and orders the budget to be certified and filed with/by the Tama County Auditor, as required by law.

Roll Call Vote: Hilmer, aye. Turner, aye. Knebel, aye. Doland, aye. Kupka, aye. Resolution passed and adopted this 21st day of April, 2025. Mark Doland, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. Karen Rohrs, County Auditor.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 4-21-2025B

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors approve a 2% wage increase for all elected officials except the Board of Supervisors, and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Tama County Board of Supervisors approves the following salary adjustments for the following elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025:

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Approved Salary</u>	<u>Approved Increase</u>
Attorney	\$118,992	2.0%
Auditor	\$78,525	2.0%
Recorder	\$78,311	2.0%
Sheriff	\$120,199	2.0%
Supervisors	\$38,724	0%
Treasurer	\$78,419	2.0%

Roll Call Vote: Hilmer, aye. Turner, aye. Knebel, aye. Doland, aye. Kupka, aye. Resolution passed and adopted this 21st day of April, 2025. Mark Doland, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. Karen Rohrs, County Auditor.

Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Kupka to approve the annual liquor license renewal for Backyard Vines LLC. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Sheriff Schmidt was present to inform the Board of Supervisors that he had attended Civil School last week and during a breakout session mental health services were discussed. Sheriff Schmidt stated he had voiced his frustration that the core issue is being overlooked: the lack of resources and the increasingly limited mental health services available. He voiced his concerns about how the Sheriff's office, local law enforcement, and our county are bearing the financial and operational burden due to the lack of adequate services thanks to the state. He stated he does appreciate efforts in working toward getting things back on track, but he still believes we're creating "support" systems and mechanisms that don't fully tackle the real issue—the absence of sufficient mental health services in small rural counties. We shouldn't have to rely on law enforcement to provide these services. The jail may be secure, but it is not a proper mental health facility. He stated the good news is that funding for mental health medications for those incarcerated will continue after July 1st.

The Board recessed until 9:30 am.

At 9:30 am the Board held a public hearing to receive comments to repeal Ordinance VI.5(6.5) Wind Energy Conversion. Motion by Kupka, seconded by Turner to open the public hearing. All voted aye. Motion carried. There were members of the public present. Public comments: No written comments were received. Questions and comments were heard from the public.

Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner to close the public hearing. All voted aye. Motion carried. Chairman Doland closed the public hearing at 9:38 am. Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner to waive the 2nd and 3rd public hearings. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Doland stated the next agenda item is to go into potential closed session pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5.1 (i) to evaluate the professional competency of an individual whose appointment, hiring, performance, or discharge is being considered when necessary to prevent needless and irreparable injury to that individual's reputation pursuant to the individual's request for a closed session. There has not been a request for closed session. Bob Vokoun was present and stated he did not want a closed session. Paul Greufe stated that Bob Vokoun was voluntarily resigning his position as Zoning/Weed Commissioner effective May 1st. Bob stated he had been planning to resign due to the time the job was taking. Motion by Knebel to accept Bob Vokoun's resignation as Zoning Administrator and Weed Commissioner effective immediately but with pay until May 1st, seconded by Kupka. Discussion: Bob wanted the public to know that he isn't just leaving and has things that need to be completed. Knebel stated that they would get an interim commissioner to handle those issues. Greufe stated from a HR perspective it is a voluntary resignation. When any employee gives a resignation, the Board makes a decision whether to accept the resignation and then a conversation of the effective date. The Board could say we accept your voluntary resignation effective immediately and we won't pay you, but this Board is considering saying we will honor your two weeks' notice and pay you for that time. It is not a termination; it is accepting the voluntary resignation honoring the original request. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Public comments were heard from Bob Vokoun, Craig Sash, Karen Murty, Andrea Dvorak, Richard Arp, Bill Faircloth, and Berleen Wobeter. Public comments closed at 10:16 am.

Chairman Doland adjourned the meeting at 10:17 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.