

**Board of Supervisors Minutes**  
**April 28, 2025**

The Tama County Board of Supervisors met at 8:30 a.m. April 28, 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, Deputy Sheriff Killian 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, Kennan Seda, Michelle Schroeder, Richard Arp, and Karen Murty. Public comment time closed at 8:36 am.

Motion by Knebel, seconded by Hilmer to approve the minutes of the April 21<sup>st</sup> regular meeting. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Kupka to approve the minutes of the April 22<sup>nd</sup> special meeting. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board met with Ben Daleske, Tama County Engineer, to get a road projects report. Daleske also asked the Supervisors to approve temporary changes to the Local No. 886 United Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers of America (the Union representing the Secondary Road Employees, or UE for short) Union Agreement regarding summer hours. Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Turner to make the following temporary changes to the Bargaining Agreement:

1. Beginning Monday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025, the work week will be Monday thru Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
2. Overtime will be paid after ten hours.
3. A full day of leave taken by employees will consume 10 hours from the appropriate leave balance. A day of Funeral Leave or a Floating Holiday will still be considered as 8 hours. Other appropriate types of leave may be used in conjunction with Funeral Leave or Floating Holiday to complete the 10-hour day.
4. During the week of the July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday employees shall work three (3) days for ten (10) hours and will use two (2) hours of either vacation or compensatory time. Employees will also be allowed the option of receiving no pay for the two (2) hours.
5. Normal hours of Monday thru Friday 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. will resume on Monday September 1, 2025 (Labor Day).
6. The following classifications will be excluded from this change:
  - a. Construction Technicians

Discussion: These hours do not affect the office staff. They will still be in the office to answer phones on Fridays. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Daleske also had a utility permit for the board chairman to sign. The permit is for TIP Rural Electric Cooperative on M Ave. Motion by Kupka, seconded by Turner to approve the board chairman to sign the utility permit. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

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

Paul Greufe, HR Consultant, would like to change the dates of when health insurance becomes active for new hires and when employees leave Tama County employment. He would like to see the beginning effective date be the first of the following month when someone is hired. He would also like to have the board approve termination of health insurance date be the end of the month when an employee leaves employment. Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to approve new hire health insurance effective dates be the first of the month following when an employee is hired, and termination of health insurance date be the end of the month when an employee leaves Tama County employment. Discussion: Turner asked if this would cost the county anything extra. Greufe stated no. Doland stated these changes would be nice to attract new hires. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Supervisor Turner stated there are no new updates regarding power over the Ethernet for the new phone system. Turner motioned to table any action regarding power over the Ethernet, seconded by Knebel. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner to approve the following resolution to repeal Tama County Ordinance VI.5 (6.5) Wind Energy Conversion Assessment Ordinance. Discussion: Knebel stated she has been doing a lot of research and reaching out to legislation and other counties and there are two options. You either have the ordinance or you don't have the ordinance. If you have the ordinance, it is up to 30% max by year seven and the assessment value never changes. When a wind farm repowers, the assessment doesn't change but we would still get the 30%. Once the TIF is paid down in six years we will get that assessed value. The other method would be the utility replacement tax. The challenges with that are the Department of Revenue will not give you the exact formula and it is proprietary to what the wind company is actually generating is what gets paid on taxes and bypasses the local assessor and goes to the state who then distributes it. There are a lot of gaps in that. Knebel stated neither way is the best option. She would like to work with legislators to get a better option. She feels the board should not repeal the current ordinance that is in place. Turner stated he agreed, and the board needs to make sure the county is being well cared for. He doesn't feel anything should be subsidized. It isn't fair to the rest of the taxpayers. Doland stated he also did some research. If you go to a production tax the energy can be shipped out. That is a way to keep their cost down. In 2013 when wind energy became a little more popular if the ordinance didn't get repealed wind turbines couldn't cash flow themselves, so the other ordinance had to be adopted that we are under now. The federal government and now the state government has given tax credits to wind and solar companies, and it makes it to where we are losing money if we adopt this resolution. He would like to work with legislators to get back to the original formula to generate more money. At this time this resolution would not be advantageous for the county. Knebel stated after this had been placed on the agenda, she learned that Madison County did repeal this and after they repealed the legislation changed and made it so they wouldn't bring in a 100% of

the property taxes. When someone changes then it changes at the state. Madison County still has 10 years before it would go into effect.

### **RESOLUTION 4-28-2025A**

#### **A Resolution Repealing Tama County Ordinance VI.5 (6.5) Wind Energy Conversion Assessment Ordinance**

WHEREAS The Tama County Board of Supervisors is authorized, pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 427B.26 Section 1. Subsection b., to repeal the ordinance for special valuation of wind energy conversion property; and

WHEREAS, Tama County Ordinance VI.5 (6.5) provides for the special valuation of wind energy conversion property pursuant to Iowa Code Chapter 427B.26; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors has determined that the continuation of the special valuation provided under Section 4 of the ordinance ceases to be of benefit to the county;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Tama County, Iowa, that Tama County Ordinance VI.5 (6.5) Wind Energy Conversion Assessment Ordinance is hereby **REPEALED**.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that property specially valued under Section 4 prior to the repeal of the ordinance shall continue to be valued under Section 4 until the end of the 19th assessment year following the assessment year in which the property was first assessed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this resolution are hereby repealed.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if any section, provision, or other part of this resolution shall be judged invalid or unconstitutional, said adjudication shall not affect the validity of the resolution as a whole or any section, provision, or other part thereof not adjudged invalid or unconstitutional.

This resolution shall be effective after its final passage, approval, and publication as provided by law.

Roll Call Vote: Hilmer, no. Turner, no. Knebel, no. Doland, no. Kupka, no. Resolution **FAILED** this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2025. Mark Doland, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. Karen Rohrs, County Auditor.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to approve hiring Bill Fry to clean and mow a property located at 2170 C Avenue, Garwin, Parcel #05.33.402.001. This property is at the Garwin Lake and has been a nuisance property. The county will pay the cleaning/mowing bills and then send a bill to the property owner for payment. If the property owner does not pay the bills a lien will be placed on the property. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The EMS Advisory Council received notice that Shannon Zoffka is no longer able to serve on the council. The EMS Advisory Council stated Lori Johnson is willing to serve in Shannon's place. The EMS Advisory Council would also like to appoint Chris Harris as an alternate for the Tama Ambulance. Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Knebel to approve appointing Lori Johnson to the vacant position and Chris Harris as an alternate on the EMS Advisory Council. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The engineer submitted a hiring freeze exemption request for a bridge crew laborer. Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Kupka to approve hiring a bridge crew laborer. Discussion: The board would like the new hire to not overlap the current employee that is leaving. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Kupka, seconded by Turner to approve the claims for payment as presented in the amount of \$92,044.14. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Each supervisor gave an update regarding committee meetings they have attended and things happening in their districts.

Hilmer stated he didn't have any updates other than he is getting the usual phone calls about roads.

Knebel stated that four out of the five supervisors attended government day and that it was a good experience. She stated she was involved with IT interviews and will have additional interviews or second round interviews and that the IT position is still open.

Doland stated he has continued to work with the mental health region. Our judicial mental health advocate will continue to be reimbursed. Mental health medications and transportation will also continue to be reimbursed for the sheriff. He stated he has also met with our public health to see if mental health services could be expanded with them. He stated mental health needs to be a priority. If anyone from the public would like to get involved to please reach out to him.

Kupka stated he has also been receiving a lot of calls and have been checking them out, but other than that he doesn't have any new updates.

Turner stated he had attended the EMS meeting and that they continue to work out agreements between other counties that we share services with. He stated they have put a treasurer into place. He stated the juvenile detention board he serves on is also dealing with a lot of mental health issues.

Public comments were heard from Richard Arp and Karen Murty. Public comment time closed at 9:26 am.

The Board took a short recess at 9:26 am. At 9:30 am the Board came out of recess.

Doland stated the board will go into closed session for discussion and possible action per Iowa Code 21.5.1 (c) regarding litigation in Tammy Wise v Board of Supervisors LACV008973. Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Kupka to go into closed session per Iowa Code 21.5.1 (c). Roll call vote: Hilmer, aye. Turner, aye. Knebel, aye. Doland, aye. Kupka, aye. The Board went into closed session at 9:31 am. Those present were Supervisors: Curt Hilmer, David Turner, Heather Knebel, Mark Doland, Curt Kupka, and Karen Rohrs, Auditor. Amy Reasner and Holly Corkery from Lynch Dallas, PC joined the meeting by phone. Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Turner to go back into open session. The Board came out of closed session at 10:41am. Roll call vote: Hilmer, aye. Turner, aye. Knebel, aye. Doland, aye. Kupka, aye. Those present were Supervisors: Curt Hilmer, David Turner, Heather Knebel, Mark Doland, Curt Kupka, and Karen Rohrs, Auditor. No action was taken.

Public Comments: Public comments were heard from Jim Smith and Karen Murty. Public comment time closed at 10:52 am.

Chairman Doland adjourned the meeting at 10:52 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.