

**Board of Supervisors Minutes**  
**May 19, 2025**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

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

Public Comments: Public comments were heard from Karen Murty. Public comment time closed at 8:34 am.

Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Turner to approve the minutes of the May 12<sup>th</sup> regular meeting. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Knebel, seconded by Hilmer to approve the minutes of the May 13<sup>th</sup> special meeting. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Katherine Ollendieck was present to discuss the future of Economic Development for Tama County. The Board of Supervisors said they do not want to see Economic Development go away but would like to see a different approach to Economic Development and would like to maybe see a revamped 28E agreement. The next Economic Development meeting is scheduled for May 27<sup>th</sup>, but the date may change so that the Board of Supervisors can attend.

Darcy Maiden-Parks with Prairie Ridge Integrated Behavioral Healthcare was present to discuss services that they provide to Tama County. They were formerly Satuci and now have their own office in Tama with a clinician in it one day a week. They provide a variety of services. Some services they provide are outpatient mental health services, substance use treatment, gambling treatment, and prevention services. They also can provide medications. After the first of the year, they will have an ACT Team, which is a crisis team. They also have the ability to provide tele-health services. With Center Associates closing, Darcy is hoping to work with the county to bring more services to Tama County.

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

Mike Davis was present for William (Bill) Davis to ask the supervisors to reassign Tax Certificate # 17-0225. The current amount owed is \$10,895.00. \$2,157.00 of that is actual taxes, the rest is for interest, special assessments and miscellaneous fees. Mr. Davis would like to offer \$1,078.50, one half the amount of the taxes. He would like the supervisors to abate the other half of the taxes owed, interest, and miscellaneous fees. The City of Toledo has already approved waiving the special assessments. Motion by Turner, seconded by Hilmer to reassign Tax Sale Certificate #17-0225 to William (Bill) Davis for \$1,078.50. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Doland stated he had spoken with State Representative Dean Fisher and Fisher had stated the county needed to put something in place to protect them regarding community solar. Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve the following resolution. Discussion: Turner stated he had spoken to a representative from TED Renewables, and they had also mentioned natural gas. Turner asked them about nuclear and TED stated they hadn't thought about that yet. Turner believes we need this moratorium. Knebel stated there are a lot of technologies that are now in place that hadn't existed. She stated zoning is already working on this. It's a pause for zoning to look at it and get an ordinance in place.

### **RESOLUTION 5-19-2025A**

#### **Resolution Approving a Moratorium on Community Solar**

**WHEREAS**, Community Solar is several solar energy systems whose primary purpose is to harvest energy by transforming solar energy into another form of energy or transferring heat from a collector to another medium using mechanical, electrical, or chemical means; and

**WHEREAS**, the Tama County Board of Supervisors have been made aware during the Zoning Commission meetings this year about Community Solar, and the lack of an ordinance for Community Solar in Tama County's Zoning Ordinance Number VI.1 published July 7, 1998; and

**WHEREAS**, concerns have been raised by the public regarding Tama County's level of preparedness when it comes to the development of Community Solar within the county. There currently isn't an ordinance to regulate the setback distances, finances in place for decommissioning, permitting process, the agricultural impact any future Community Solar projects would have on the County's agricultural resources including whether such impact would run counter to Tama County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan adopted by the Tama County Board of Supervisors on May 5, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the County has an interest in protecting the County's infrastructure, natural resources and property rights through adequate setback provisions; and

**WHEREAS**, The Tama County Board of Supervisors wishes to enact a moratorium effective immediately upon passage on the development and construction of Community Solar, and the application for permits relating to such development and construction of Community Solar, for an indefinite amount of time, to allow Tama County to review and update the language as necessary in the Tama County Zoning Ordinance and to incorporate the information and concerns that have arisen through the public meetings held by the Zoning Commission, relating to such matters;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, be it resolved by the Board of Supervisors of Tama County, Iowa, that a moratorium on the development and construction of Community Solar, and the application for permits relating to such development and construction of Community Solar effective immediately upon passage is approved indefinitely.

Roll Call Vote: Hilmer, aye. Turner, aye. Knebel, aye. Doland, aye. Resolution passed and adopted this 19th day of May, 2025. Mark Doland, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. Karen Rohrs, County Auditor.

Motion by Knebel, seconded by Hilmer to move next week's meeting to **Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am** due to the Memorial Day holiday. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Due to Supervisor Turner traveling for the next 3 weeks, other board members will need to cover his committee meetings. Motion by Doland, seconded by Knebel to temporarily reassign

Supervisor Turner's Central Iowa Detention and EMA committees to Supervisor Doland and Economic Development committee to Supervisor Hilmer. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Elizabeth Ledvina, Tama County VA Director, and Darrel Niedermann, VA Commissioner, was present to discuss her FY26 budget with the Board of Supervisors. She stated due to the board decreasing her salary fund line there will not be enough in the VA budget to cover her part-time wages along with the new VA Director's wages and her commissioner's wages in the new fiscal year. Ledvina stated the new VA Director will not be certified before she retires on July 1<sup>st</sup>. She needs to continue as part-time after July 1<sup>st</sup> to help cover since he won't be certified. The board asked if another county could help cover. Ledvina stated that would be a burden to other counties. She stated she currently helps other counties out. The board stated they never intended to not pay the VA commissioners. This will be revisited to see if a budget amendment needs to be done after the new fiscal year begins.

Sheriff Schmidt stated new Deputy Sheriff Andrew Batcheller comes to us from the Belle Plaine Police Department. Deputy Batcheller will be a rural deputy with his official start date being today, May 19<sup>th</sup>. Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Turner to approve appointing the new Deputy Sheriff Andrew Batcheller to the sheriff's department. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Sheriff Schmidt administered the oath of office to Deputy Batcheller.

Supervisor Turner introduced the new IT Director, Mike Jackley, to the board and public. Turner stated Jackley interviewed well and is happy that he said yes to the position. Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to appoint Michael Jackley to the IT Director position. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Supervisor Turner stated now that an IT Director has been hired, Jackley will now be taking over the power over Ethernet project.

There were no hiring freeze exemptions to act on.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Hilmer to approve the claims for payment as presented in the amount of \$240,718.55. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Public comments were heard from Karen Murty, Jim Smith, and Richard Arp. Public comment time closed at 10:14 am.

Chairman Doland adjourned the meeting at 10:15 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.