

**Board of Supervisors Minutes
April 1, 2024**

The Tama County Board of Supervisors met at 8:30 a.m. April 1, 2024. Present: 1st District Supervisor, Curt Hilmer; 2nd District Supervisor, Bill Faircloth and 3rd District Supervisor, Dan Anderson.

At 8:30 the Board held a public hearing regarding the proposed property tax levies that can be levied for FY25 property taxes. The Board's intention is to keep the levy rate asked close to the same for the previous fiscal year. The proposed rates are 7.58951 for urban and 11.33569 for rural. These are both increases from last year due to increased costs including employees and insurance, an increase in number of supervisors and building up fund reserves. Chairman Hilmer opened the hearing up to public comments. Public comments: There were comments against this including the need to lower taxes, not raise them, spending less money and the need for snow removal in the winter so residents can get home and to work. At 8:40 Chairman Hilmer closed the public hearing. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Faircloth to approve the proposed property tax levies for FY25. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Hilmer adjourned the meeting at 8:44 a.m.

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8:30 – 9:15 Employee/Department Head Time

9:15 – 9:30 Meeting called to order. Present: Supervisors Hilmer, Faircloth, Anderson. Tama County Auditor Laura Kopsa, Assistant Auditor Karen Rohrs, members of the public. Deputy Sheriff Killian was also present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Public Comment on Agenda Items: There was much discussion on the agenda item regarding going from five supervisors back to three. The Supervisors have been approached by members of the public to put this on the ballot again. On January 1st there will be five members of the Board due to a public measure placed on the ballot last November. Randy Brodigan called in and stated that he would like it to stand as five per the voters wishes at the last election. Maybe after some time the issue can be looked at again. David Turner, resident and candidate for supervisor shared Iowa Code 331.204 regarding this issue and believes the language in it only allows for a supervisor board of five to petition to go down to three. He would like to wait two years to propose a change if wanted. He also felt this was discussed in violation of the Sunshine law with the current supervisors and other county employees talking about this before it was on the agenda. Heather Knebel, also a candidate for supervisor, stated in 2022 there was an overwhelming result in going from three to five. She believes five members will allow for more diversity and allow for more time to research items that come before the supervisors. She has contacted the Secretary of State to see if this is allowed. Robert Vokoun, supervisor candidate stated if you feel there has been a violation, report it to the State and have them look into it. He has been told by residents that they signed the petition in 2022 to get people to leave them alone. We need to get things worked out here. This could be petitioned again. There will still be five members January 1st for two years. Richard Arp asked who made the decision to bring this topic to a meeting. The supervisors stated that last week after the

meeting they discussed this with the public still here. I have heard there is a petition out there but they can't get the 900 signatures to present to you. Our petition had over one thousand signatures.

9:30 Motion by Anderson, seconded by Faircloth to approve the minutes of the March 25th regular meeting. All voted aye. Motion carried

The Board met with Ben Daleske, Tama County Engineer, to get a road projects report. He asked the Supervisors to sign two twin box culvert contracts. Motion by Faircloth, seconded by Anderson to sign contracts BROS-CO86(108)- -8J-86 and BROS-CO86(111)- -8J86 for twin box culverts. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Members of the Board have been approached by Tama County citizens wanting the supervisor districts to return to a three-supervisor district county. Per Iowa Code 331.204 the board may by resolution submit to the registered voters at a general election a proposition to reduce the number of supervisors to three. Chairman Hilmer stated this came up last Monday after the regular meeting ended. I agreed with it as it will save money in salaries and insurance. Three members have been successful in the past. I spoke with House of Representatives member Derek Wolf. I feel after talking to him that we can do this. It comes down to money. I have talked to residents and there is a petition out there for this. This took two years away from my four years I was elected to and will again if we do this. Maybe we need to wait a little on this and check with Secretary of State and County Attorney. My job is to listen to the people that elected me. Maybe we do need to wait until we get a petition. I think we should wait a little on this. I will probably vote no. Supervisor Faircloth stated that he is for this due to the cost to the county. Tama County did have a five member board years ago and it went to three to save money. It is our job to save money for the taxpayers. We have contacted the State and they say it can be done. Supervisor Anderson stated that we just had a public hearing about taxes this morning. I think three people can handle it. If you take the three salaries and divide it by five I might be for it. Taxes are high, including mine. I am also a county taxpayer. We are here to watch out for the county. Faircloth stated he has received several phone calls for staying at three. Anderson said I have talked to people who didn't understand the question on the ballot. David Turner stated it is in the code that you can't divide the salaries. Motion by Faircloth, seconded by Anderson to table this issue until more information is gathered.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Faircloth to set the public hearing for the FY25 County Budget for Monday April 29th at 10 am in the Supervisors meeting room. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Faircloth to approve the claims for payment as presented. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Chairman Hilmer adjourned the meeting at 10:12 a.m