

Board of Supervisors Minutes
February 2, 2026

The Tama County Board of Supervisors met at 8:30 a.m. February 2, 2026. 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, and members of the public.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Doland stated a change to the agenda regarding discussion/action on Resolution 2-2-2026A needed to be made to make that item the first thing the Board acted on after public comments. Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to approve the agenda with that change. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: Public comments were heard from Karen Murty. Public comment time closed at 8:31 am.

Supervisor Doland discussed adding job duties to the current mental health advocate's position. This position will now be split 75% as mental health advocate and 25% law enforcement liaison, and the position will be reimbursed 75% by the state of Iowa and 25% by the Tama County Opioid Fund. Motion by Turner, seconded by Knebel to approve the following resolution. Discussion: It was discussed how it is a good way to fund the position and that it will be a good thing for the county.

RESOLUTION 2-2-2026A

A Resolution Establishing the Position of Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Advocate / Law Enforcement Liaison

WHEREAS, counties across Iowa are experiencing increased demand for coordinated responses to mental health and substance use disorder (SUD) crises; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the need for improved continuity of care for individuals who interact with the criminal justice system and require behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Code requires counties to provide Mental Health Advocate services for individuals under involuntary commitment; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff's Office is uniquely positioned to oversee crisis response, jail coordination, and interagency communication related to behavioral health needs; and

WHEREAS, combining the statutory duties of a Mental Health Advocate with the operational responsibilities of a Law Enforcement Liaison will enhance public safety, improve service delivery, and maximize county resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Tama County, Iowa, that:

1. The County hereby establishes the position of Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Advocate / Law Enforcement Liaison.
2. The position shall be allocated as 75% Mental Health & SUD Advocate and 25% Law Enforcement Liaison.
3. The position shall perform all duties required under current Iowa Code for Mental Health Advocates.

4. The position shall operate under the oversight and administrative supervision of the Sheriff.
5. The Law Enforcement Liaison duties shall include responding to crisis calls at the request of the Sheriff's Office, conducting post-crisis follow-ups, providing soft hand-offs to mental health and SUD services, and coordinating daily with jail staff to assess and plan for post-release care.
6. Funding shall be commensurate with the position breakdown percentage. 75% funding shall be funded through the Tama County General Fund and shall be reimbursed by the state of Iowa. 25% funding shall be made through Tama County Opioid Fund.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

Roll Call Vote: Hilmer, aye. Turner, aye. Knebel, aye. Doland, aye. Kupka, aye. Resolution passed and adopted this 2nd day of February, 2026. Mark Doland, Chairman, Board of Supervisors. Karen Rohrs, County Auditor.

The Board met with Ben Daleske, Tama County Engineer, to get a road projects report. Daleske presented the County Five Year Program (CFYP) 2027 to the Board to discuss. The Board asked for revisions to be made to the CFYP 2027. Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Kupka to accept the County Five Year Program (CFYP) 2027 with the revisions. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Daleske stated that the foreman did not have an opportunity to go out and assess the ditch for the ITC Midwest LLC utility permit. Motion by Kupka, seconded by Turner to postpone approving the utility permit. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Knebel, seconded by Hilmer to approve the minutes of the January 26th regular meeting and January 26th special canvass meeting. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Turner to approve the Veteran Affairs Quarterly Report. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The Auditor informed the Board that no payment has been received for cleanup performed at the Union Grove Lake nuisance property. Motion by Knebel, seconded by Turner, to approve a request to certify a lien against 2170 C Avenue, Garwin, Parcel #05.33.402.001. The cost of the mowing and cleanup, \$1,000.00, will be placed as a lien on the property. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Supervisor Turner informed the Board that interviews had been held for the IT Network Engineer position and that an offer had been made and accepted to Cory Reynolds with his starting pay at \$50,000.00. Cory will start on February 16, 2026. Motion by Turner, seconded by Hilmer to approve the hire of Cory Reynolds as the Tama County IT Network Engineer. Discussion: It was stated that it is good to have someone in house to help save money with outside vendors. All voted aye. Motion carried.

Motion by Turner, seconded by Kupka to approve the claims for payment as presented in the amount of \$53,311.97. Discussion: None. All voted aye. Motion carried.

At 9:00 am the Board opened the sealed bids for the county pasture and cropland. Two bids had been received, one for the pastureland and one for the cropland. Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Knebel to approve accepting the bid from Annette Kotouc in the amount of \$1,900.00 for the county pasture and the bid from Rick Hopper in the amount of \$37,000 for the county cropland.

Discussion: It was discussed that these current bids are for a one-year lease as the county is considering selling the county land and that it would be better to offer a two year lease next year. All voted aye. Motion carried.

The Board held a discussion with Wes Ray, Tama County Assessor, regarding a tax abatement proposal Ben Schemmel had presented to the Board last May during public comment time. Hilmer stated he would have Mr. Schemmel get together with the county assessor and the new economic development director to come up with a more detailed proposal to bring back to the Board. No action was taken.

Public Comments: Public comments were heard from Karen Murty. Public comment time closed at 9:27 am.

New Business:

Turner stated the phone project is wrapping up and is working on the cleanup side of the project. Kupka stated he has been working with secondary roads on their hourly pay scales and have been looking at incentives. Knebel stated she had reached out to Grundy County regarding sharing a county engineer.

Motion by Hilmer, seconded by Turner to adjourn the meeting. All voted aye. Motion carried. Chairman Doland adjourned the meeting at 9:40 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.