

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MITCHELL COUNTY, IOWA

Friday, January 2, 2026

The Board of Supervisors convened at 8:30 a.m. with all members present. Also, present were Brandon Halsne, and Amanda Baer. The meeting was made available by video via "Go to Meeting". Motion by Marzen, second by Hendrickson to approve the agenda. All voted aye.

Motion by Wherry, second by Frein to approve the minutes of the December 22nd & December 23rd meetings. Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by Hartogh, second by Wherry to approve Frein as Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors. Roll call vote: all voted aye. Motion by Hendrickson, second by Wherry to approve Marzen as Vice-Chair of the Board of Supervisors. Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by Hartogh, second by Marzen to set the following office days for Supervisors to be available in the Courthouse – Wherry on Monday's, Hendrickson on Tuesday's, Hartogh on Wednesday's, Frein on Thursday's, and Marzen on Friday's. Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by Hendrickson, second by Hartogh to approve the following committee and board appointments: Animal-Feeding Operation Complain Investigations – Frein District 5, Wherry District 1, Hartogh District 2, Marzen District 3, and Hendrickson District 4; Area Agency on Aging County Advisory Committee – Frein with Hendrickson as alternate; Assessor's Conference Board – Frein, Wherry, Hartogh, Mayer, and Hendrickson; Board of Health – Marzen with Hartogh as alternate; Board of Supervisors Appointee to NIACOG Board – Jenny Backer as the non-elected person and VACANT as Mitchell County's City appointee; Central Iowa Detention – Marzen with Hartogh as alternate; County Emergency Management Commission – Hartogh with Wherry as alternate; County Social Services 28E Governing Board – Hendrickson with Marzen as alternate; E911 Board – Hartogh with Wherry as alternate; FMC DECAT Governance Board – Frein with Hendrickson as alternate; FMC – ECI – Frein with Hendrickson as alternate; FMC Landfill – Hartogh with Wherry as alternate; Heartland Insurance Rick Pool Trustee – Hendrickson with Marzen as alternate; Local Elected Officials Board – Hendrickson with Marzen as alternate; Mitchell County Conservation Board – Marzen with Hartogh as alternate; Mitchell County Economic Development Commission – Frein with Hendrickson as alternate; Mitchell County Fair Board – Frein with Hendrickson as alternate; Mitchell County Wellness – Hendrickson with Marzen as alternate; NIACOG Board – Wherry with Frein as alternate; NIACOG commission – Hartogh with Wherry as alternate; NIACOG Revolving Loan Committee – Jenny Backer; North Central Regional Emergency Response Commission – Hartogh with Wherry as alternate; North Iowa Community Action Organization – Joel Voaklander & Bill Carlson; North Iowa Housing Trust Fund – Trevor Olson; North Iowa Juvenile Detention Services – Wherry with Frein as alternate; North Iowa Long Term Disaster Recovery Committee – Marzen with Hartogh as alternate; North Iowa Port Authority – Wherry with Frein as alternate; North Iowa Regional Housing Authority – Jenny Backer; Northeast Iowa Local Workforce Development – Hendrickson with Marzen as alternate; REAP Committee – Wherry with Frein as alternate; Safety Committee – Hartogh and Hendrickson; Second Judicial District Department of Correctional Services – Wherry with Frein as alternate; Shell Rock Watershed – Hendrickson with Marzen as alternate; Sister City – Shannon Paulus; Substance Abuse Coalition Board – Marzen with Hartogh as alternate; T-21 (Region 2 Policy Board) – Wherry with Frein as alternate; Upper Cedar Watershed – Wherry with Frein as alternate; Upper Wapsi Watershed – Hartogh with Wherry as alternate; Valent BioSciences – Frein with Hendrickson as alternate. Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by Hartogh, second by Wherry to authorize the County Auditor to issue warrants in payment of all county payroll, Iowa Public Employee's Retirement, Social Security, Health Insurance and approved claims. Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by Marzen, second by Wherry to designate St. Ansgar Enterprise Journal and the Osage Oracle as the official Newspapers for Mitchell County for 2026 and to appoint Enterprise Media Group, Publisher of the Enterprise Journal, as an agent to serve notice of expiration of Right of Redemption and to be the legal publication when one publication is required. Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by Wherry, second by Marzen to designate Rich Brumm, Mitchell County Engineer, to be authorized and empowered on behalf of the Board of Supervisors to execute the certification of completion of work and final acceptance thereof in accordance with plans and specifications, therefore in connection with all Farm to Market Construction projects in the County. Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by Marzen, second by Hendrickson to designate maximum rates that are allowed to be reimbursed to County Employees for meeting expenses: room – actual reasonable cost, a total per day of meals not to exceed \$30.00; and mileage reimbursement at the Feder Rate (\$0.725 per mile). Individual meals may exceed the amount allowed if the price included meeting room expenses and shall be so indicated on the receipt. No meals will be reimbursed without a receipt. Appointments of Supervisors to various boards shall constitute approval for necessary expenses at those board meetings incurred throughout the calendar year 2026. County Supervisors using a personal cell phone to conduct county business may receive a monthly stipend of \$30.00 for partial monthly billing costs. Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by Hendrickson, second by Wherry to appoint Dr. Kelly Ross the Mitchell County Medical Examiner for 2026 with Dr. Jeff Nasstrom, Dr. Benson Hargens, and Dr. Megan Peterson as Deputies, and Kevin Crowe and Jessica Clayton as MEI's with the coroner's fee to be \$100.00 plus mileage at the current county rate. Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by Wherry, second by Hartogh to provide the following assurances to the Iowa Department of Transportation according to provisions of the 1970 Uniform Relocation Assistance and Land Acquisition Policies Act:

1. It is the policy of Mitchell County to acquire right-of-way in accordance with Title III of said 1970 Act as amended by the Title IV, and applicable state laws.

2. It is the policy of Mitchell County to provide relocation assistance benefits in accordance with Title II of said 1970 Act as amended by Title IV, and applicable State Laws.

3. Mitchell County will contact the Iowa Department of Transportation for assistance as needed to assure compliance with applicable laws which are summarized in the instructions entitled "uniform Manual, Real Property Acquisition and Relocations Assistance." Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by Marzen, second by Hendrickson to establish a rate of 1.9 times the assessed valuation in acquisition of Right of Way for local road projects and damages for fence removal at the rate of \$9,00 per rod for woven fence and \$7,00 per rod for barbed wire play \$150 per acre crop damage allowance. Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by Wherry, second by Hartogh to approve the FY27 Mitchell County dues to the following organizations: NIACOG dues @ \$1.05/capita (rural only) \$4,663.05, Region 2 Transit assessment @ \$2.27/capita \$23,982.55, and NCRERC dues @ \$0.82/capita \$8,663.30 Roll call: all voted aye.

Motion by **Hendrickson, second by Marzen** to appoint to the Mitchell County Land Compensation Commission for 2026 (Iowa Code 6B.4) the following:

Licensed Real Estate Brokers: Dale Blakestad, Lisa Pollard, Clarence Kruse, Bob Muller, Kevin Kolbet, Phil Kolbet, Janean Kolbet

Owner-Operator of Agricultural Property: Paul Groth, Russ Bissen, Deanna Eastman, Dean Theis, Rodney Kunz, Pete Thome, Karl Theis

Owner of City or Town Property: Ton Heard, Richard Brown, Jerry Dunlay, L. Dean Pohren, Kelvin Palsic, Gordon Anderson

Persons having Knowledge of Property Values: Scott Brandau, Rodney Patterson, Jake Koenigs, Bill Denner, Dean Wright, Tim Schulz

County Attorney Murphy was not available.

County Sheriff Beaver was not available.

Amanda Baer will be at a conference next Tuesday through Thursday. Auditor Foster asked if the BOS was good with the EJ using the emblem on our website, and the board was fine with that.

County Engineer Rich Brumm was not available.

Supervisor Frein asked about how to handle meetings with multiple people from the public wanting to speak on one topic. It was suggested the public use public comments if not on the agenda but not taking advantage of that agenda item. There was discussion on having speakers present versus online, but there are individuals that take time to be present online for the whole meeting. The public should not use 'tagging' to present at a meeting. Supervisor Marzen suggested having the chair sit in the middle of the board, as people seem to look straight forward and focus on that spot.

Motion by Marzen, second by Hartogh to accept MOU for Iowa Primary Care Association. Roll call vote: all voted aye.

Items of Note: Wherry, Hartogh, Marzen, Hendrickson, and Frein had nothing to report. There was discussion on having a board meeting next Tuesday or not, and the board had no new business so there will not be a meeting on January 6th.

Frein adjourned the meeting at 9:28 a.m.

Rachel Foster – Mitchell County Auditor

Todd Frein – Chair Board of Supervisors