

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MITCHELL COUNTY, IOWA

Tuesday, August 4, 2026

The Board of Supervisors convened at 8:30 a.m. with all members present. Also present were Keith Horgen, Tom Rolfes, Ashlie Sveum, Aaron Murphy, Justin Trees, Rich Brumm, Brandon Halsne, Jennifer Backer, Pat Mackin, Steve Eastman and Deb Freeman. The meeting was made available by video via "Go to Meeting". Motion by Hartogh, second by Hendrickson to approve the agenda. All voted aye.

Motion by Hartogh, second by Wherry to approve the minutes of the July 28st meeting. Roll call: All voted aye.

County Attorney Murphy had nothing to discuss.

County Sheriff Trees forwarded the supervisors the July jail report. Nothing new to report.

Supervisor Frein discussed various emails received regarding Sanitation and Planning & Zoning questions to make sure they were being followed up on. Supervisor Marzen stated she has responded to the emails regarding Planning & Zoning and Home Health is responding to Sanitation emails. Supervisor Marzen stated the Board of Health signed a one year contract with S&H Environmental Services out of Manly for auditing and inspecting septic systems. Home Health employees will handle all other environmental health needs.

County Engineer Rich Brumm said they will begin working sometime this fall on pavement preservation projects from Stacyville to McIntire. He received a quote for \$342,000.00. Rich also stated they may have to push back the box culvert project from Highway 218 to Stacyville.

The chair opened the public hearing for Ordinance No. 65 at 9:00 a.m. Supervisors Hendrickson and Marzen received public comments, and there was no discussion amongst the board. Deb Freeman asked how many acres of heavy industrial Mitchell County has. Supervisor Marzen stated she could find out for her. The chair closed the public hearing at 9:06 a.m.

Motion by Marzen, second by Hendrickson to approve Resolution #1378-26 waiving the first and second readings of Ordinance No. 65. County Attorney Murphy shared Iowa Code relating to multiple readings being able to be waived if resolution passes. Supervisor Wherry stated if there is controversy during meetings then you don't waive readings, and if there is not controversy, then waive readings. Roll call vote: All voted aye.

Motion by Marzen, second by Hendrickson to approve Resolution #1379-26 approving Ordinance No. 65. Supervisor Wherry stated it will be in effect upon publication. Roll call vote: All voted aye.

Motion by Hartogh, second by Wherry to approve Clerk of Court Report for June in the amount of \$1,185.73. Roll call vote: All voted aye.

IT Director Brandon Halsne had further discussion with vendors regarding the server upgrade. He would like to use up to \$100,000.00 from the sub-project fund for this project and it would get through the next five years. Motion by Wherry, second by Marzen to approve the use of the sub-project fund and not to exceed \$100,000.00. Roll call vote: All voted aye.

Supervisor Marzen shared the interview committee met with candidates and sent an offer to applicant Paige Martin for 20 hours per week. Paige accepted and if approved will start Wednesday, August 5. Supervisor Wherry asked if there was a background check done. Supervisor Marzen said no but would talk with the Sheriff's Department after the meeting to complete it. There was discussion regarding mileage for the new employee or whether they will use the County's Sanitation/Planning & Zoning Tahoe. The new employee will use the Tahoe if available, otherwise will use her personal vehicle and receive mileage compensation. Motion by Marzen, second by Wherry to approve hiring Paige Martin as Planning & Zoning Administrator. Roll call vote: All voted aye.

Wherry reported on NIACOG, Hendrickson and Marzen reported on Planning & Zoning interviews. Hartogh and Frein had nothing to report.

Received manure management plan updates from Groth Farms #62390, Riceville Site #70462, Byrnes Site #69080, Anderson Finisher Farm #67349, Blong North Finisher Farm #63868, and Junction South #58519.

Public comment: Deb Freeman encouraged the board to extend the moratorium on data centers and presented the board with a fact sheet. Supervisor Marzen stated John Robbins at NIACOG is working on completing the final draft of the solar ordinance and will begin working on the data center ordinance.

Frein adjourned the meeting at 9:11 a.m.

Lindsay Uhlenhopp – Mitchell County Deputy Auditor

Todd Frein – Chair Board of Supervisors