

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MITCHELL COUNTY, IOWA

Tuesday, November 18, 2025

The Board of Supervisors convened at 8:30 a.m. with all members present. The meeting was made available by video via "Go to Meeting". Also present were Tom Rolfes, Greg Beaver, Brandon Halsne, Rich Brumm, Steve Strasheim, Paul Halbach, Alicia Bissen, Laura Huisman, Keith Horgen, Mike Miner, Pat Huebsch, Deb Freeman, Jessa Ketelsen, Jenny Backer, and Jody Applegate. Motion by Wherry, second by Hendrickson to approve the agenda. All voted aye.

Motion by Marzen, second by Hendrickson to approve the minutes of the November 12th & November 14th meetings. Roll call vote: all voted aye.

County Attorney Murphy was not available.

County Sheriff Beaver presented his fees collected for October in the amount of \$6,675.73. Motion by Hendrickson, second by Frein to approve Sheriff Report for October. Roll call vote: all voted aye. Beaver said dispatch is torn apart right now while they are updating equipment. Discussion on how if an energy assessment should be done and who will pay for it. Supervisor Hartogh suggested continuing to have conversation and adding it to the agenda later.

Supervisor Hartogh introduced Brandon Halsne as the new IT Director. Mike Miner provided an update after their Conservation Board meeting last week. Miner stated Elaine Govern provided an update on the bike trail. Payment four has been made on the water trail project. The Conservation Board voted to submit an objection to the IUC regarding the potential pipeline that could potentially be routed through Nelson Paradise Wildlife Area. Conservation is completing their bow range.

County Engineer Rich Brumm provided an update on the bridge south of McIntire. Brumm will be working on closing out some projects and should have the contract for the bridge inspection soon. Costs will be higher as this is the ten-year inspection. Engineer Brumm said the shoulders on Orchard Road and River Road are build up and they will review next spring.

Laura Huisman provided a Home Health update. Both expenses and revenues look good. Huisman plans to update the general assistance policy to have more clear-cut guidelines. Home Health was awarded a Shop on State grant for \$2,000 to update the conference room. Huisman is hoping to rehome the smart board that was in the conference room. Iowa Primary Care Association is going to have a system navigator at the Public Health building. Huisman went over census numbers, and noted November is Home Health Month. Jessa Ketelsen provided a Public Health Update. Ketelsen discussed the recent food pantry with a local church and need families have. There is also a backpack program with the school. The Public Health realignment is at a pause. Ketelsen gave the key points affecting them from the Iowa DOGE report. Ketelsen provided clinic updates, completed school audits and will be working on daycare audits.

Jessa Ketelsen went over the Too Good for Drugs curriculum. Motion by Marzen, second by Wherry to approve the use of Opioid Funds for Too Good for Drugs Curriculum up to \$2,500. Roll call vote: all voted aye.

The chair opened the public hearing on Proposal to enter into Urban Renewal Loan Agreement #1 at 8:46 a.m. Wherry, Hartogh and Frein received no comments. Marzen received questions on the total number for the Conservation project changing and wants to reduce the cost by \$65,000 to use previous TIF dollars. Other comments were not using money on infrastructure. Hendrickson received calls about camping being down and the high cost. Auditor Foster received no comments and stated the public notice was published legally. Deb Freeman stated the Conservation ground is close to the proposed pipeline and how this economic development project could potentially be affected. Mike Miner said the camping numbers are up, but the DNR budget has been cut by the state. The chair closed the public hearing at 8:51 a.m.

The chair opened the public hearing on Proposal to enter into Urban Renewal Loan Agreement #2 at 8:51 a.m. Wherry, Hartogh, Hendrickson, and Frein received no comments. Marzen received several calls in support of the Daycare Project. Auditor Foster received no comments and stated the public notice was published legally. The chair closed the public hearing at 8:52 a.m.

The chair opened the public hearing on Proposal to enter into Urban Renewal Loan Agreement #3 at 8:52 a.m. Wherry, Hartogh, and Frein received no comments. Marzen received comments about providing funds without the project getting off the ground and that there are four non-profit nursing homes in the County. Hendrickson had a few comments against this project. Auditor Foster received no comments and stated the public notice was published legally. The chair closed the public hearing at 8:53. a.m.

The chair opened the public hearing on Proposal to enter into Urban Renewal Loan Agreement #4 at 8:54 a.m. Wherry, Hartogh, and Frein received no comments. Marzen had comments that it felt like this was a good investment. Hendrickson had three people in favor of this project. Auditor Foster received no comments and stated the public notice was published legally. The chair closed the public hearing at 8:55 a.m.

The chair opened the public hearing on Proposal to enter into Urban Renewal Loan Agreement #5 at 8:56 a.m. Wherry, and Hartogh received no comments. Marzen received comments that \$770,000 was a large amount but supported the Historical Society. Hendrickson received three comments again this project at this cost. Frein received calls in favor of the project. Auditor Foster received no comments and stated the public notice was published legally. The chair closed the public hearing at 8:57 a.m.

Motion by Wherry, second by Frein to approve Resolution #1332-25 taking additional action on proposal to enter into General Obligation Urban Renewal Loan Agreements, combining Loan Agreements and authorizing the use of preliminary official statement in connection therewith. Roll call vote: Wherry, Frein, Hartogh aye, Marzen, Hendrickson nay.

Motion by Marzen, second by Hendrickson to approve Resolution #1333-25 Certification of Multi-Jurisdiction Election Results, City-School Election. Roll call vote: all voted aye.

Marzen reported on Conservation, Board of Health, and toured Manchester simple mining. Wherry, Hartogh, Hendrickson, and Frein had nothing to report. There were no public comments. The board took a recess at 9:20 a.m. until Elderbridge is available.

The board returned from recess at 10:22 a.m.

Jody Applegate with Elderbridge went over their annual report. St. Ansgar is down to three days a week, they were having a hard time finding a cook. Elderbridge is asking \$3.30 per senior, with 3,089 people, for a total ask of \$10,194.

Hartogh adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.