

**March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:06 am by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present at the meeting were Heath Hansen, Kent Grabill, Don Mosinski, Lisa Frederiksen, Chassity Musfeldt, Gareth Stoffer, Miranda Bills, Mitch Rydl, Todd Johnson, Tim Irlmeier, Chris Christensen, Tom Muhr, Dan Madsen, Randy Dreher, Paul Nielsen, Brian Klocke, Robert Nielsen, and Bruce Haag- phone.

Motion- Grabill Second-Mosinski to approve the agenda. Vote-all in favor. ETI/ Justin Veik did not meet last week as planned. Chairman Hansen stated they are planning to come this week but was unsure of the date/time. Miranda Bills presented the Recorder's FY26 budget with the expenses and revenues. She explained that there has not been an increase in the recording fees charged since 1984. There are a few bills introduced to potentially raise them in the future. Public comment was opened at 9:15 am. No comments were made. Chairman Hansen said he has been talking with the Sheriff and Secondary Roads to try to find ways to lower their budgets.

Many concerned citizens met with Supervisors at 9:30 am. Those included were Tim Irlmeier, Chris Christensen, Tom Muhr, Dan Madsen, Randy Dreher, Paul Nielsen, Brian Klocke, and Robert Nielsen. Chairman Hansen explained that Supervisors are working with Engineer Rydl to try to lower the Secondary Road's budget. There had been many concerns on the FY26 proposed raises, but Supervisors felt that the 2.5% increase and \$1/hour Union raises are fair. Christensen asked if there was a cap on how much they can raise taxes. Auditor Frederiksen explained how the formula is calculated based on valuations. The State regulates the cap on the General Basic account. The HF718 mailing that all taxpayers received states the reasonings for increases and shows the proposed rates. Muhr voiced concerns that the County is continuously spending more, and in return putting the County in further debt. He proposed that the County needs to find the waste in budget to cut down on those areas. One example discussed was the Courthouse HVAC project. Many voiced concerns that the County Attorney is not pursuing the ongoing HVAC issues. Supervisors were asked who dictates the Elected Officials to hold them accountable in their positions. It was explained that each elected official holds themselves accountable, as they are elected by the public. Closed/Exempt sessions were discussed. Chairman Hansen said the closed/exempt sessions are requested by the party they are pertaining to. Examples of exempt sessions include Union Negotiations, but actions can only be taken in Public Meetings. Public Projects going excessively over budget were a concern. The HVAC project was project was one example of a concern that has exceeded the original amount. Auditor Frederiksen stated that she specifically had asked if they could bid the project out at three levels to compare the costs at what the County budget could manage, but was told no. The HVAC project is currently \$800,000+ over the original amount. The concerned taxpayers inquired about the excess and why there was no explanation able to be given for that amount. Chairman Hansen discussed baseline Government and how the County is striving to not start any more major projects in order to start paying down the debts. Several concerned taxpayers asked Supervisors if they would start saying no to departments wanting to make large purchases/equipment. Motor grader purchases were discussed and the miles that they cover. They are trying to keep them on a rotation of being purchased to eliminate them all breaking down/wearing down at the same time. Hansen stated that the Sheriff/Secondary Road's Departments are trying to extend the vehicle life to an additional year on all to help eliminate purchases. Dreher asked to have the TIF funds explained. Auditor Frederiksen explained that the TIF funds can only be used for certain things, and they must qualify. Most of those are rural based. The HVAC expenses for the building were not a qualifying item for the TIF funds. Taxpayers stated that they want the County to run efficiently, and understand there are expenses, but stressed that the County needs to stop excess spending/raising taxes in order to get ahead. Littlefield Park was discussed by the concerned taxpayers. They felt there was a lot of unnecessary spending in that department and that another full-time employee is not needed. The new cabins and the revenues that they will potentially bring in verse expenses were one topic that they wanted explanations on. Supervisors will be meeting with Conservation within the next couple weeks to discuss these concerns and look at budget cuts. Taxpayers proposed the idea to Engineer Rydl of doing a cost analysis to contract out some of the roadwork to eliminate the costs of the equipment and labor. Rydl said it is something he can research. Rydl read notes from a past meeting with concerned taxpayers. There were concerns on why the County has an Assistant Engineer. Rydl explained the job duties of that position.

Secondary Roads Construction & Maintenance updates were given. They will be removing a bridge in Oakfield 16 and putting in a culvert. Hungry Canyons funds will be used to pay for some of this. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve the Hungry Canyons agreement. Vote-all in favor. Rydl discussed potential budget cuts by reducing the rural supplemental levy. No decisions were made. TIF Bonds on upcoming projects were discussed. Rydl stated that they had two recent resignations at Secondary Roads. He will be reaching out to the HR Attorney regarding exit interviews.

Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to accept/file the Clerk of Court's Fees Collected in February 2025. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve the meeting minutes of 3-11-25. Vote-all in favor. Conservation Director Bruce Haag was called to set up a budget meeting for FY26. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve claims as submitted by various departments to be paid in the amount of \$35,059.02 and published in a separate publication at the end of the month. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to accept/file the Auditor month end reports for February 2025. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to accept/file Supervisor's month end reports for February 2025. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Grabill Second Mosinski to approve Supervisor's FY26 wages to have a zero percent increase. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Grabill Second- Mosinski to approve Resolution 2025-14 for the Supervisor's FY26 wages as follows. Vote-all in favor.

**Resolution 2025-14**

**WHEREAS**, the Audubon County Compensation Board meets annually to recommend a compensation schedule for elected officials for the fiscal year immediately following, in accordance with Iowa Code Chapters 331.905 and 331.907, and

**WHEREAS**, the Audubon County Compensation Board met on January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and made the following recommendations for the Supervisor officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025:

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Proposed Increase</u>	<u>Recommended Salary</u>
Supervisors	\$34,382.51	2.5%	\$35,242.07
Supervisor- Chair	\$1,039.22 stipend	2.5%	\$1,065.20 stipend

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Audubon County Board of Supervisors approve the following salary adjustments for the Audubon County Supervisors for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025:

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Approved Salary</u>	<u>Approved Increase</u>
Supervisors	\$34,382.51	0%
Supervisor- Chair	\$1,039.22	0%

Approved this 18<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

AYES: Hansen, Grabill, Mosinski

NAYS: None

AUDUBON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

/s/Heath Hansen

/s/Chassity Musfeldt

Audubon County Supervisor, Chairperson

Audubon County Auditor Clerk

Motion- Mosinski Second- Grabill to approve/sign audit extension letter as requested by the State Auditors. Vote-all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

/s/Heath Hansen

/s/Chassity Musfeldt

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Chairman, Board of Supervisors

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Audubon County Auditor Clerk