

April 29th, 2025

The meeting of the Board of Supervisors was called to order at 9:03 am by Chairman Heath Hansen. Present at the meeting were Heath Hansen, Don Mosinski, Lisa Frederiksen, Diana Munch, Chassity Musfeldt, Sara Slater, Troy Wessel, Doug Sorensen, Lori Gilbert, Kate Hargens, Pat Kaiser, Gareth Stoffer, Paul Nielsen, Brett Irlmeier, Duane Deist, Justin Sprague, Jami Schleimer, Mitch Rydl, Chris Swensen, Joel Porsch, Miranda Bills and John Hansen-phone. Kent Grabill-absent.

Motion- Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve the agenda. Vote-all in favor. Audubon County Economic Development met with Supervisors to discuss several items. The information that was requested by State Auditors was verified. They request that written agreements are in place with any entities receiving funds from the County before allocating the money. Members of ACED inquired as to why the quarterly allocations were no longer being issued. The allocations had been halted after FY24, per State Auditor's recommendations, until a written agreement is in place. ACED requested that these allocations be reinstated. Slater gave recent updates/happenings from ACED. They had an IA State Housing Risk Development done for the County, have been updating marketing tools, the townhome project is in progress, they hosted a Region Twelve Planning & Zoning meeting, they are working to attract a developer for workforce housing, working on signage for the bike trail trailheads, working on bringing back the flight breakfast, and many other items. The interest earned from funds allocated by the County to ACED from the Valley Business Park land was discussed. Wessel said they did not have the exact figures of interest earned from those funds because it was lumped into an account with other funding. Auditor Frederiksen provided a spreadsheet with the funds allocated from the County, and the project expenses/awards to the Cities and requested that ACED review and provide any updated figures to keep the spreadsheet accurate. ACED asked if the County could provide them with another template agreement for the funding. Auditor mentioned that Supervisor Mosinski should speak with State Auditor Hedgecock while he was on site at the County today. The County had proposed the idea of using any of the unused funds allocated to ACED to go towards the Littlefield Cabin debt. ACED asked if those funds would be available to them for use next year if they allocated them back to the County. The proposed idea of ACED allocating any funds back to the County was tabled.

At 10:00 am the Public Hearing for the FY26 Budget was opened. Kate Hargens spoke with the Supervisors regarding concerns on a potential battery/energy storage facility being put on land within Audubon County. Supervisors stated that they had not heard anything about this but will be prepared if this gets brought up in the future. Concerns were discussed on the toxic environmental effects this could create. Gareth Stoffer with Coyote Willow/APEX turbines stated that they currently have no plans for any battery storage within the County that he is aware of.

Duane Deist inquired about Secondary Roads maintainers not being housed within Gray anymore. Deist said it takes a lot of fuel and wear/tear on the maintainers to drive them from Audubon to the northern part of the County and wondered why they no longer leave any in Gray. Paul Nielsen voiced concerns about the County's 2 million dollar deficit and inquired as to where the money will come from. Chairman Hansen stated that over time/long term it will come from budget cuts. The Public Hearing for the FY26 Budget was closed. Motion- Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve Resolution 2025-21 to adopt the FY26 budget and certify taxes for FYE June 30, 2026 as follows. Vote-all in favor.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-21**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING BUDGET AND CERTIFYING TAXES****FOR FYE JUNE 30, 2026**

WHEREAS, Audubon County has published a proposed FY26 Budget Estimate in the April 18, 2025 Audubon County Advocate Journal and conducted the budget hearing on April 29, 2025; and

WHEREAS, the Audubon County Board of Supervisors took any comments from the public regarding such proposed budget at the April 29, 2025 public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors reviewed the proposed budget and discussed any possible adjustments to lower expenditures or levy rates

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Audubon County Board of Supervisors that in compliance with Iowa Code Section 331.434 (5) the FY26 Audubon County Adoption of Budget & Certification of Taxes is hereby approved and adopted at the April 29, 2025 budget hearing.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the General Basic Fund Balance be assigned for the following purposes:

\$ 25,000 for Fairboard allocation in July 2025

\$ 67,500 as the estimated ending balance in reserved sheriff revenues to be used in compliance with Iowa Code 356.7 (5)

Dated this 29th day of April 2025.

By: /s/Heath Hansen

Heath Hansen, Chairman

Audubon County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST: /s/Lisa Frederiksen

Audubon County Auditor

Auditor Frederiksen explained to the Supervisors that they have the authority to go above or under the recommendations of the Compensation Board for Elected Officials, with the exception that they can not increase the Board of Supervisors wage but can go under as noted at prior times during the budget process. Frederiksen explained that the Auditor's office is currently running on short staff with increased duties and would like the Board to consider increasing the FY26 wages for the Auditor's Department. It was noted that other Departments can have employees receive overtime pay to compensate for short staff, but the Auditor and Deputy position do not receive any additional pay for all the extra hours devoted to keep the office functioning. Chairman Hansen stated that as far as this budget year goes, they have already made their decisions on the FY26 raises following the 2.5% increase as recommended by the Compensation Board. Auditor had concerns that the Compensation Board recommendations of the 2.5% increases across the board were not consistent, as Secondary Roads Non-Union employees are receiving a higher percentage than the 2.5%. Discussion was held on Supervisors not meeting with the Auditor's office to discuss their FY26 budget. The final decisions on the budget are not to be made until today's date when the budget is adopted. Mosinski asked if the Resolution could be tabled in order to give the Auditor an opportunity to review her FY26 budget. Hansen stated as far as deadlines, he does not believe this can be tabled today. Hansen would like to make a process next year to give Elected Officials a chance to advocate for their Departments regarding wages.

Motion- Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve the Elected Official salaries for FY26 Resolution 2025-22 as follows. Vote-all in favor.

RESOLUTION 2025-22

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 (as amended by Senate File 2442) and 331.907, and

WHEREAS, the Audubon County Compensation Board met on January 8, 2025 and made the following salary recommendations for the following elected officials for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025:

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Current Salary</u>	<u>Proposed</u>		<u>Plus Additional</u>	<u>Recommended Salary</u>
		<u>Adjusted Salary</u>	<u>Proposed Increase</u>		
Attorney	\$109,055.18	--	2.5%		\$ 111,781.56
Auditor	\$ 71,096.99	--	2.5%		\$ 72,874.41
Budget Director	\$ 4,487.14	--	2.5%		\$ 4,599.32
TIF Director	\$ 2,804.46	--	2.5%		\$ 2,874.57
Recorder	\$ 69,841.15	--	2.5%		\$ 71,587.18
Sheriff	\$100,999.75	\$ 1,000	2.5%		\$ 104,549.74
Treasurer	\$ 70,219.19	--	2.5%		\$ 71,974.67

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

<u>Elected Official</u>	<u>Approved Salary</u>	<u>Approved Increase</u>
Attorney	\$ 111,781.56	per compensation board recommendations
Auditor	\$ 72,874.41	per compensation board recommendations
Budget Director	\$ 4,599.32	per compensation board recommendations
TIF Director	\$ 2,874.57	per compensation board recommendations
Recorder	\$ 71,587.18	per compensation board recommendations
Sheriff	\$104,549.74	per compensation board recommendations
Treasurer	\$ 71,974.67	per compensation board recommendations

Approved this 29th day of April 2025

AYES: Mosinski & Hansen- Grabill-Absent

NAYS:

AUDUBON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ATTEST:

/s/Heath Hansen

/s/Lisa Frederiksen

Audubon Co. Supervisor, Chairperson

Audubon County Auditor

Justin Sprague met with the Supervisors to discuss the construction of fencing on his property that meets up the Audubon County land. Sprague has applied for the USDA cost share for the fence. Attorney Swensen joined the meeting and would like time to review the fencing agreement. Sprague discussed the property location and access to it. He would like the County to maintain the area so he is able to get a trailer on it with cattle. Jami Schleimer with Secondary Roads said that they can have the Level B road maintenance done by this fall. If Sprague rocks the road himself, he will need to talk to Secondary Roads for permission. Joel Porsch joined the meeting to discuss/sign the policy agreement to upgrade the status of a county road. This will be used to access the new house built on 230th Street. Motion- Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve the Road Agreement policy. Vote-all in favor. Engineer Rydl gave Secondary Roads construction and maintenance updates. Motion- Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve the Atlantic Municipal Utilities permit 38-78-36 HWY 71 DOT Project #BRF-071-4(57)—38-05. Vote- all in favor. Motion- Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve the Secondary Roads 5-year Construction Plan/DOT FY26 Budget. Vote-all in favor.

Motion-Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve the meeting minutes of 4-22-25. Vote-all in favor. Motion-Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve the Treasurer's tax abatement for the property parcel number #05-11-04-016-067 for the City of Exira. Vote-all in favor. Auditor Frederiksen discussed and explained the FY25 Budget Amendment #3. Motion- Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve the Public Notice of the FY25 Budget Amendment #3 for Publication. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve the following MMP annual updates/changes: Multi-Pig 1 Sec 19 #60473 and H & S Farming #70066. Vote-all in favor. Motion- Mosinski Second- Hansen to approve claims as submitted by various departments to be paid in the amount of \$87,442.90 and published in a separate publication. Vote-all in favor. Supervisors spoke with Custodian Hansen on the phone regarding the HVAC project. The manual that Graphite stated they would provide a month ago has still not been received. The manual will have warranty dates listed. Hansen said workers have been in trying to locate the freon leaks and have found four small ones. They have got the leaks fixed and will hopefully have the system back up this week. The condensation leak has still not been addressed.

Monte Dreher had reached out to Audubon County regarding a vacated alley in Ross that had been done in 2014. Dreher would like to have his land surveyed, but without the exact details regarding ownership of the land vacated to each owner, they cannot proceed. Dreher needs clarification from the County as to how many feet were vacated to his property and how many to the neighboring property. Attorney Swensen is currently reviewing a document prepared with a recommendation from a local attorney. Dreher inquired to Chairman Hansen about the County paying for the costs of the local attorney's preparations to this matter. More discussion will follow next week. Meeting adjourned at 12:52 pm.

/s/Heath Hansen

/s/Chassity Musfeldt

Chairman, Board of Supervisors

Attest: Audubon County Auditor Clerk

