

July 07, 2025

The Mahaska County Board of Supervisors met in regular session on the above date at 9:00 a.m. in the third-floor conference room of the Mahaska County courthouse. Present were the following board members: Chairman – Mark Groenendyk, Vice Chairman – Steve Wanders, and Member -Chuck Webb. Also present were the following: Madison Garden (County Auditor), Russ Van Renterghem (County Sheriff), Andrew Ritland (County Attorney), Carter Brehm (Assistant County Engineer), Andrew McGuire (County Engineer), Chris Clingan (County Conservation), Lindsey Thomas (County Assessor), Harold Fynaardt, John Bandstra

This meeting was live streamed by the Communications Research Institute of William Penn University.

Supervisor Groenendyk opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the agenda. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Public Comments: None

It was moved by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the minutes from June 16th, 2025. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was moved by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the claims for June 2025 in the amount of \$2,296,276.10. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Clingan provided an update on conservation. Playscape construction is underway but with the recent weather the completion date is now estimated to be November 2025. In August, they will be constructing wetlands to the east of the Early Learning Center for wildlife, additional learning opportunities, and in support of the urban water quality initiative. Promotional videos for our tourism initiative have made it to all 50 states with over 200,000 views which, he believes, have helped to keep our camping numbers high, compared to other counties. New wayfinding signs will be put up throughout the county to help direct the public to parks and provide the parks with a new look. Mahaska County won 2nd place Geode award at the Iowa Tourism Conference for tourism efforts. The conservation board is considering renting the bottom area of the Early Learning Center building for parties and public events to help with costs.

The board and Ritland spoke about the law center rental agreement. Webb stated all is in agreeance except the utilities and a needed clause stating the county will only be providing the domain and the server. If there is a need for a replacement, the county can make the decision of how to proceed. The rental agreement will be a 5-year lease with a 3-year

renewal following. To move forward with the rental agreement, the above changes need to be made and the original 28E agreement needs to be dissolved with the funds being disbursed 25% to the city and 75% to the county.

It was motioned by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the contract with Solutions. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the HSIP funding agreement for project HSIP-CO62(112)-- FJ-62 for G29 from west of Hickory Ave to US 63. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Brehm and McGuire provided the board an update on secondary roads. Brehm stated \$400,000 was awarded to the county for safety improvements like rumble strips, safety edges, and paved shoulders. It was motioned by Webb and seconded by wanders to approve the funding for this project of \$438,000. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve the final plans for bridge replacement project T67 over Cedar Creek, S24 T74 R15, project number BRS-CO62(108)-- 60-62. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

McGuire provided a MODES project update. They have received a request for a no cost completion extension till 4/30/2026 to complete the historical architectural investigation.

The board shared the closure of 210th St to help make the public aware.

Garden spoke to the board regarding the need for enhancing the handicap accessibility of the courthouse. It was motioned by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the Board of Supervisors support letter for a grant through the Walter L McQuiston trust. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve Special Class C Retail Native Wine License for Tassel Ridge Winery, LLC. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

The board has been asked to cover the cost of \$109,882.40 by the 911 board due to their surge charge funds being cut. Groenendyk stated he believes this bill to be the county's responsibility because the towers are in Oskaloosa, New Sharon, and Eddyville. Wanders stated although this was not a planned expense for the county, it is necessary for public safety. It was motioned by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve payment of Racom statement. All present voted aye. Motion carried. The board will have further discussions regarding future years in order to plan for this cost.

Discussion was had regarding issues with livestock on Galeston Ave. Van Renterghem spoke to the board explaining three horses continue to get out of their fencing and he

believes they are a potential hazard to the public due to their proximity of a busy highway. Ritland stated Iowa code 169C can require the erection of the fence or seizing of the livestock. Seizing the livestock would require the horses to be relocated and cared for at the expense of the county unless the owner repays, in which case the horses would be returned to the owner allowing future incidents to occur. Ritland recommended that requesting the erection of a fence would be the best course of action.

Short break was taken at 10:28AM and the meeting resumed at 10:34AM

Ritland advised that the board would need to determine if this was a habitual trespassing issue based off substantial evidence being provided to them. If this is found to be a habitual trespassing issue, a letter can be sent by a neighboring landowner demanding action be taken by the livestock owner per Iowa code 169C. The board plans to discuss this further at the next board meeting scheduled for 7/21/25.

It was motioned by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve Recorder's office 4th quarter report. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Wanders seconded by Webb to approve Recorder's office FY24/25 report. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the removal of jailer Clint Jennings effective June 19th and jailer Julie Corbett effective July 5th from the Sheriff's office payroll. All Present voted aye. Motion carried.

It was motioned by Webb seconded by Wanders to approve the addition of Noelle Poe to the Maintenance department payroll at the hourly rate of \$18. All Present voted aye. Motion carried.

Discussion regarding the Marc Amateur Radio Club was had. The individual who promised activity did not come forward to help with cost. The board discussed proposing the cost of this at the EMA meeting for consideration of assistance in payment of the tower. They also discussed requesting the easement be passed on to the Oskaloosa school district. No decision was made.

Public Comment: None

It was motioned by Wanders seconded by Webb to close the meeting at 10:56AM. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Attest: _____

Madison Garden
Auditor

Mark Groenendyk
Chairman Board of Supervisors