

Engineer lauds 'awesome job' by workers; county receives disaster proclamation

By **BOB FENSKE**
Of the Reporter

Chickasaw County's engineer is lauding the work done by employees of the Secondary Roads Department to get all but one county road reopened after a major flooding event hit the county last week.

"To go from 59 road closures to just one, everyone just did an awesome job," Lensing said Tuesday afternoon, "especially when you consider we're just a week out from major flooding."

The lone road still closed as of Tuesday was the intersection of Beaumont Avenue and 115th Street in the northern part of the county, where Lensing said the county had a relatively large culvert wash out last week.

The flooding occurred after 6 to almost 9 inches of rain fell across much of the northern part of the county on Aug. 17-18 and led Gov. Kim Reynolds to issue a disaster proclamation for three northern Iowa counties — Chickasaw, Winnebago and Winneshiek.

Reynolds' proclamation allows state

resources to be utilized to respond to and recover from the effects of severe weather and flooding.

It also activates the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program and the Disaster Case Advocacy Program. The proclamation is effective immediately and will remain in effect for 30 days, unless terminated or extended.

The Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program provides grants up to \$7,000 for households with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Grants are available for home or

car repairs, replacement of personal property or food, and temporary housing expenses. Original receipts are required for those seeking reimbursement for actual expenses related to storm recovery.

The Disaster Case Advocacy Program addresses serious needs related to disaster-related hardship, injury, or adverse conditions.

Disaster case advocates work with clients to create a disaster recovery plan and provide guidance, advice, and referrals to obtain a service or resource. There are no income eligi-

bility requirements for this program; it closes 180 days from the date of the governor's proclamation.

Lensing, meanwhile, once again reminded motorists to use caution on recently opened roadways.

"My advice to the public is to slow down and like I said last week, just because it's open doesn't mean it's normal driving conditions," he said. "When you put a lot of new material down, it's still soft. It takes a while for it to firm up, but I'll say it again, our guys did an awesome job getting those roads back open."

County leaders not expecting another good budget 'surprise'

SUPERVISORS: FROM 1

only 2 percent more on existing tax properties to the elimination of the residential rollback to other ideas being floated by lawmakers in Des Moines.

"We're hoping that if they do any kind of property tax reform, bring that up to us in January, February," Board Chairman Jake Hackman said, "so we know as a county before they pass it at the 13th hour in the morning, right before they adjourn, to go into effect July 1.

"It just seems like they need to work with us, too."

tional \$80,000 in funding if it increased tax-asking by 2 percent.

"That means we capture only \$80,000 to pay health insurance, liability insurance, wages," he said. "Look at Jendro and that 2.68 percent. If RSB can only have a 2 percent increase, who's making up the point-68? Those are the questions we have to find answers to."

"There's so much of the unknown," Supervisor Scott Cerwinski said later in the meeting. "We don't know what's going to happen next year.

"Like Jake said, it would be nice whatever they do that it wouldn't go into effect until the following year. If they change these levy rates [after] we start working on the budget in January ... those levy rates in April might not even exist."

And the mood in the room Monday is that the county probably shouldn't expect another "budget surprise" next summer.

County Attorney David Laudner said that by his math, county departments spent about 88.5 percent of the funds they were allocated during the 2024-25 budget year, but he also pointed out that a number of departments saw their proposed budgets cut this past spring.

"I would presume most departments' budgets are going to be tighter this year than they were last year because you asked us to scalp them this spring," he said. "I would surmise that it's going to be a higher percentage that's going to be spent this year by all of the departments."

But almost everyone in the board room on Monday was in agreement with County Assessor Ray Armel when he said "I think a lot of politics played in this legislative session because it's an election year."

Shekleton pointed out that the almost \$350,000 projected budget deficit — which if it became a reality would be covered by ending fund balances — does not include a possible budget amendment for a new air-conditioning unit for the courthouse.

Hackman said his biggest concern is the talk that counties would be held to a hard 2 percent increase on tax-asking.

He pointed out that the county has already received notice that Jendro Sanitation will raise its recycling rate by 2.68 percent on July 1, 2026 and used that as an example.

Hackman said that for GB and GS, that would mean the county would receive an addi-



Bob Fenske/Reporter

A family gets a free boat ride courtesy of a Nashua veteran during the VFW's Veterans Family that was held this past Saturday.

Potential bridge would connect 'two sides' of Nashua

VETERANS: FROM 1

Phase I of the project, getting food vendor spots and electricity into Veterans Park, is already complete.

In addition to docking space near Veterans Park, the concept of the project also includes a bridge that would connect Nashua's downtown area with Veterans Park.

Skilton said, in effect, that bridge would connect the "two sides" of Nashua, especially for those residents who like to drive

their golf carts in town.

"The problem we've had is that the DOT is just not going to allow golf carts on the [Highway 346] bridge," he said, "so basically, you can't go from one side of the town to the other on a golf cart," he said.

"This would solve that issue, and it would really add to our city. We want people to see at least a concept of what we're thinking, and this event helps us do that."

Skilton said that he understands that much work still needs to be done to make

the bridge a reality, but he said the idea is to bring in an engineer to give Veterans Pier proponents ideas on how to proceed with the project. Once that is done, he said those supporters will reach out to the Army Corps of Engineers and the National Guard.

"One of the things we want to do today and in the paper is to give people the concept of what we're trying to do," he said. "We want to get them excited for this, and having something like today, I think is doing that."

County's drivers license station to reopen with limited hours in September

Chickasaw County Treasurer Matt Ysbrand told the Board of Supervisors on Monday that the county's drivers license station will reopen on a limited basis next month.

Ysbrand, who has said he can't discuss why the station has been closed recently, said the plan is to take appointments for the mornings of Sept. 9, Sept. 16 and Sept. 23-25.

He said that if the station runs out of appointment times, he will announce it on the county's website and social media sites.

Jerald Lee Nott, 77

Jerald Lee Nott, age 77 of Nashua, died Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2025, at MercyOne North Iowa Medical Center in Mason City.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, at Trinity United Methodist Church, Charles City, with the Rev. Don Preston presiding.

Interment was in Riverside Cemetery, Charles City. Friends greeted the family beginning at 10 a.m. Monday, Aug. 25, 2025, at the church.

Hugeback-Johnson Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting the family.

HAVE A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY WEEKEND

Emergency Management gears up for Preparedness Month in September

To the Reporter

September is Preparedness Month in Iowa. It's a great time for households to come together and think about how they can get ready for emergencies, whether at home, school, or in the community. Iowa's preparedness efforts align with National Preparedness Month, which is observed each September in the United States.

During Preparedness Month, Chickasaw County Emergency Management encourages Iowans to take four simple steps to ensure they are prepared.

Step One: Be aware of hazards in your area. Learn about the emergencies your community may face and how to respond. Sign up for local alerting and emergency notifications through Alert Iowa. Find out

if your county participates in Alert Iowa at alert.iowa.gov.

Step Two: Make an emergency plan. You and your household may not be together when an emergency happens. Identify a meeting place and out-of-town contact. Knowing what to do, where to go, and how to stay in touch with each other is important.

Step Three: Build an emergency kit. Include essentials like water, non-perishable food, first-aid and medicines, supplies for children and pets, and hygiene items for your household for 3-7 days. Your kit should be in an easy-to-access location and include a grab-and-go option.

Step Four: Get involved. When you lend a hand, you build a stronger, more resil-

ient community that can better withstand and recover from a disaster.

For more information on emergency preparedness, visit ready.iowa.gov. Follow preparedness messaging on social media at www.facebook.com/chickasawcoema, and you can also follow the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management social media, Facebook, facebook.com/IowaHSEM, X (Formerly Twitter), X.com/IowaHSEM.

Lions International
Lions Bingo for Boy Scouts
Sept 11th starting at 6:00pm
ALSO Lions Bingo Sept 25th at the B in Nashua

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NASHUA-PLAINFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION Regular Board Meeting August 18, 2025 Nashua-Plainfield JH/HS Commons 6:00 PM

I. Call to Order
President Pat Lentz called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm. Present: Laura Folkerts, Lara Lawrence, Patrick Lentz, Chris Hagen, Cody Jensen. Also present Superintendent Jay Marley, MS/HS Principal Dean Youngblut, Elementary Principal Shannon Wurzer, Board Secretary Emma Sinnwell, Michael Kalvig.

II. Receive Communication and Visitors (Including Board Members)
None

III. Approve the Consent Agenda
Motion by Hagen, second by Jensen to approve the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Minutes of Previous Meetings
Motion by Folkerts, second by Jensen to approve the minutes from the July 14th, 2025 regular meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Monthly Financial Reports
Motion by Hagen, second by Lawrence to approve the monthly financial report. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Monthly Bills
Motion by Folkerts, second by Jensen to approve monthly bills for payment. Motion carried unanimously.

Approve Personal Recommendations & or Resignations
Motion by Folkerts, second by Jensen to approve the resignation of Jeff Trost as Head Golf Coach, Building Leadership Team Stipends, and Courtney Pinlott as Elementary Special Education Associate. Motion carried unanimously.

IV. Spotlight in Education Overview and Highlights from Transportation Jen Woodman Jen Woodman provided an overview of our transportation department, focusing on highlights from the past year, the upcoming year, and the future of the transportation department.

V. Principal Reports
Dean Youngblut and Shannon Wurzer shared their reports with the board.

VI. Review and Consider Approving Elementary & Jr/Sr Paraprofessional Handbooks
Motion by Hagen, second by Jensen to approve the Elementary & Jr/Sr Paraprofessional Handbooks. Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Review and Consider Approving Fuel Bids 2025-26
Motion by Folkerts, second by Lawrence to approve the fixed price fuel bids with AgVantage FS in Waverly. As follows:
Dieselx Gold (premium diesel) \$2.7878

Gasahol 87 Octane 10% ethanol \$2.4167
#1 diesel for winter blending \$3.1378
Motion carried unanimously.

VII. Review and Consider Approval of the IASB Policy Primer Board Policies Vol. 33 #4 2nd Reading
Motion by Folkerts, second by Jensen to adopt the recommendations from the IASB Policy Primer for the following board policies: 104, 104.E10, 104.E20, 104.E3, 211, 402.2, 402.3, 405.2, 411.2, 501.3, 501.9, 505.5, 507.1, 603.1, 603.5. Motion carried unanimously.

IX. Review and Consider Approving AEA Special Education Transfer Agreement
Motion by Lawrence, second by Jensen to approve the AEA Special Education Transfer Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

X. Review and Consider Approving AEA Work Experience Coordinator
Motion by Folkerts, second by Hagen to approve the AEA Work Experience Coordinator. Motion carried unanimously.

XI. Review and Consider Approving AEA FY 25 School Communication Services Agreement
Motion by Jensen, second by Hagen to approve the AEA FY 25 School Communication Services Agreement. Motion carried unanimously.

XII. Review and Consider Approving Simbli a New Board Paperless Meeting and Policies Upload Software
Motion by Hagen, second by Folkerts to approve a New Board Paperless Meeting and Policies Upload Software, Simbli. Motion carried unanimously.

XIII. Information Update Only on Disposition of Property & Procedures for Selling School Property
No motion was made.

XIV. Superintendent Report
Superintendent Jay Marley went over his report with the board.

XV. Next Regular Board Meeting Date: Monday September 8th, 2025

XVI. Adjourn
Motion by Folkerts adjourned the meeting at 7:23 pm, second by Lawrence. Motion carried unanimously.

Emma Sinnwell, SBO/Board Secretary
Pat Lentz, Board President

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| AMAZON CAPITAL SERVICES, INC. SUPPLIES & EQUIPMENT | 33.50 |
| ASPI SOLUTIONS, INC. ATHLETIC PURCHASE SERVICES | 306.00 |
| ATLANTIC COCA-COLA, CONCESSIONS/ALA CARTE ITEMS | 51.51 |
| BUTLER-BREMER COMMUNICATIONS, TELEPHONE/FAX/INTERNET | 254.88 |
| CARPENTER, GARY D., BUS PHYSICAL SUPPLIES | 125.00 |
| CDW GOVERNMENT INC. TECHNOLOGY SUPPLIES | 1,651.37 |
| CENTER FOR THE COLLABORATIVE CLASSROOM, READING CURRICULUM | 828.80 |
| CENTRAL IOWA DISTRIBUTING INC. CLEANING SUPPLIES/EQUIP | 1,145.00 |
| CENTRAL RIVERS AREA EDUCATION AGENCY, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES | 6,180.19 |
| CENTURY LINK, TELEPHONE/FAX/540.70 | 346.25 |
| CHRISTIE DOOR CO. REPAIRS | 771.84 |
| CINTAS CORP. CLEANING SERVICE | 1,493.99 |
| CITY OF NASHUA, WATER & SEWER SEWER | 7,721.45 |
| CLARKSVILLE COMMUNITY SCHOOL, OPEN ENROLLMENT | 9,100.17 |
| COMMUNICATIONS ENGINEERING COMPANY, TECHNOLOGY REPAIRS | 375.00 |
| COMPANION CORP. LIBRARY SOFTWARE | 2,594.00 |
| DECKER SPORTING GOODS, ATHLETIC SUPPLIES | 456.40 |
| DRIVEWISE, DRIVERS EDUCATION | 430.00 |
| EDKCONSULTING, LLC, CONSULTING | 1,500.00 |
| EVEN QUALITY WORKS INC. GROUNDS SERVICES | 3,460.00 |
| FRONTLINE TECHNOLOGIES GROUP, SOFTWARE | 14,033.25 |
| GREEN IMAGE, LAWN CARE/SNOW REMOVAL | 2,523.00 |
| HANNEMANN CONSTRUCTION, CONSTRUCTION SERVICES | 8,233.00 |
| HAWKEYE FIRE AND SAFETY COMPANY, EQUIPMENT SERVICE | 1,007.00 |
| HEALTH EQUITY, FLEX REIMBURSEMENT | 1,318.05 |
| IOWA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK, TELEPHONE/FAX/INTERNET | 3,303.15 |
| JANESVILLE SCHOOLS DISTRICT, EDUCATIONAL SERVICES | 8,362.52 |
| JENDRO SANITATION SERVICES, GARBAGE COLLECTION | 868.00 |
| JOHNSON CONTROLS, BUILDING EQUIPMENT/REPAIRS | 3,545.58 |
| MIDAMERICAN ENERGY, ELECTRICITY | 8,714.89 |
| MYSTERY SCIENCE, EDUCATIONAL | 2,194.00 |
| NEW HAMPTON TRIBUNE/NASHUA REPORTER, PUBLICATIONS | 839.74 |
| NIACC BUSINESS OFFICE, SCHOLARSHIPS/TUITION | 39,390.78 |
| PAPER CORPORATION, THE, PAPER | 2,603.20 |
| PEDERSON PLUMBING, PLUMBING SERVICES | 1,224.78 |
| PETERS CONSTRUCTION CORPORATION, CONSTRUCTION SERVICES | 40,390.28 |
| PROJECT LEAD THE WAY, PROJECT LEAD THE WAY | 2,200.00 |
| RAPID PRINTERS, SUPPLIES/PRINT SERVICES | 4.00 |
| REALLY GREAT READING, INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES | 4,896.10 |
| S & T COLLISION, TRANSPORTATION REPAIRS | 601.53 |
| SHERWIN-WILLIAMS CO., MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES | 1,068.88 |
| SHIFFLER EQUIPMENT SALES INC, MAINTENANCE SUPPLIES | 87.92 |
| SILBER, LYNN, TRANSPORTATION | 506.52 |
| STOREY KENWORTHY, SUPPLIES | 5,845.92 |
| STUDIES WEEKLY, INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES | 1,144.79 |
| SU INSURANCE COMPANY, EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWN INSURANCE | 17,804.25 |
| T & K TRACTOR REPAIR, TRANSPORTATION REPAIRS | 6,774.74 |
| T-J SERVICE INC, EQUIPMENT REPAIR | 85.00 |
| TIME MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS, TECHNOLOGY-ADMINISTRATIVE | 1,686.45 |
| WASTE MANAGEMENT, GARBAGE COLLECTION | 593.55 |
| WEDEKING ELECTRIC LLS, MAINTENANCE SERVICES/SUPPLIES | 487.99 |
| WEEDS ON FIRE, LAWN CARE | 300.00 |
| YOUNG PLUMBING AND HEATING CO., PLUMBING | 1,420.99 |
| Grand Total: | 232,327.70 |

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