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MONONA County Board Of Supervisors Meeting March 31, 2025

The Monona County Board of Supervisors met in special session at 10:00 a.m. on Monday, March 31, in the boardroom of the courthouse in Onawa, with Chairman Fox presiding. Other Supervisors present: Vince Phillips. Supervisor Absent was Tom Brouillette. Also present was Auditor Peggy A. Rolph.

The Supervisors voted to approve the agenda.

At 10 a.m. the Supervisors opened the public hearing for the FY 2026 proposed Monona County Property Tax Levies.

Present for the public hearing on the FY 2026 proposed Monona County Property Tax Levies were Rob Meyer, Jim Johnston, Vernon Melby, Rick Wiggs, Dan Neldeberg, Timothy Jensen, Toni Elmquist, Craig Timmerman, Cindy Melby, Patty McCall, Marilyn Longlee, Elizabeth Harvey, Jessica Bockelmann, Dennis McCandless, and Charlie Persinger. The proposed Monona County Property Tax Levies were discussed. No action needed.

The public hearing for FY 2026 proposed Monona County Property Tax Levies was closed at 11:12 a.m.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

April 1, 2025

The Monona County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 1, in the boardroom of the courthouse in Onawa, with Chairman Fox presiding. Other Supervisors present were Tom Brouillette. Supervisor Absent was Vince Phillips. Also present was Auditor Peggy A. Rolph.

The Supervisors voted to approve the agenda.

The Supervisors voted to appoint Kelly K. Parsley as the Monona County Recorder. Present for the appointment were Rick Archer, Treasurer Abby Riesberg, Deputy Auditor Sheri Streeter, and Auditor Clerk Courtney Nagel.

Sheriff Kevin Ewing was present for authorization to hire a jailer. The Supervisors voted to ap-

prove the Sheriff hiring Jared Pasch as a full-time jailer with the condition of Jared passing the MMPI. Wray Wright was also present.

The Supervisors voted to set the public hearing date for the FY 2026 budget hearing for April 22, 2025, at 11 a.m.

Secondary Roads Office Manager Deleta Huffman and Scott Kruse, WHKS via zoom, and Wray Wright were present for Secondary Roads business. The Supervisors voted to table FY 2025 Secondary Roads budget amendment for the Iowa DOT budget for clarification.

The Supervisors voted to approve the FY 2026 Secondary Roads five-year program.

The Supervisors adopted Resolution No. SR 25-13 hiring Grant Kepner to fill the Full-time Operator III position at a Start rate of \$24.01 per hour (90% of \$26.68), with wages and benefits in accordance with the current Union Contract and County Policies. Permanent seniority will begin accruing upon successful completion of a background check, pre-employment physical and drug screening.

Amy Borchardt-Sick and Tammy Blinde, Drainage Clerks, were present for Drainage business. Brent Miller, landowner, was also present. The Supervisors approved the drainage claims.

Oliver Lake Lat 2 and 3 were discussed with Brent Miller. He filled out a petition for a clean-out on both laterals on March 17, 2025. Supervisors Fox will go out and visit these laterals, take pictures, and report back.

Frank Huseman of New Cooperative was present for approval to add NH3 storage tanks to Mapleton and Ute sites. The Supervisors voted to table the approval of adding NH3 storage tanks to Mapleton and Ute sites until the Board of Adjustments recommends approval.

At 11 a.m. the Super-

visors opened the public hearing on the FY 2025 budget amendment. With no one present at 11:13, the Supervisors voted to close the budget amendment public hearing.

The Supervisors adopted Resolution No. 2025-06 amending the FY 2025 Budget Appropriations for Conservation and the Recorder.

Adam Hadden and Debie Lahr of Burgess Public Health were pres-

ent to review the Public Health Budget with the Board. No action was taken.

The Supervisors voted to approve the minutes of March 25 and 28, 2025, as read and claims submitted.

The Supervisors voted to approve liquor license for DOLGENCORP, LLC (dba) Dollar General Corporation.

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

pineapple juice, as well as mango drying facilities. DOGE made the announcement on X, highlighting several initiatives the money was put toward. For instance, \$229,296 was used to market 100% organic shea butter in Burkina Faso; \$246,217 was spent on mango drying facilities in the Ivory Coast; and \$239,738 was spent on marketing pineapple juice in Benin. The department also said \$99,566 was spent to increase yogurt production in Uganda...\$50,000 was spent to train farmers how to grow dragon fruit in Senegal, and \$48,406 was spent on a WhatsApp marketing chatbot in Kenya.

Congressman Urges FBI To Investigate Whether New York Defrauding Medicaid: 'Large Financial Scheme'

Rep. Eric Burlison, R-Mo., a member of the House Oversight Committee and DOGE task force, is urging Attorney General Pam Bondi and FBI Director Kash Patel to investigate whether New York state is defrauding Medicaid with a "large financial scheme" involving matching payments for hospitals. "Recent evidence suggests that for nearly two decades, the State of New York has deprived Nassau University Medical Center (NUMC) of more than \$1 billion in Medicaid funds," Burlison wrote in a letter to America's top two law enforcement officials on Thursday. "The state stands accused of violating federal Medicaid law and intentionally breaching contracts with the federal government, specifically in relation to the Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) program," he added. The allegations that New York might be cheating Medicaid first surfaced a few months ago in civil litigation and in a New York Post column.

Publishers Clearing House Files For Chapter 11 Bankruptcy

Publishers Clearing House (PCH), famous for its sweepstakes and oversized checks, has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection. The company, which began in 1953 as a direct-mail business from a Long Island home, is now shifting its focus from traditional mail and magazine subscriptions to a digital advertising model. This change aims to adapt to evolving consumer habits and financial challenges, as noted by CEO Andy Goldberg.

PCH has faced financial strain due to rising operational costs and competition from major retailers like Amazon and Walmart. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these issues, leading to inventory challenges and increased shipping costs. The company has total liabilities of \$65.7 million against assets of \$11.7 million.

Despite these challenges, PCH plans to continue its sweepstakes and Prize Patrol activities. The company has secured \$5.5 million in debtor-in-possession financing from Prestige Capital to maintain operations during restructuring. PCH will explore

strategic options, including selling its digital assets.

The company has also faced legal scrutiny, with a \$18.5 million settlement with the Federal Trade Commission in 2018 over deceptive practices. As part of its restructuring, PCH aims to end such practices and focus on transparency and consumer trust.



DHS To Screen Visa Applicants For Anti-Semitism Activity On Social Media

The Department of Homeland Security on Wednesday said it immediately will begin screening visa applicants' social media for "antisemitic activity" and will deny violators. The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will begin considering antisemitic activity "and the physical harassment of Jewish individuals as grounds for denying immigration benefit requests," according to a news release. Immediately, this policy will affect those applying for permanent resident "green cards, and student and work visas." DHS said this policy is consistent with President Donald Trump's executive orders on Combatting Anti-Semitism, Additional Measures to Combat Anti-Semitism and Protecting the United States from Foreign Terrorists and Other National Security and Public Safety Threats.

Homeland Security Department Issues Waiver To Accelerate Border Wall Construction In California

Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has issued a waiver to expedite border wall construction in California. The waiver issued Tuesday will enable construction of about 2.5 miles of new wall in California, the department said in a press release. The waiver will also cover projects from Customs and Border Protection to close gaps in the southern U.S. border wall.

Accused Would-Be Trump Assassin Tried To Buy Rocket Launcher From Ukraine, Prosecutors Say

Ryan Wesley Routh tried to buy a rocket launcher from Ukraine just weeks before he was arrested for allegedly attempting to gun down President Trump at his Florida golf course, court papers reveal. The 58-year-old accused would-be assassin tried to make the purchase from someone he believed to be a Ukrainian with access to a haul of military grade weapons, federal prosecutors alleged in a motion filed Monday. In one exchange, which unfolded via an encrypted messaging app, Routh allegedly asked the associate to "send me an RPG [rocket-propelled grenade] or Stinger and I will see what we can do... [Trump] is not good for Ukraine." Routh later inquired about the price and whether the person could "ship it to me???" "I need equipment so that Trump cannot get elected," he added, according to the filing.

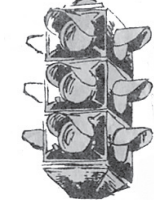
DOGE Cuts \$51M From U.S. African Development Foundation, Including \$229K To Market Shea Butter

The Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) announced \$51 million in cuts from the U.S. African Development Foundation, which included hundreds of thousands of dollars for marketing shea butter and

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