

continued from page 1

not interested in owning the pool and the two said the joint committee would help coordinate the facility maintenance by the two local governments in the future.

Since the agenda item was informational only, no decisions on establishing the committee or identifying members were taken, although Heck will apparently keep moving forward with the idea.

A possible action item, to opt-out of the Iowa Department of Education's School Transportation Operator's Program (S.T.O.P.) was tabled, with the board requesting transportation director Tyler Hinkhouse provide additional information.

Business manager Neil Mills said the school district is currently using the state agency's program to provide required continuing education to its bus drivers. Mills said some of material being used as part of the state program is not relevant for the district; and Hinkhouse believes in-house courses would be more appropriate.

Board members questioned if a certified instructor was needed to teach the courses and if Hinkhouse or some other person would conduct the training. District officials will contact Hinkhouse for a response and the board will then make a decision at a future meeting.

In other action during the March 16 meeting, the board:

- Received two presentations - one provided by College and Career Counselor Theresa Putnam Genz on an ICAN (Iowa College Access Network) grant; and one from business teacher Lori Beenen and students on the 2026 Iowa BPA (Business Professionals of America) state conference;

- Approved a baseball sharing renewal agreement with Winfield-Mt. Union;

- Approved a high school boys track sharing agreement with Lone Tree, provided the additional athletes do not affect Columbus' class designation;

- Approved a new uniform cost sharing ratio, excluding wrestling uniforms, with the district, athletic boosters and fundraising each covering one-third of the costs;

- Approved an application to seek a grant for a therapeutic classroom, which would be used for intervention efforts;

- Agreed to schedule a 9-12 summer school with Scott Dennler providing help for credit recovery

efforts;

- Approved a resolution honoring graduate and former teacher Robert "Bob" Curtis, 80, who passed away Feb. 12.

- Adopted the district's 2026-27 calendar following a public hearing.

In final action, the board also approved several personnel items. Normally the personnel items are included as part of the meeting's consent agenda, but Heindel requested that item be pulled from the consent agenda and considered separately.

Four hires were included in the personnel action and included Patricia Rojas, elementary SPED

L3 associate; Cathy Bright, 8th grade softball coach; Eileen Stroud, 7th grade softball coach; and David Wittmann, junior high baseball coach. Volunteer Jenessa Carpenter (trainer PT) was also approved; along with the FY 2027 voluntary transfer of Tasha Cantrell from preschool teacher to ESL teacher.

Meanwhile, four resignations were also accepted. These included Illiana Rodriguez, elementary SPED L3 associate; and the resignation/retirements of Lori Beenen, business teacher and Terri Hutcheson, high school math teacher.

The fourth resignation,

Adam Hargrave, junior high girls wrestling coach and junior high girls softball coach, was also approved, but generated concerns among the board members.

According to Hargrave's resignation letter, he attributed his resignation from his junior high positions to activity director Mike Aragon's decision to hire two other individuals to coach the high school girls wrestling program.

"While I respect the direction being taken, it has become clear that stepping aside is the most appropriate course of action," Hargrave wrote in his letter.

Although he did

not specifically identify Hargrave's resignation, board member Todd Salazar opened the discussion by saying he was "disappointed in how we handled one of our resignations; and I hope in the future we can improve on that."

Heindel said he echoed Salazar's concern, identifying Hargrave's resignation as the focus of their concern.

Other board members appeared to agree, pointing out there had been a lack of communication on the issue and Hargrave's resignation had also apparently resulted in the family leaving the district.

**PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE**

**CITY NAME: COLUMBUS JUNCTION NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF COLUMBUS JUNCTION - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY**  
**Fiscal Year July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027**

**CITY #: 58-555**

**The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows:**

**Meeting Date: 4/8/2026 Meeting Time: 05:30 PM Meeting Location: CIVIC CENTER-ICN ROOM 232 2ND ST COLUMBUS JUNCTION, IA 52738**  
**At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.**

City Website (if available)  
columbusjctia.gov

City Telephone Number  
(319) 728-7971

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2025 - 2026	Budget Year Effective Property Tax 2026 - 2027	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax 2026 - 2027
Taxable Valuations for Non-Debt Service	39,716,865	42,967,013	42,967,013
Consolidated General Fund	264,396	264,396	255,877
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit	0	0	0
Aviation Authority	0	0	0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance	58,433	58,433	64,421
Support of Local Emergency Mgmt. Comm.	0	0	0
Unified Law Enforcement	0	0	0
Police & Fire Retirement	0	0	0
FICA & IPERS (If at General Fund Limit)	59,569	59,569	61,365
Other Employee Benefits	83,640	83,640	103,607
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)	0	0	0
Taxable Value for Debt Service	40,893,036	44,243,769	44,243,769
Debt Service	18,472	18,472	18,512
<b>CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX</b>	<b>484,510</b>	<b>484,510</b>	<b>503,782</b>
<b>CITY REGULAR TAX RATE</b>	<b>12.18572</b>	<b>11.26392</b>	<b>11.71243</b>
Taxable Value for City Ag Land	265,236	265,329	265,329
Ag Land	796	796	796
<b>CITY AG LAND TAX RATE</b>	<b>3.00110</b>	<b>3.00005</b>	<b>3.00005</b>
<b>Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed</b>			
	<b>Current Year Certified 2025/2026</b>	<b>Budget Year Proposed 2026/2027</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000/\$110,000			
City Regular Residential	578	574	-0.69
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000/\$330,000			
City Regular Commercial	2,512	2,680	6.69

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and commercial properties have the same rollback percentage through \$150,000 of actual/assessed valuation.

**Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:**

Increase due to all insurance and employee benefit increases. Hiring another officer due to retirement.

Published in the Columbus Gazette • Wednesday, March 25, 2026

**PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE**

SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE  
BOOK "EE"  
LOUISA COUNTY, IOWA  
152  
March 10, 2026

The Louisa County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the Supervisor's office. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Kevin Hardin, Chair. The following board members were present: Shawn Maine and Scot Hunt. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted. Public attending meeting, Adam Shutt, Randy Foor, Cindy Grimm, Randy Schlutz, Bill Small, Kenny Marlette, Cyndi Mears, Curt Hartlieb, Jacob Ewart, and Jim Rudisill. Attended via Zoom: Jennifer Runnells, Tim Coleman, Leah McElhinney, Beth Hardin, and Jo Schantz.

Pledge of Allegiance  
Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve agenda for March 10th, 2026.

Meetings attended: Maine attended the Conservation and Well-

ness meetings. Hunt and Hardin did not attend meetings this past week.

Public Input: Cindy Grimm asked the Board about the current status of the ordinance regarding farm ground CSR (Corn Suitability Rating) and the process for using this land for the proposed solar project. The Board informed Grimm that the CSR is currently 65. They also explained that the rating could potentially be changed through the Planning & Zoning process. Grimm was advised that she could contact Brian Thye at Zoning to get more information.

Randy Foor asked how many zoning permits are issued each year in order to better understand the reasoning behind the permit fee increases approved last week. The Board explained that zoning permit fees have not been raised for many years and that the increase is intended to help offset the operational expenses of the Zoning Department.

The following payroll change-

es were reviewed: Justin Wessley, Maintenance Supervisor, \$37.98/hr.; Aron Meza, Engineering Technician 3, \$24.72/hr.

Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve Resolution 202615 Washington County Riverboat Foundation Grant for the Louisa County Emergency Radio Project.

COUNTY OF LOUISA  
RESOLUTION NO. #202615

A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LOUISA

WHEREAS, the Washington County Riverboat Foundation has grant funds available that target Community Development and Beautification, Economic Development, Arts and Education, Human and Social Needs, and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Riverboat Foundation has a grant application cycle that ends March 15, 2026 and

WHEREAS, the COUNTY of Louisa is supportive of these targets for improvement to the community and County, and

WHEREAS one or more applications from the County of Louisa, and/or from organizations with projects that will take place on county property, will be submitted to the Washington County Riverboat Foundation by the March 15th, 2026, deadline,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the County Supervisors of the County of Louisa, that the County of Louisa authorizes the following grant applications to be submitted to the Washington County Riverboat Foundation for the March 15th, 2026, application cycle:

Louisa County Emergency Radio Project  
Passed and adopted this 10th day of March, 2026.

AYES: Kevin Hardin, Chair, Board of Supervisor's Shawn Maine, Scot Hunt

ATTEST: Susan Schnedler, Auditor

153  
Motion Hunt, second Maine, to approve matching funds in the amount of \$22, 615.00 for the

Washington County Riverboat Foundation Grant to purchase the Louisa County Emergency Radios.

Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve Chair to sign the Secondary Roads and Sheriff Union Contracts effective July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2028.

Motion Hunt, second Maine, to approve Alliant Energy's "Application for Approval of Construction on Louisa County Right of Way" allowing them to extend and install underground electric facilities to provide service to Hy-Line Chicken Barn at 3192 S. Avenue, Morning Sun.

Adam Shutt, County Engineer, gave his weekly update.

Cyndi Mears, General Assistance, gave her monthly update. She informed the Board the next mobile food pantry will be held on March 25, 2026.

Curt Hartlieb, Veteran Affairs, provided his monthly update. Hartlieb reviewed potential Senate File bills and discussed how they may affect the County.

He also presented information to the Board regarding the possibility of increasing the Veteran Affairs office hours to 30 hours per week, which would increase his budget by approximately \$13,000 annually. No decision was made by the Board at this time.

Jacob Ewart, Conservation, gave his monthly update. He stated they have been working on the trail maintenance and are hoping to turn the water on in the parks around April 15, 2026.

Motion Hunt, second Maine, to approve Liquor license for Cedarcrest Golf & Country Club.

Reviewed the County Ambulance February 2026 expenditures for Columbus Junction, Morning Sun, and Wapello.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting on motion adjourned at 9:14 a.m.

/s/ Susan Schnedler, Auditor, /s/ Kevin Hardin, Chair

Published Wednesday, March 25, in the Columbus Gazette

**PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE**

SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE  
BOOK "EE"  
LOUISA COUNTY, IOWA  
150  
March 3, 2026

The Louisa County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at the Supervisor's office. The meeting was called to order at 8:30 a.m. by Scot Hunt, Chair Pro-Tem. The following board member was present: Shawn Maine. Board members voting "AYE" unless otherwise noted. Public attending meeting Adam Shutt, Randy Foor, Randy Schlutz, Kenny Marlette, Brian Thye, and Jim Rudisill. Attended via Zoom: Beth Hardin, Jennifer Runnells, Jo Schantz, and Tammy Hayes.

Pledge of Allegiance  
Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve agenda for March 3rd, 2026.

Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve minutes for February 24th, 2026.

Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve claims in the amount of

\$254,785.70 for March 3rd, 2026.

Meetings attended: Maine attended the Eastern Iowa Central Region Disability Alliance meeting. Hunt attended an emergency Transfer Station meeting. Maine and Hunt both attended the Assessors Conference Board meeting.

Public Input: Randy Foor asked about the results from the Conference Board Meeting. Maine stated the Assessor's office would be getting 8% raises in the next fiscal year.

The following payroll change was reviewed: Aron Meza, Trucker, \$24.72/hr.; Mike Howard, Assistant to County Engineer, \$35.66/hr.; Emily Abney, Dispatch, \$21.52/hr.; Kathryn Crumly, Dispatch, \$25.78/hr.; Kristen Sherman, Dispatch, \$23.48/hr.; Delaine Parish, Dispatch, \$27.85/hr.; Traci Boline, Dispatch, \$27.75/hr.; Terry Harris, Maintenance Superintendent, Retirement effective 4/3/2026.

Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve the Law Enforcement Contracts with the Cities

of Grandview, Fredonia, Letts, Morning Sun, and Oakville.

Adam Shutt, County Engineer, gave his weekly update.

Kenny Marlette, Emergency Management, gave his monthly update.

Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve the updated Zoning Application fee schedule effective March 3, 2026.

Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve the liquor license renewal for Petro & More in Letts, Iowa.

Motion Maine, second Hunt, to set the FY27 Proposed Tax Public Hearing for March 23rd, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve publication of the FY27 Proposed Tax Levy.

Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve the Unisyn Voting System Purchase agreement.

The following claims have been examined and approved:

abs office equip.....49.32  
alliant utilities.....7585.65  
amazon custd supplies.....394.54

ahfh juvenile shelter.....373.2

anne ball township trustee clerk20

atlantis global law enforce equip ..

bob barker food provisions.....415

bosch pest pest control.....85

brandons body shop mv equip maint.....687.33

cemstone concrete sand.....705.84

centurylink telephone svrs.....33.95

coppes pest extermination svr...75

des moines co aud medical fee350

cedar rapids misc equip maint.....1510

eli's hyway tires.....1138.94

151

farmers elevator maint equip rpr ..

298.62

fred weyrick jr township trustee cl

erk.....20

great lakes salt co salt.....15370.3

hewitts excavating cleaning ditch-

es.....13425

hicklin matthews par office allow-

ance.....3961.49

holmes highway mv equip maint

rpr.....1341.1

ia prison signs.....6041.7

isac health ins prem.....99113.56

issda s o i .....125

iacvs dues memberships.....90

invalon technical service379.21

ia depart revenue hotel motel tax

.....9.52

jason griffin medical fees.....200

kms trucking trucking salt4815.72

louisa co sheriff sheriff transport

char.....526.06

louisa comm telephone svrs912.92

lswa park maint.....29.5

mailing services postage.....700

martin equip illinois parts.....872.52

mason matthews township trustee

clerk.....20

menards cusdt supplies.....0.66

mid country machine parts2736.51

midwest graphics veh maint rpr ...

.....225

mgb health ins claims.....8409.54

motorola construction mai6654.93

nextran truck parts repairs7093.17

pj greufe consulting.....1666.65

pomps tire tires.....7995

postmaster postage.....29

principal health ins prem.....355.75

productivity plus oil.....43.75

racom corp mv equip maint rpr ....

.....20792.73

red lion renewables utiliite2705.34

reed dowell township trustee cle

rk.....20

rns data processing svrs..17022.11

republic companies sign posts4504

s i a d s a juv deten pharms762.12

se ia assessors dues memberships

.....400

seat treasurer s o i.....75

susan garrett medical fees.....200

susan j murdock feb office clean ..

.....500

tri-state court report transcript .....

.....196.32

us cellular telephone svrs.....131.12

vanguard appraisals appraisers .....

.....1400

visa health supplies.....76.79

wahltek contract svrs.....2200.93

wapello comm ambul emergency

svrs.....1310.23

wemiga waste container waste .....

.....457.46

There being no further business to

come before the Board, the

meeting on motion adjourned at

9:00 a.m.

/s/ Susan Schnedler, Auditor, /s/

Scot Hunt, Chair Pro-Tem

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