

LOUISA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

continued from page 1

requirements, said he had recommended the effective rate information be removed from the public notice.

"My recommendation when you see the (effective rate column) is to just ignore it," he told Keldgord and the others.

Later in the hearing Sands said he was opposed to the tax increase proposed in the county's FY 27 asking.

The figures included in the public hearing notice that he pointed to (with the current FY 26 figures in parenthesis) showed the Taxable Valuation - General Services for Louisa was \$765,867,012 (\$760,016,971), with the Requested Tax Dollars - Countywide (Except for Debt Service) set for \$5,974,750 (\$5,935,998).

Since there was no anticipated property tax dollars planned to be assessed for Debt Service, the Requested Tax Dollars - Countywide did not change from the figures above.

For rural taxes the Total Valuation - Rural Services in FY 27 was \$598,387,879 (FY 26 - \$597,397,300), with Requested Tax Dollars - Additional Rural Levies projected to be \$1,760,439 (\$1,635,680).

The reasons identified for increased property tax revenue included higher

operation and maintenance. Sands said he supported calls from Iowans for Tax Relief for a 2% increase limit for any government agency, acknowledging Louisa County had been doing a better job than other local governments keeping its increase to just above that amount.

The supervisors did not disagree with efforts to hold taxes down but said there was no cushion left in the local budget and further cuts would mean reduced services.

They specifically pointed to a relatively new law that could lead to substantial service cuts because of property tax restrictions and growth thresholds.

Alta Cook, Wapello, asked what services might go away if the county was forced to make cuts.

Supervisor Shawn Maine said more reductions would likely lead to negative impacts to county offices and singled out the sheriff's office in particular because its budget is one of the county's largest.

He said the 24/7 law enforcement now provided in the county could be one possible cutback forced on the county by recently enacted property tax control laws.

The county's three school resource officer positions were also brought up, although the supervisors pointed out most of those

costs are covered by the schools; and everyone said they supported the positions.

Former Louisa County Deputy Sheriff Dennis Teel, Wapello, agreed the 24/7 coverage and school reserve officer positions now in the county were not possible when he had served, but worried property assessments were climbing too high.

He said property valuations did not seem to be in line with what the marketplace was supporting.

Teel said he had purchased his rural acreage in the 1980s for around \$30,000 and constructed a \$130,000 house on the property after the original one burned down.

"So, even if you add those together, you get one hundred and sixty (but) over the years, it is now worth three hundred and thirty thousand dollars and I can't sell it for that," he said.

Maine agreed, explaining he has encountered the same problem with commercial buildings he owns in downtown Wapello. Maine said when he had raised that issue with the local assessor's office, he has been referred

to the state formula used in determining valuations.

Maine said that formula and other assessing protocols are the same

statewide, which means rural properties and urban properties are treated the same which does not work.

"It's crazy," he said.

Valuations also were a factor on another comparison included on the public hearing notice. That information compared a \$100,000 residential property in FY 26 and a \$110,000 property in FY 27.

Schnedler said that comparison was also a requirement and was intended to reflect the increase in property values. Based on those comparisons, an urban owner who is paying \$370 in FY 26 can expect to pay \$382 in FY 27; while a rural owner will see an increase from \$500 in FY 26 to \$526 in FY 27.

The notice also provided comparisons for a \$300,000 commercial property in FY 26 and a \$330,000 property in FY 27.

Those figures showed an urban taxpayer's FY 26 tax of \$1,610 climbing to \$1,785 in FY 27; while the rural commercial property owner's tax bill will go from \$2,174 in FY 26 to \$2,458 in FY 27.

Teel also disputed those comparisons, pointing out the marketplace value of his property did not automatically increase 10% each year.

The school boards of both the Wapello

Community School District (WCSD) and the Columbus Community School District (CCSD) each held their first required public hearing on March 25; and neither hearing drew any public comments or attendance.

Columbus School Board President Todd Heck explained the purpose of the hearing during the presentation of the district's proposed tax levy of just over \$10.57 per \$1,000 taxable valuation.

"The public hearing is required as part of the district's certified budget. The notice provided to each resident shows the maximum total property taxes the district will adopt as part of the certified budget which will be adopted by April 30th, 2026," he reported.

The district's proposed tax levy will be approximately 17.5¢ lower than this year's rate of almost \$10.40 per \$1,000, school officials said.

According to the notice, the district's Grand Total of property tax revenue expected to be raised through its various levies in FY 2027 will be \$3,206,653. That compares to current levy revenue of \$3,207,192.

Because the district's tax rate will decrease in FY 27, school officials said if any individual property owner's tax bill increases, it will be due to an increase

in valuation, which school districts do not control.

Meanwhile, the Wapello School Board also held its first required hearing on the budget's anticipated tax revenue on the same night.

That district's expected tax levy is projected to be almost \$12.69 per \$1,000 taxable valuation, a decrease of nearly 11¢ over this year's rate of about \$12.80 per \$1,000.

The Grand Total of property tax revenue projected to be raised in FY 27 is \$#,102,628, compared to the \$3,131,917 projected to be raised in FY 26.

Both districts are expected to hold their second required public hearing on their overall budgets in April.

Following its property tax public hearing, the Wapello School Board also held a special meeting and took action on two personnel issues. It first agreed to hire Becky Gray as the district's 6-12 Family Consumer Science teacher at a salary of \$66,000.

In the second action of the special meeting, the board accepted the resignation/retirement of Middle School Science teacher Laura Daisy. According to school officials, Daisy was hired in 1989 and has spent her entire teaching career in the WSD.

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERVISOR'S MINUTE BOOK "EE" LOUISA COUNTY, IOWA 154 March 17, 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 Ford, Randy Schlutz, Bill Small, Bill Poggemiller, Bryan Stephens, Leah McElhinney, and Jim Rudisill. Attended via Zoom: Jennifer Runnells, Tim Coleman, and Jacob Ewart. Pledge of Allegiance Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve agenda for March 17th, 2026. Motion Hunt, second Maine, to approve minutes for March 10th, 2026. Motion Maine, second Hunt,

to approve claims for March 17th, 2026, in the amount of \$361,147.65. Meetings attended: Maine attended the Public Health and Farm Bureau meetings. Hunt attended the Farm Bureau and RUSS meetings. Hardin attended the Planning and Zoning and Ports of Eastern Iowa Authority meetings. Motion Hunt, second Maine, to approve Windstream Iowa Communications LLC's "Application for Approval of Construction on Louisa County Right of Way" to bury fiber cable under I Avenue to 13606 I Avenue. Project #53762. Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve Windstream Iowa Communications LLC's "Application for Approval of Construction on Louisa County Right of Way" to bury fiber cable under I Avenue to 13482 I Avenue. Project #53732. Motion Maine, second Hunt, to approve Louisa Communications "Application for Approval of Construction on Louisa County

Right of Way" allowing them to re-route cable on 40th Street from 13163 40th East to US61. Adam Shutt, County Engineer, gave his weekly update. Leah McElhinney, Public Health, gave her monthly update. Discussion was held regarding creating a Property Tax program for new, rehabilitation, and additions to buildings and homes in Louisa County. Maine will work with Adam Parsons to get more information on the development of this program. The following claims have been examined and approved: access systems off supp.....10.39 access systems leas off supp136.34 access systems leas office equip...307.11 abs office equip.....67.97 advanced correct h c med health sr v.....3590.42 agriland lp ethanol.....8183.85 alliantutilities.....5137.11 amazon off supp.....1048.85 arcasearch contract srvs.....1265 burlington beacon brd mtgs.....596.6 cbi bank trust food provisio492.08

chad mcclary complex water sewer.....1268 cintas health ins.....25 city of wapello sewer water479.03 columbus gazette brd mtgs.987.53 c j auto supply parts filters.....472.91 courtesy door repairs.....120 curt hartlieb ii misc.....56.5 cynthia mears mileage off supp ...845.25 delzell's mv maint rpr.....1038.44 eastern ia light utilities.....520.44 eastern ia light utilities.....2001.36 economart food provisions.114.72 155 esi park maint.....180 farmers elevator parts fuel6595.87 ilea s o i.....125 ia prison ind uniforms.....108.98 iowa bridge culvert l co58 fy26 73 58.....141120 ia chapter apco s o i.....400 ia chapter nena s o i.....450 icn contract services.....452 iowa office m e medical fee.....4221 iscta s o i.....175 isaca dues memberships.....250 k s h2o water sewer.....334.85 kenwood records microfilm storage.....28.63

language line interpreter.....40.95 language link interpreter.....38.64 louisia co ambul col jet ambul6000 louisia co sheriff service notices ...839.48 louisia comm phone svrs.....608.13 ldg contribution.....6000 lrswa landfill.....5657.5 mellinger libraryhistorical perserv1000 mgb health ins claims.....1875.32 minnis heating park maint.2292.5 morning sun ambul monring sun ambul.....4600 morning sun farm impl and pride mower.....2564.99 nextran truck parts repairs4358.55 northwest mechanical bldg maint rpr.....2546.97 pfg thoms food provision2621.44 pos mv renewal notices.....7.28 racom corp law enforce equip5366.63 red lion renew utilities.....4244.7 russ contracted srvs.....9890.34 rms data processing srvs.....13265.7 riverproductsrock.....47426.26 s i a d s a juv detention stay...3800 sadler power parts filters...1538.57

safety klean parts washer...456.81 schwab electric repairs.....402.18 seat treasurer dues memberships ...200 snyder hollenbaugh funeral service s.....3825 se ia regional med juv deten transport.....187.7 state hygenic lab labs service s.....138.5 stevens erosion seeding.....2750 tk elevator contracted.....295.95 t-mobile cell phones.....178.98 us cellular telephone srvs...407.82 veters inc water equip rental19.24 visa lodging parts.....7025.13 wapello auto parts mv equip maint rpr.....189.82 wapello ambul wapello ambu6500 wemiga wastecontainer waste457.46 wex fleet fuels.....4760.32 wilson paper custd supplies196.03 windstream phone services282.52 There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting on motion adjourned at 9:11 a.m. Published Wednesday, April 1, 2026 in the Columbus Gazette

PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE

CITY OF COLUMBUS JUNCTION MARCH 25, 2026, 5:30 PM REGULAR MEETING CITY HALL AMENDED 3-19-2026
MEETING CALLED TO ORDER 5:30 pm All council members present- Edwards out sick CONSENT AGENDA A.Minutes of Previous Meeting B.Claims Motion by Harris 2nd by Prior CITIZENS CONCERNS Patty Weingarden was back prior to meeting and Mapel told her he followed up with public works and 4 speed limited signs we will determine placement of signs- Jeff said it will be a few weeks before the signs arrive 1.MATT WALKER AGREEMENTS FOR BID PACKAGES-Matt stated that he could do the bid in 2 separate packages or 1 bid for the culvert by Caseys and corner sidewalk across from the museum Motion by Mapel 2nd By Harris to approve 2 separate bids 2.ADVERTISE FOR POLICE POSITION-discussed that they should start advertising for chief of police position - would like to start the process and ideally have someone hired by July/new fiscal year. Motion by Harris and 2nd by Tompkins 3.SIDEWALK PROJECT-Keenan asked if committee had been able to meet- they had not. Todd stated he would like them to meet before the next council meeting. Need to look at all old policies and review due to the state passed new laws that the homeowner and city are now liable for accidents

on these sidewalks. We need to make sure we look at all these sidewalks. Todd discussed open meeting rules and now all committee meetings need to be posted 24 hours prior, minutes taken and give community the opportunity to be involved. 4.RESOLUTION 03252026 NEW CITY LOGO ADDED 3-19-26 3:10 PM No action taken 5.POOL COMMITTEE ADDED 3-19-2026 3:10 PM Todd talked with school and they want to come to a solution about the pool. If the school loses this, the Pearl Grant would go away and then all money would have to come out of general fund. We need to make this happen. Keenan suggested we have at least one council member on this committee - Sparrow and Tompkins asked to be on this committee COMMITTEE REPORTS UTILITIES - Wemiga Waste got back to Jeff, and spring clean up will be Friday May 29th and it will be just like the Fall clean up. Mapel suggested they make flyers in 3 different languages. We discussed there are more than 3 languages. He stated maybe Wemiga could place flyers on carts. He asked that they send a flyer to Tyson. Mapel asked that we advertise in the local paper at least a few times to get the word out. Todd said we need to inform citizens that this clean up is for them to get rid of junk at their properties as after this clean up we would be enforcing junk ordinances after this clean up. Todd asked if the utilities committee had a chance to meet yet. They had not. STREETS & SIDEWALKS PUBLIC SAFETY FINANCE LIBRARY REPORT EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

AMBULANCE MAYORS REPORT -Todd stated he met with Mike from Lulac and they discussed plans about the future with Araceli/Lulac. Mike will be attending the 2nd council meeting in April to discuss this further. ADJOURNED at 5:58 pm Motion by Harris to adjourn 2nd by Tompkins /s/ Kenan Todd, Mayor, /s/ Shari Vonnahme, Assistant Clerk CLAIMS GENERAL LIABILITIES AVESIS THIRD PARTY ADMINI VISION.....29.33 COLLECTION SERVICE CNTER GARNISHMENT.....55.84 EFTPS FED/FICA/TAX...3,640.17 IPERS IPERS.....2,417.82 TRANSAMERICA EMPLOYEE BEN SUPPLEMENTAL.....37.88 TREASURER STATE OF IOWA STATE TAX.....297.95 WELLMARK INC HEALTH DENTAL.....282.22 050 LIABILITIES TOTAL.6,761.21 POLICE AT&T CELL PHONES.....8.58 GREAT WESTERN SUPPLY CO. TOILET PAPER.....50.37 IOWA DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY QRTLY DUES.....300.00 MPH INDUSTRIES INC RADAR TRCK.....2,204.00 PETTY CASH POSTAGE.....7.55 WELLMARK INC HEALTH5,093.73 110 POLICE TOTAL.....7,664.23 LIBRARY ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES944.85 GREAT WESTERN SUPPLY CO. TOILET PAPER.....50.37 DIANA ANDERSON CLAIMS60.52 410 LIBRARY TOTAL.....1,055.74 MUSEUM/BAND/THEATER

ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES348.19 420 MUSEUM/BAND/THEATER TOTAL.....348.19 PARKS ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES219.37 JOHATHON SEITZ REPAIR JACOBSO.....300.00 LOUISA COMMUNICATIONS LC INTERNET.....69.95 430 PARKS TOTAL.....589.32 LEGAL SERVICES/ATTORNEY FINKE LAW FIRM ATTORNEY HAYES.....450.00 640 LEGAL SERVICES/ATTORNEY TOTAL.....450.00 CITY HALL/GENERAL BLDGS ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES944.85 JODI EDWARDS CELL PHONE STIPEND.....40.00 LOUISA COMMUNICATIONS INTERNET.....69.95 OFFICE EXPRESS OFFICE SUPPLIES.....171.07 PETTY CASH POSTAGE.....31.20 DIANA ANDERSON CLAIMS60.52 UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HEALTH JODI INS.....38.60 WELLMARK INC HEALTH894.76 650 CITY HALL/GENERAL BLDGS TOTAL.....2,250.95 MISCELLANEOUS AMERICAN LEGION FLAGS63.00 690 MISCELLANEOUS TOTAL ..63.00 001 GENERAL TOTAL.19,182.64 AMBULANCE LIABILITIES AVESIS THIRD PARTY ADMINI VISION.....13.37 EFTPS FED/FICA TAX.....1,710.06 IPERS ELECTRONIC IPERS1,107.95 TREASURER STATE OF IOWA STATE TAX.....190.09 WELLMARK INC HEALTH DENTAL.....437.57

050 LIABILITIES TOTAL.3,459.04 AMBULANCE AIRGAS USE LLC MEDICAL OXYGEN.....148.93 HENRY SCHEIN INC MEDICAL SUPPLIES.....519.45 MEDIACOM BUSINESS INTERNET.....250.00 DIANA ANDERSON CLAIM SH EETS.....60.52 WELLMARK INC HEALTH2,829.66 160 AMBULANCE TOTAL3,808.56 002 AMBULANCE TOTAL7,267.60 ROAD USE TAX LIABILITIES EFTPS FED/FICA TAX 050 LIABILITIES TOTAL ROADS, BRIDGES, SIDEWALKS COLUMBUS JUNCTION AUTO SU OIL/FLUID.....16.77 IOWA PRISON INDUSTRIES STREET SIGNS.....565.73 210 ROADS, BRIDGES, SIDEWALKS TOTAL.....582.50 STREET LIGHTING ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES2,807.19 110 ROAD USE TAX TOTAL3,389.69 CITY OF CJ ROUNDY WAY COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION FLORAL GALLERY JILL CECIL FUNERAL.....80.00 510 COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION TOTAL.....80.00 167 CITY OF CJ ROUDY WAY TOTAL.....80.00 WATER LIABILITIES VESIS THIRD PARTY ADMINI VISION.....16.71 CITY OF COLUMBUS JUNCTION CC/DEBIT REIMB EFTPS FED/FICA TAX.....614.61 IPERS IPERS REGULAR.....467.82 TREASURER STATE OF IOWA STATE TAX.....79.83 WELLMARK INC DENTAL.45.43

050 LIABILITIES TOTAL.1,251.40 WATER ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES.....4,581.37 AT&T CELL PHONE.....2.86 IOWA DEPT OF REVENUE & FI WET/SALES TAX OFFICE EXPRESS THERMAL PAPER/2 BINDERS.....144.90 WELLMARK INC HEALTH INS2,742.62 810 WATER TOTAL.....7,471.75 600 WATER TOTAL.....8,723.15 SEWER LIABILITIES AVESIS THIRD PARTY ADMINI VISION.....11.32 EFTPS FED/FICA TAX.....940.85 IPERS IPERS REGULAR.....670.12 TREASURER STATE OF IOWA STATE TAX.....100.71 WELLMARK INC DENTAL.45.43 050 LIABILITIES TOTAL.1,765.43 SEWER,SEWAGE DISPOSAL ALLIANT UTILITIES UTILITIES4,296.77 AT&T CELL PHONE.....2.86 IOWA DEPT OF REVENUE & FI WET/SALES TAX SHARI VONNAHME CELL PHONE STIPEND.....40.00 STEINDLER SURGERY CENTER JEFF INSURANCE.....353.96 WASHINGTON STATE BANK INT LOAN.....552.33 WELLMARK INC HEALTH INS1,830.75 815 DEWER/SEWAGE DISPOSAL TOTAL.....7,076.67 610 SEWER TOTAL.....8,845.10 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE.47,488.18 001 GENERAL.....19,182.64 002 AMBULANCE.....7,267.60 110 ROAD USE TAX.....3,389.69 167 CITY OF CJ ROUNDY WAY8,723.15 610 DEWER.....8,845.10 TOTAL FUNDS.....47,188.18 Published Wednesday, April 1, 2026 in the Columbus Gazette