

OSAGE HISTORY

Wa-Tan-Ye Club, Osage, 1927-1972

In the language of an Indian tribe, which tribe is not really known, the word "WA-TAN-YE" is defined as "Service Foremost", and this is the motto, the words, by which the members of Wa-tan-ye club live. Wa-tan-ye came into being in Mason City, Iowa, in 1925, with the object of organizing business and professional women to serve the public in areas that were at that time neglected. It wasn't long before the club had grown and spread to areas adjoining Mason City, then to other states, and is now well known throughout the nation.

Two years following the issuing of the first charter, Osage working women climbed aboard the Wa-tan-ye bandwagon. The charter members included May Byrnes, Sarah Cleveland, Augusta Cummings, Sarah Hart, Bess Arsers Hewitt, Hazel Hunt, Blanche McLaughlin, Arlene Sewright Naig, Daisey Tupper Nichols, Nettie Peterson, Bird Stacey, Vera Sullivan and Betty Woodward.

The first local meetings were at the Cleveland Hotel, and Miss 'Pet' personally saw to the details of the dinner before the meeting. Service was first, and the meals, costing 65 cents per person, were something to be remembered, with lovely tables, beautiful dishes, candelabra, flowers and oh, the good food!

The first president was Daisy Tupper Nichols. Singing was an important part of the program at each meeting. Important people of the community and often guest speakers from away were heard. Quite often there would be a travelogue with slides or movies. These women were learning as they worked, and it is still the same today.

The major project in the early years was supplying milk twice each day to school children who were unable to buy it. This was a worthy program, especially during depression years, and how these women worked to raise the money to supply that milk! There were shoe sales that made the purchase of second-hand shoes and over-shoes at a very low price, a possibility for needy children of the community. They held white elephant sales during the meetings and they had public 500 and bridge parties that drew good crowds and a few more dollars to buy milk for Osage children.

They held amateur talent programs that became so popular that it was necessary for them to be held two nights to accommodate the audiences. They also brought outstanding movies to the local theater, went out and sold tickets to be assured of a full house, and then members served as ushers for the show.

On July 4, 1931, when Osage celebrated its Diamond Jubilee, the club had a float in the parade which consisted of a huge diamond shaped like a kernel of yellow corn, surrounded by children and placed on a wagon drawn by four white horses. It took hours of work, but the club members thought it was well worth the effort, as it was much admired.

The local club has accomplished a great deal on both the national and on state levels. They were hosts to the national convention in the early 1940s, and meetings and social gatherings were handled at the Cleveland Hotel and Sunny Brae Country Club. The local club has never failed to send at least two delegates to the national convention.

Osage women have served as officers on a national level: Mrs. Betty Clay Woodward served as national president; Mrs. Rena Jean Tesch was national secretary; Mrs. Grace Layton Hanson served as national organizer and also on the legislative committee; Bess Arsers Hewitt deserves much credit for having been national editor of the organizations' national publication for seven years. Mrs. Gladys Dieterich was district director for two years.

Wa-tan-yans locally assisted with the civil defense

program, the bloodmobile program, held parties for residents of the county home, sent thousands of letters and cookies to service men during World War II, built a fireplace for the public at Spring Park, produced hundreds of pairs of mittens, sponsored the Easter Seal drive in the county from 1958 to 1964 under the direction of Mrs. Therese Haines, club president during those years, furnished a room at Memorial Hospital, gave Christmas parties for under-privileged children of the community and also assisted in a major way with Girl Scouts.

An important project of the club in the past several years has been the presenting of a scholarship to a worthy local senior girl who wished to go on for advanced education. Some of the girls who have benefited by this scholarship program are: Nancy Novotny, Jean Heard, Janet Muller, Jane Reyerson, Lois Nack, Carol Hill, Elizabeth Mayer, Marita Louise Lewis, Nancy Berg, Diann Miller, Pamela Linnet Henry, Dorothy Chellew, Betty Freebury, Sandra Stroberg, Mary Ammons, Kathy Williams, Ann Walsh, Mary Jane Groff and Pam Pint.

Two members in each profession is the club's limitation. During a candle ceremony, using red, black and yellow candles, officers speak their vows which in-

stall them as members. The daisy that covered the fields of our country when Indians roamed at will is the club flower and a bouquet of these centers the ritual table. The emblem is a key on which is mounted an arrowhead. The key, according to the rituals, unlocks the door of friendship, and the arrowhead represents the member and her profession.

The only bequest the club has ever received came from the estate of Elizabeth Schroeder who passed away in September 1968. Elizabeth was a registered nurse, having taken her training in her homeland of Germany. She came to America to establish a home for her uncle and was a member and a willing and faithful worker of the club for 30 years until she was

no longer able. Members of Wa-tan-ye find pleasure in service. While they are serving others, they are also serving themselves with the satisfaction of tasks well-done.

This was taken from The Story of Mitchell County 1851-1973. I have not found evidence of the Osage club still in existence. The Riceville Wa-tan-ye club has been in existence for many years and has been instrumental in promoting the well-fare of so many programs of the community and its citizens and as of this writing is considering disbanding their charter with fewer and aging of the active members. St. Ansgar formed a club in 1935, serving for a number of years, but after many members moved away, its charter was surrendered.





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MINUTES	
PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF MITCHELL COUNTY, IOWA TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2026	
The Board of Supervisors convened at 8:30 a.m. with all members present. Also, present were Brandon Halsne, Aaron Murphy, Rich Brumm, Greg Beaver, Justin Trees, Gregg Halbach, Tom Rolles, Keith Horgen, Shannon Paulus, Rebekah Barr, and Guadalupe Bandillo. The meeting was made available by video via "Go to Meeting". Motion by Hartogh, second by Hendrickson to approve the agenda. All voted aye.	
Motion by Marzen, second by Wherry to approve the minutes of the March 3rd meeting & claims. Roll call: all voted aye.	County Attorney Murphy had nothing to present. Supervisor Marzen confirmed the County is on schedule for opioid paperwork and Murphy will sign once he receives the forms.
County Sheriff Beaver is moving up his retirement date to May 31, 2026, to align with IPERS benefits. Beaver would like to have an appointment made effective June 1, 2026, made next week or soon after so they can begin looking at hiring a new deputy.	Auditor Foster confirmed having a discussion next week on the cupola. Hartogh suggested having Krause Konstruktion available online for questions. Supervisor Frein met with Valent to discuss items at the pre-treatment plant that are the County's property. Frein would like to add Valent to the agenda next week.
County Engineer Rich Brumm is working on his DOT budget. Brumm has not heard anything on the union contract meeting.	34% of the second half of taxes are collected. Motion by Hartogh, second by Hendrickson to approve the Treasurer's Report for February
in the amount of \$2,455,618.84. Roll call vote: all voted aye.	Wherry reported on NIACOG Executive meeting and NIACOG Board of Directors. Hartogh reported on EMA and E-911. Frein reported on Valent and FMC-ECL and Hendrickson reported on Iowa Workforce.
Access Systems Leasing, Mileage,- Meals, Lodging.....555.75	Adams, Tracy L, Mileage.....230.33
Ahlers & Cooney, P.C., Service Fees.....508.00	Air Chek, Water Samples....790.00
Amazon Capital Services, Supp.....3413.39	AT&T Mobility, Phone.....599.90
Auditor of State Office of Aud, Serv.....850.00	Austin Office Products, Supp.....166.80
Batteries Plus Bulbs, Supp...350.00	Betts, Haley, Mileage.....262.09
Bissen, Krystal, Mileage.....187.20	Blake's Auto, LLC, Serv.....98.36
Caleb Blocker, Meals/Mileage.....415.20	Brightree Home Hlth & Hospic, Serv.....3410.29
Bundy, Kelsey, Mileage.....107.59	Cedar Veterinary Clinic, Serv.....150.63
City of Carpenter, Util.....148.89	City of St. Ansgar, Util.....51.00
Cooper's Osage Auto, Serv...167.50	Crysteel Truck Equipment Inc., Serv.....1928.05
Dash, Serv.....165.00	DeMaris Hardware, Supp.....28.78
Dollar General, Supp.....24.20	Elan Financial Services, Supp.....3003.02
Electronic Specialties Inc., Serv.....982.69	Enterprise Media Group LLC, Board Proceedings/Legals.....183.04
Fox Rehabilitation, Serv.....6930.00	Galls, LLC, Supp.....197.23
Giles, Sasha, Mileage.....47.85	Halfman, Deanna, Mileage...133.40
Halverson, Ladeena, Rent Pmt.....400.00	Haugen, Faye, Mtg/Mileage...54.00
HealthCareFirst, Serv.....750.33	Hegland, Merlyn, Phone.....35.00
Henry M. Adkins & Son Inc. Ele. Supp.....3300.00	Huber Supply Co., Serv.....107.86
I.S.A.C., Insurance.....7383.23	Insight Public Sector, Inc., Supp.....5589.20
IOWA IT, Serv.....150.00	IA Law Enforce Acad, Serv...375.00
IA Prison Ind, Serv.....2185.20	ISACS, Dues.....245.00
ISCTA, School.....175.00	LJP Waste Solutions, Serv...272.80
Lum Roll Electric, Serv.....210.00	Joens, Robert, Mtg/Mileage...54.00
John Deere Financial, Serv...1106.48	Johnson Controls Fire Protecti, Serv.....540.00
Johnson Oil and LP Company, Fuel.....1594.30	K&N Mini Mart, Inc, Supp.....116.00
Ketelsen, Jessa, Mileage.....156.82	Kimball Midwest, Serv.....835.37
Krause Konstruktion Company, Serv.....7500.00	Krivachek Janitorial Supply, Serv...127.96
Larson's Hardware Hank, Supp.....39.98	Lessin Supp Co, Serv.....266.18
M.C.P.E.H.P., Insurance...15250.00	Malmn LLC, Serv.....79.26
Marketplace Media Company, Serv.....379.00	Martin Bro Dist Co., Supp...1030.29
Mason City Fire Department, Serv.....250.00	Mid-Country Machinery Inc., Serv...722.23
Murphy, Aaron R., Cty Atty Fees....7558.40	Newbauer Inc, Serv.....357.48
North Iowa Broadcasting Inc, Serv.....175.00	Nuway/K&H Coop Oil Co, Fuel.....1332.93
Olsen Impl. Inc, Fuel.....90.00	Omnitel Comm, Phone.....692.74
Osage Municipal Utilities, Util/Phone/Internet.....9671.64	Osage Oracle LLC, Board Proceedings/Legals.....168.17
Osage Towing & Repair, LLC, Serv.....993.58	Penguin Management, Inc., Supp...1164.00
Pollard Pest Cont Corp, Serv...72.91	Premier Cleaners, Inc, Serv...68.22
Premier Sprayfoam & Coatings, Serv.....530.00	Professional Office Services, Serv.....8.06
Randy's Neighborhood Market, Supp.....68.14	ReGov Solutions LLC, Serv.....80325.00
S&H Environmental Services LLC, Serv.....1100.00	Schulz, Molly, Mileage.....193.00
SEAT Treasurer School.....225.00	State Election Admin. Training, Dues.....200.00
Stericycle, Inc., Supp.....36.92	Storey Kenworthy, Supp.....759.85
T-Mobile, Serv.....42.00	Truck County, Serv.....402.58
U.S. Corrections, LLC, Serv.....3562.00	USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT, Loan Pmt.....1302.60
VGM Group Inc, Serv.....416.00	Water Systems Company Ecowa-ter, Serv.....19.66
Weber Auto Parts, Serv.....975.99	WHKS & Co., Serv.....1520.06
Wolff, Dawn, Mileage.....348.73	Ziegler Inc. Serv.....2032.40
Frein adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.	Rachel Foster - Mitchell County Auditor
Todd Frein - Chair Board of Supervisors	
<i>Published in The Osage Oracle on Friday, March 20, 2026</i>	

PUBLIC NOTICE		
MITCHELL COUNTY ORDINANCE 64 AN ORDINANCE RE-ADOPTING THE EXISTING COUNTY CODE AND ALL AMENDMENTS THERETO, MITCHELL COUNTY, IOWA	1 Ordinance Adoption Procedure	and the unincorporated areas of Mitchell County (replaced by Ordinance No. 18)
BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Supervisors of Mitchell County, Iowa:	2 Mitchell County Planning and Zoning Ordinance (Replaced by Ordinance No. 17)	15 Ordinance establishing the policy and level of service in respect to clearance of snow or ice and maintenance of this County's secondary roads during the winter months
Section 1. Purpose. Code of Iowa §331.302(9), requires that once every five (5) years a County shall compile its Code of Ordinances. This ordinance re-adopts ordinances already in effect and adopts ordinances that become effective after the last re-adopting.	89 Ordinance establishing partial property tax exemption for industrial property upon which improvements have been made	16 Ordinance adopting all existing ordinances in accordance with Iowa Code §331.302(9)
Section 2. Ordinance Repealed. The following previously-adopted ordinances, identified by ordinance number and subject matter, are hereby repealed, provided that a) any ordinance or part of an ordinance that was repealed by an ordinance hereby repealed shall not be enforceable or considered re-adopted and b) the repeal shall not operate to release or relinquish any penalty, forfeiture or liability incurred under each such ordinance, and each such repealed ordinance shall be treated as remaining in force for the purpose of instituting or sustaining any proper action or prosecution for enforcement of such penalty, forfeiture or liability:	90 Land subdivision regulations of Mitchell County	17 Mitchell County land use and plan (replaces Ordinance No. 2)
17.1.30 Zoning Commission Members	3 Liability of county jail prisoners	18 Ordinance establishing a local option sales and service tax applicable to transactions within the incorporated areas of Carpenter, McIntire, Mitchell, Osage, Orchard, Riceville, Stacyville, St. Ansgar and Riceville of Mitchell County (replaces Ordinance Nos. 13 & 14)
35 Mitchell County Road Preservation Act	4 Destruction of noxious weeds and brush in public road right-of-way	19 Prohibiting the possession, use or sale of drug paraphernalia
41 Mitchell County Road Protection Ordinance	5 Ordinance establishing the Area Service System B Road classification in Mitchell County	20 Assessment of Wind Energy Conservation Property
Section 3. Re-adopting of Current Code. The following ordinances have been previously adopted and enacted into law and were duly published as the law provides. They are stated herein by number, subject matter and by the authority of the Mitchell County Board of Supervisors, comprise Mitchell County Code of Ordinances:	6 Ordinance adopting by reference the nonpublic water well rules of the Iowa Administrative Code #567 (Chapter 49)	21 Establishing voting districts in Mitchell County
	7 Ordinance adopting by reference the well abandonment standards of the Iowa Administrative Code #567 (Chapter 39)	21B Amending ordinance establishing voting districts in Mitchell County
	8 Ordinance adopting by reference the on-site waste water disposal rules of the Iowa Administrative Code #567 (Chapter 69)	22 Ordinance prohibiting assault, harassment and stalking
	9 Partial property tax exemption for cattle facilities	23 Ordinance prohibiting theft and fraudulent practices
	10 Ordinance establishing a policy for the separation of yard wastes from all other garbage and refuse	24 Ordinance regulating hunting, fishing and trapping
	11 Amends the Code of Ordinances by adding a new chapter requiring persons that are responsible for storing hazardous materials, at their own cost, to clean up any leaks or spills of those materials and procedures	25 Ordinance regulating motor vehicles
	12 Uniform Rural Address System	26 Operating While Intoxicated
	13 Ordinance establishing a local option sales and service tax applicable to transactions within the incorporated areas of Carpenter, Mitchell, Osage, Orchard, Riceville, Stacyville and St. Ansgar of Mitchell County (replaced by Ordinance No. 18)	27 Ordinance prohibiting noxious weeds
	14 Ordinance establishing a local option sales and service tax applicable to transactions within the incorporated areas of the City of McIntire	28 Ordinance establishing a school local option sales and services tax applicable to transactions within the school districts of Osage, St. Ansgar and Riceville of Mitchell County
		29 Ordinance prohibiting littering
		30 Ordinance relating to the amendment of the Mitchell County Zoning Ordinance relating to the permitted uses in the agricultural (AG) district
		31 Ordinance re-adopting the existing County Code and all amendments thereto Mitchell County, Iowa
		32 Dog Control Ordinance
		33 Ordinance Providing that General Property Taxes Levied and Collected in each year on all property located within the State Line Economic Development District be paid to a special fund.
		34 Ordinance Amending Mitchell County Zoning Ordinance 17.1.30 regarding term limits of Planning and Zoning Commissioners
		36 Mitchell County Road Preservation Act
		37 Ordinance Amending Mitchell County Ordinance No. 36 amending time periods
		38 Ordinance providing that general property taxes levied and collected each year on all property located within Mitchell County UR-2 Economic Development District Urban Renewal Project Area be paid to a special fund.
		39 Ordinance establishing rates and charges for the use and service of the Carpenter Sanitary Sewer System
		40 Ordinance regulating the use of public sewer, building sewers and building drains, onsite systems, private sewage disposal, the installation and connection of building sewers, and the discharge of waters and wastes into the public sewer and providing penalties for violations thereof
		42 Mitchell County Junk Vehicle Ordinance
		43 Mitchell County Social Host Ordinance
		44 Mitchell County Road Protection Ordinance (Repealed)
		45 An Ordinance Establishing Voting Districts in Mitchell County, Iowa
		46 An Ordinance Providing for the Division of Taxes Levied on Taxable Property in the 2012 Addition to the Mitchell County Urban Renewal Area, Pursuant to §403.19 of the Code of Iowa.
		46A Mitchell County Steel or Metal
		47 An Ordinance Pursuant to §403.19 of the Code of Iowa Providing for the Division of Property Taxes Levied and Collected Each Year on Taxable Property in the 2013-14 Addition to the Mitchell County Urban Renewal Area.
		48 An Ordinance to Establish the Policy and Level of Service in Respect to Clearance of Snow or Ice and Maintenance of this County's Secondary Roads During the Winter Months
		49 An Ordinance Providing for the Division of Taxes Levied on Taxable Property in the 2014 Addition to the Mitchell County Urban Renewal Area, Pursuant to §403.19 of the Code of Iowa
		50 An Ordinance Re-Adopting the Existing County Code and all Amendments thereto, Mitchell County, Iowa
		51 An Ordinance Establishing Voting Districts in Mitchell County, Iowa
		52 An Ordinance Providing for the Division of Taxes Levied on Taxable Property in the 2020 Addition to the Mitchell County Urban Renewal Area, Pursuant to Section 403.19 of the Code of Iowa.
		53 An Ordinance Re-Adopting the Existing County Code and All Amendments Thereto, Mitchell County, Iowa
		54 An Ordinance Amending Mitchell County Ordinance No. 39
		55 An Ordinance Establishing Election Precinct Boundaries in Mitchell County, Iowa
		56 An Ordinance Amending Mitchell County Ordinance No. 55
		57 An Ordinance Amending Mitchell County Ordinance No. 39
		58 An Ordinance Authorizing Mitchell County Conservation Board to Engage in Offering the Sale of Wetland Mitigation Credits to Public and Private Entities Pursuant to Chapter 23A of the Code of Iowa
		59 An Ordinance Amending Mitchell County Ordinance No. 54 (which amended Mitchell County Ordinance No. 39)
		60 An Ordinance Providing for the Division of Taxes Levied on Taxable Property Located within the 2023 Addition to the Mitchell County Urban Renewal Area, Pursuant to Section 403.19 of the Code of Iowa
		61 An Ordinance Enacting a New Right-of-Way Control Ordinance to Regulate Certain Occupancies and Uses of County Right-of-Way
		62 An Ordinance Amending the Mitchell County Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance 17) Regarding Provisions Regulating Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems (C-WECS) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)
		63 An Ordinance Amending the Mitchell County Zoning Ordinance (Ordinance 17) Making Revisions Regarding Wind Energy Conversion Systems (WECS) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)
		Section 4. Adoption of Code of Ordinances. The ordinances specified under Section 3 of this Ordinance are re-adopted or adopted, as the case may be, and compiled as the Mitchell County 2021 Code of Ordinances. Copies of the Code shall be on file and available for public inspection in the Office of the County Auditor.
		Section 5. When Effective. This ordinance shall be effective after its final passage, approval and publication as provided by law.
		Adopted by the Board of Supervisors on this 17 th day of March, 2026.
		MITCHELL COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
		By: Todd Frein, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors
		ATTEST:
		Rachel Foster, Auditor
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