

HoCo. Board of Supervisors

THE SEVENTH DAY

The Board of Supervisors of Howard County, Iowa met in regular session as required by law at the Office of the Howard County Board of Supervisors, Cresco, Iowa on February 9, 2026.

Unless noted in the minutes, all motions were passed unanimously.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Joe Pisney at 9:00 a.m.

Those present were: Chairman in the Chair Joe Pisney, Dean Eastman, and Pat Murray. Absent; None.

A motion by Pat Murray and seconded by Dean Eastman to approve the agenda as posted. Motion passed.

A motion by Dean Eastman and seconded by Pat Murray to approve the minutes of the last meeting. Motion passed.

A motion by Pat Murray and seconded by Dean Eastman to approve to hire Susan Irvin as a Dispatcher/Jailer effective February 9, 2026. Susan will follow all of Howard County's Policies and Procedures as well as the Dispatcher/Jailer Union Contract. Motion passed.

A motion by Dean Eastman and seconded by Pat Murray to approve the Recorder's Monthly Report ending January 31, 2026. Motion passed.

A motion by Pat Murray and seconded by Dean Eastman to approve Resolution No. 1425-2026, Requesting Funds for Educational Program from Winnesiek County Solid Waste Agency. The vote thereon was as follows: Ayes: Pisney, Eastman, and Murray. Nays: None. Resolution No. 1425-2026 passed unanimously. The full text of the resolution may be viewed at the Howard County Auditor's Office or on the Howard County website: <https://howardcounty.iowa.gov/>.

A motion by Pat Murray and seconded by Dean Eastman to authorize the Sheriff's Department to utilize the opioid dollars for narcotics training including meal reimbursements, meeting registration, hotel registration, and mileage. Motion passed.

The board discussed the Little Cats Day-care Agreement.

Howard County Economic Development Director Jason Passmore came before the board to give a Howard County Economic Development update.

Howard County Engineer Nick Rissman came before the board to discuss Secondary Roads Business.

1. Project Updates
2. Approve CMP quote
3. Approve V18 crack sealing quote
4. Approve dump truck snow wing and front hitch quote
5. New Cresco shop discussion
6. Other Road Issues

A motion by Pat Murray and seconded by Dean Eastman to approve the CMP quote from Metal Culverts in the amount of \$27,514.40. Motion passed.

A motion by Dean Eastman and seconded by Pat Murray to approve the V18 crack sealing quote from Fahrner Asphalt Sealing in the amount of \$85,374.06. Motion passed.

A motion by Pat Murray and seconded by Dean Eastman to approve a quote from Tri State Truck Equipment in the amount of \$12,940.00 for a dump truck snow wing and front hitch. Motion passed.

A motion by Dean Eastman and seconded by Pat Murray to approve to pay claims. Motion passed.

General Basic Fund

Alliant Energy, Electric Light & Power	1325.66
American Legion, Other	65.07
Capital Sanitary Supply, Custodial Supplies	405.85
Cresco Family Pharmacy, Medical & Lab Supplies	113.66
Cresco Shopper, Other	160.25
DLE Certification, Educational & Train. Serv.	450.00
Elan Financial Services, Custodial Supplies	110.94
Enterprise Media Group, Magazines, Period. & Books	80.00
Fareway Stores Inc., Food Preparation Services	414.25
Jessica Gesell, Food Preparation Services	3.79
Jake Hofstra, Food Preparation Services	2.47
Iowa Prison Industries, Wearing Apparel & Uniform	230.00
Johnson Computers & TV, Office Equipment & Furnit	59.00
Kar Auto Group of Decorah Inc, Motor Vehicle Equipment	49.95
Kwik Trip Inc, Employee Mileage & Subs.	57.87
Language Line, Miscellaneous	358.05
Lickteig Lawn & Garden, Parts	270.46
Mail Services LLC, Stationery/Forms/Office S	412.23
Marco Inc, Office & Data Processing	365.00
Mediacom, Telephone & Fax Service	396.25
Midwest Auto Fire Sprinkler, Safety & Protect. Supplies	349.00
O' Henry's Stitches & Prints, Other	146.00
Office Depot, Stationery/Forms/Office S	242.34
Omnitel Communications, Telephone & Fax Service	119.59
Jake Pierce, Employee Mileage & Subs.	284.32
Plunkett's Pest Control, Grounds Maintenance Suppl	63.45
Quill Corporation, Stationery/Forms/Of-	

.....	725.71
Quill Corporation, Stationery/Forms/Office S	119.13
Ranco Engineering Sales, Parts	390.04
Sherwin-Williams, Wood & Lumber Prod.	609.68
T Mobile, Telephone & Fax Service	195.72
TriState Truck Equipment Div o, Motor Vehicle	53173.35
Truck Country of Iowa, Parts	509.19
WEX Bank, Fuels	7644.26
Ziegler Inc., Minor Mv Parts & Access	5712.40
Conserv. Special Projects	
Willy Goat, Buildings	2595.00
Grants to Counties Well Prog.	
Kwik Trip Inc, Employee Mileage & Subs.	53.30
County Assessor Agcy Fund	
Culligan Water Conditioning, Stationery/Forms/Office S	25.20
ISAC, Educational & Train. Serv	220.00
Marco Inc, Office & Data Processing	132.00
TPD Publishing Inc. Cresco Tim, Official Pub. & Legal Not.	93.47
E911 Service Charge Fund	
Iowa Homeland Security, Radio & Related Equip.	2682.31
Omnitel Communications, Radio & Communications	65.62
T Mobile, Telephone & Fax Service	56.40
Self-Funded Health Insurance	
Howard Co. Employee, Medical & Health Charges	2675.09
Grand Total	110404.33

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Howard Co. Employee, Medical & Health Charges	2675.09
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The board conducted a budget worksession.

A motion by Pat Murray and seconded by Dean Eastman to approve to set the Proposed Tax Levy Hearing for the FY27 Budget for March 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Motion passed.

Chairman, Joe Pisney adjourned the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

ATTEST:

Julie Chapman,
Howard County Auditor

Joe Pisney, Chairman Howard County Board of Supervisors

Published in the Cresco Times Plain Dealer 2/18/2026

Probate/Will

Probate No. ESPRO12502 NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Iowa District Court in and for Howard County In the Matter of the Estate of

GEORGIA A. SCHMIDT, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of GEORGIA A. SCHMIDT, Deceased, who died on or about December 18, 2025:

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that on the 5th day of February, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of GEORGIA A. SCHMIDT, deceased, bearing date of March 24, 2022, was admitted to probate in the abovenamed Court and that Max S. Schmidt was appointed executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the Will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the Will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the Clerk of the abovenamed district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated February 10, 2026

Max S. Schmidt
Executor of Estate
16259 Fir Avenue
Elma, IA 50628

Daniel L. Fretheim
ANDERSON, WILMARTH,
VAN DER MAATEN, FRETHEIM,
EVELSIZER OLSON, NOBLE,
LYNCH & ZAHASKY
212 Winnebago
P.O. Box 450
Decorah, IA 52101
(563) 382-2959
Email: dan.fretheim@andersonlawdecorah.com

Date of second publication February 25, 2026

Published in the Cresco Times Plain Dealer 2/18/26 to 2/25/26 issues

Probate/Will

NOTICE OF PROBATE OF WILL, OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR, AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Iowa District Court in and for Howard County In the Matter of the Estate of

THOMAS W. DEEGAN, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of THOMAS W. DEEGAN, Deceased, who died on or about December 31, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on February 5, 2026, the Last Will and Testament of THOMAS W. DEEGAN, deceased, bearing date of February 6, 1997, was admitted to probate in the above named Court and that William T. Deegan was appointed Executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities are reasonably ascertainable, or thereafter be forever barred.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid) a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated February 5th, 2026

/s/William T. Deegan, Executor of Estate

/s/Kevin E. Schoeberl, ICIS#: AT0006991
Attorney for Executor
Story, Schoeberl & Seebach, LLP
126 N. Elm St.
PO Box 89
Cresco, IA 52136

Date of second publication February 18, 2026

Published in the Cresco Times Plain Dealer 02/11/26 to 2/18/26

Protivin City Council

The Protivin City Council met in regular session on February 10, 2026, at 6:01 p.m. at City Hall, with Mayor Lukes presiding. Council members present were Panos, Novotny, Polashek, and Heinrich. Absent: None.

Polashek moved to approve the consent agenda, including the Agenda, Minutes, Financial Reports, and Claims, with correction to reflect prior approval of East Street repairs at the January 14, 2026 meeting. Seconded by Heinrich. Ayes: Panos, Novotny, Polashek, Heinrich. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Employee Report: Ben Moudry reported completion of the DNR Water Report. The Council discussed upgrading the water testing kit and scheduling a water tower inspection.

Mayor Lukes read Martin Ahrndt's resignation letter to the Council. Heinrich moved to approve the resignation of Council Member Martin Ahrndt effective February 1, 2026. Motion seconded by Polashek. Ayes: Panos, Novotny, Polashek, Heinrich. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Polashek moved to appoint an individual to fill the vacant council seat. Seconded by Novotny. Ayes: Panos, Novotny, Polashek, Heinrich. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Resolution 2026-7 approving compensation for the City Clerk Training Consultant was adopted on motion by Heinrich, second by Panos. Ayes: Panos, Novotny, Polashek, Heinrich. Nays: None. Motion carried.

The Council discussed the proposed FY2027 budget.

Resolution 2026-8 setting a Public Hearing for the Tax Rate Levy for March 24, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. was adopted on motion by Polashek, second by Heinrich. Ayes: Panos, Novotny, Polashek, Heinrich. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Heinrich moved to hold the regular March council meeting on March 24, 2026, following the Public Hearing. Seconded by Panos. Ayes: Panos, Novotny, Polashek, Heinrich. Nays: None. Motion carried.

Heinrich moved to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. Seconded by Polashek. Motion carried.

Amy Panos, City Clerk

Fund Income	Fund Expense
General	
\$4427.86	\$17870.69
TIFF	
\$0	\$0
Road Use	
\$3483.33	\$1916.36
Water	
\$6641.28	\$4884.42
Employee Benefit	
\$39,000	\$0
Sewer	
\$4145.15	\$499.27
LOST	
\$4650.25	\$0
Recycling	
\$762.32	\$0

City of Protivin 2025 Wages

Milan Mohn	\$1000.00
Ben Moudry	\$39,555.60

Joane Kulish	\$15,911.22
Amy Panos	\$1,000.00
Ken Panos	\$490.00
Tim Howland	\$490.00
Martin Ahrndt	\$490.00
Adam Polashek	\$490.00
Noah Heinrich	\$490.00

February 2026 Meeting Claims

WINDSTREAM, City Communication	258.50
PAYROLL, Payroll	3,600.40
HAWKEYE RECYCLING, Recycling Contract	566.25
FENCL OIL & LP, LP	192.23
FENCL OIL & LP, FILTER	21.68
MICROBAC LABORATORIES, INC, Sewer/Water Testing	19.50
IOWA ONE CALL, Utility Locates	8.10
CRESKO TIMES PLAIN DEALER, Publishing	86.28
CLERKBOOKS, INC., Municipal Software	1,600.00
FAST MART (V), Fuel	142.41
ALLIANT ENERGY, City Electricity	1,842.07
FENCL OIL & LP, LP	578.70
FENCL OIL & LP, LP	597.54
EFTPS, Federal Taxes	832.98
IPERS, IPERS	691.89
IA DEPT of REV, WET TAX	386.10
Total	11,424.63

Published in the Cresco Times Plain Dealer 2/18/2026

Estate Notice

CASE NO: ESPRO12504 NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTOR AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Iowa District Court in and for Howard County In the Matter of the Estate of

WALTER CHARLES PUFFER, Deceased.

To All Persons Interested in the Estate of WALTER CHARLES PUFFER, Deceased, who died on or about October 19, 2025:

You are hereby notified that on November 12, 2025 the last will and testament of Walter Charles Puffer, deceased, bearing the date of May 22, 2012, was admitted to probate in the above-named court and that the undersigned was appointed executor of the estate. Any action to set aside the will must be brought in the district court of said county within the later to occur of four months from the date of the second publication of this notice or one month from the

date of mailing of this notice to all heirs of the decedent and devisees under the will whose identities.

Notice is further given that all persons indebted to the estate are requested to make immediate payment to the undersigned, and creditors having claims against the estate shall file them with the clerk of the above-named district court, as provided by law, duly authenticated, for allowance, and, unless so filed by the later to occur of four months from the date of second publication of this notice or one month from the date of mailing of this notice (unless otherwise allowed or paid), a claim is thereafter forever barred.

Dated on February 5, 2026:

/s/ David C. Puffer
David C. Puffer
Executor of the Estate
328 West Woodland Rd.
Lakeside, AZ 85929

Date of second publication: February 18, 2026

Published in the Cresco Times Plain Dealer 2/11/2026 to 2/18/2026

Cresco City Council

Mayor Fortune called the Cresco City Council meeting to order on February 6, 2026 at 3:00 pm. Council Members Carman, Wolfe, and Kriener were present. Council Members Fosaaen and McConnell were absent.

Kriener made the motion to approve a Class C Retail Alcohol License (LC) to Cuautla Jalisco II, Inc. Carman seconded, and it passed all eyes.

City Clerk Hill presented the proposed budget for FY27. A few line items will be moved to LOST and some reduced. Changes will be made and reviewed at a future work session.

Carman moved to adjourn the Council Meeting at 3:14 pm. Kriener seconded, and it passed all eyes. The next regular Cresco City Council meeting will be February 16, 2026, at 5:30 pm at Cresco City Hall.

Mayor Alexander Fortune
City Clerk Nicole Hill

Published in the Cresco Times Plain Dealer 2/18/2026

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Write a Letter to the Editor, it might solve your problem or help gain another perspective!
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Phone: 563-547-3601

Howard County Legal Listings

2026 HALL OF FAME

NOMINATE HOWARD COUNTY COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS!
Please Submit Your Recommendations, Along With Reasons
Why, Your Name & Phone Number
CRITERIA INCLUDES:

- Making A Lasting Impact On The Area
- Demonstrates High Moral Standard
- Individual or Group

Times Plain Dealer CITIZEN of the YEAR 2025 Citizen of the Year Paul Jensen	Times Plain Dealer EDUCATOR of the YEAR 2025 Educator of the Year Sheila Slifka	Times Plain Dealer ORGANIZATION of the YEAR Organization of 2025 Lime Springs Betterment Foundation
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Nominations Must Be Received at the Times Plain Dealer No Later than 5 PM on Friday, March 13, 2026

Submit Nominations to:
tpdeditor@crescotimes.com
or 214 N. Elm St • Cresco • 563-547-3601

TPD
CRESKO TIMES PLAIN DEALER

Howard County Sheriffs Office - Dispatch Activity

The following calls are just a snapshot of calls handled by our local Howard County Officers.

2/7/26 11:58	BARKING DOG COMPLAINT	400 BLK 3RD ST SW	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/7/26 12:29	HIT/RUN	300 BLK 2ND AVE SW	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/7/26 13:25	ACCIDENT	IN FRONT OF SUBWAY.SWEENYS	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/8/26 13:48	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	MARKET STREET	CHESTER	SHERIFFS OFFICE
2/8/26 15:37	BARKING DOG COMPLAINT	400 BLK 3RD ST SW	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/9/26 10:50	FRAUD	300 BLK 4TH AVE SE	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/9/26 23:54	ALTERCATION	700 BLK 2ND ST SE	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/9/26 23:54	TRAFFIC STOP	1ST AVE E BY L&L	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/10/26 12:25	CHILD ABUSE	TIMBER AVE	HO. COUNTY	SHERRIFS OFFICE
2/10/26 18:05	DOG CALL	NEAR IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/11/26 11:28	THEFT CALL	700 BLK STOCK AVE	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/11/26 15:31	SUSPICIOUS PERSON	8TH ST E	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/11/26 18:06	MISSING ITEMS	300 BLK 3RD AVE E	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/12/26 11:05	VANDALISM	100 BLK N MILLER ST	LIME SPRINGS	SHERIFFS OFFICE
2/12/26 11:16	SCAM	GANSEN RV	RICEVILLE	SHERIFFS OFFICE
2/12/26 21:55	DISABLED VEHICLE	OAK AVE BY JOHNSON FARMS	LIME SPRINGS	SHERIFFS OFFICE
2/13/26 4:14	SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	600 BLK MAPLE ST	ELMA	SHERIFFS OFFICE
2/13/26 9:22	BARKING DOG COMPLAINT	400 BLK 3RD ST SW	CRESKO	CRESKO POLICE
2/13/26 10:50	PARKING COMPLAINT	700 BLK BUSTI AVE	ELMA	SHERIFFS OFFICE
2/13/26 14:26	FRAUD	500 BLK 2ND AVE SW	CRESKO	SHERIFFS OFFICE

FROM: 2/6/26 - 2/13/26
TOTAL DISPATCHES: 177

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214 North Elm Street
Cresco, IA 52136