

**August 26, 2026**

Board members present for regular session at 9:00 a.m. were: Baier, Hoadley, Christoffersen, Walker, Wedemeyer.

Also present: Ruthie Smith, Roland Purdy, Caleb Nelson, Jeff Vandewater, and Rob Mensing. Mandy Billings – KSOM and Jennifer Nichols – Atlantic News Telegraph joined via conference call.

All motions were approved unanimously unless noted otherwise.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Moved by Hoadley and seconded by Wedemeyer to approve the agenda as posted. Approved.

**MINUTES:** Moved by Christoffersen and seconded by Baier to approve the minutes from August 18, 2026. Approved.

**CLAIMS:** Moved by Wedemeyer and seconded by Hoadley to approve the following claims:

|                                     |                                        |                    |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Auxiant                             | Hra Ins Trust Claims                   | \$4,327.56         |
| Imwca                               | Installment #2 Work Comp Premium Fy 27 | \$9,498.00         |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                  |                                        | <b>\$13,825.56</b> |
| 0001 - General Fund                 |                                        | \$1,267.00         |
| 0002 - General Supplemental         |                                        | \$2,082.00         |
| 0020 - Secondary Road               |                                        | \$6,149.00         |
| 8500 - Adair County Insurance Trust |                                        | \$4,327.56         |
| <b>GRAND TOTAL</b>                  |                                        | <b>\$13,825.56</b> |

Approved.

**TOWNSHIP CLERK WAGES:** Moved by Baier and seconded by Hoadley to approve the township clerk wages for Lorene Gubbs at Summit for \$120, Amanda Pickrell at Greenfield for \$40, Judy Wedemeyer at Walnut for \$40, and Randy Christoffersen at Prussia for \$40. Approved.

**JOTHAM ARBER, ADAIR/GUTHRIE COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL/PUBLIC HEALTH DIRECTOR:** An update was provided regarding Public Health and Environmental Health services. A report was presented outlining services provided during July across the counties served, including comparisons to services provided in other areas. Every Step Home Care reported completing 156 home health visits in Adair County during July. It was reported that Public Health staff provided immunizations, participated in back-to-school activities, attended the farmers market and a local fundraiser, and distributed information regarding measles and available resources. The area currently has a high vaccination coverage rate, and plans are being made to continue offering local vaccination clinics. Jotham also discussed working with local medical providers to develop educational videos and question-and-answer opportunities for the public. Discussion was held regarding adding specific line items to the Public Health budget to provide greater transparency regarding how county funds are used. Jotham is developing a line-by-line budget for the upcoming fiscal year and will determine whether a budget amendment is necessary to establish additional line items. Efforts are also continuing to identify a permanent local location for Public Health services. Jotham reported that work is also underway to improve rabies reporting. A digital reporting form has been implemented, with several reports received since Public Health assumed responsibility. Discussion was held regarding identifying a local veterinarian or veterinary office willing to serve as a resource in the event an animal needs to be boarded or quarantined. Jotham will contact local veterinary offices regarding their willingness to assist. Jotham also presented proposed Environmental Health fee increases for sanitary systems. The proposed rates reflect increased fuel costs and staff time and are intended to allow the county to recover the cost of providing the services without generating a profit or loss. Discussion included the different types of filters and sanitary systems and the varying costs associated with each. Jotham Arber left at 9:23 a.m.

**JEFF VANDEWATER, COUNTY SHERIFF: Citizen Recognition Program** - Sheriff Vandewater discussed the possibility of creating a Sheriff's Office challenge coin to recognize members of the public who go above and beyond to assist law enforcement or perform heroic acts. He stated he was not requesting additional funding, as the cost would be absorbed within the existing Sheriff's Office budget. Sheriff Vandewater noted that members of the public have assisted the Sheriff's Office in various situations over the years, including helping with wanted individuals and other incidents requiring assistance. He stated some individuals may not want public recognition or their photograph published, but a challenge coin would provide a simple way to express appreciation for their efforts. He stated he discussed the idea with the State Auditor and wanted to present the concept to the Board before moving forward. Moved by Baier and seconded by Christoffersen to approve creating a challenge coin for recognizing citizens. Approved. Jeff Vandewater left and Nick Kauffman entered at 9:29 a.m.

**NICK KAUFFMAN, COUNTY ENGINEER:** Nick Kauffman presented the following to the Board. **Purchase of a Brush Cutting Head** – Kauffman informed the Board that he did not receive the Iron Man credit for the brush head, and the new amount will be \$43,150. Moved by Baier and seconded by Hoadley to approve the purchasing of the brush cutting head. Approved. **Advertising for an Assistant to the Engineer** - Engineer Kauffman reported that the current budget includes funding for an additional Assistant to the Engineer position. He stated the department has utilized an intern during the past three summers and would like the Board's approval to advertise for the new position. Engineer Kauffman stated he would return to the Board once a candidate has been selected and an offer is ready to be made. Supervisor Wedemeyer noted that the Board had previously discussed adding the position. Moved by Baier and seconded by Christoffersen to approve the advertising for an Assistant to the Engineer. Approved. **Sign Right of Way Contract for N8 Eureka RCB Culvert Project L-LRCBN8E-7301** – Moved by Christoffersen and seconded by Baier to approve and sign the right of way contract for N8 Eureka RCB Culvert Project. Approved. **Report of maintenance & activities**

- Engineer Kauffman reported Grimes has begun paving, while Govic is expected to complete the bridge deck pour and finish within two weeks. County crews will then complete the roadway work. A Hungry Canyons meeting is scheduled for Friday with two applications expected. Engineer Kauffman also reported MidAmerican currently has approximately 65 workers on site, with more expected this fall. Deliveries are anticipated to begin next April or May.

**LIGHTING ON THE VETERANS' MEMORIAL:** Discussion continued regarding the proposed lighting for the memorial courtyard and concerns about snow removal around the light poles. Supervisor Hoadley stated the Board should explore other options so Roland would not be responsible for scooping the snow. Supervisor Wedemeyer noted concerns about sectioning off part of the courtyard and stated the memorial was originally designed to allow for easier snow removal. The Board discussed alternatives, including hanging lights between poles or eliminating the two middle poles. Supervisor Baier suggested exploring structural options, such as additional bracing or a beam, while maintaining the appearance of the memorial. Roland agreed to investigate alternative lighting options that would reduce the number of poles and minimize interference with snow removal.

**DATA CENTER PERMIT FEE AMOUNT:** Discussion was held regarding permit fees and testing requirements in the proposed ordinance. Supervisor Hoadley stated some counties require applicants to pay testing costs through the permit fee, while others require applicants to pay for testing separately. She noted the current ordinance requires a reasonable permit fee and specifies the information applicants must provide regarding their proposed activities. Supervisor Baier stated testing costs should not be included in the permit fee but should instead be identified as a separate requirement. Supervisor Wedemeyer agreed the requirements should be clearly outlined in the ordinance. The Board discussed setting the permit fee at \$500 and requiring applicants to provide the specific information and testing outlined in the permit requirements. Moved by Baier and seconded by Wedemeyer to set the permit fee to \$500 for the Data Center Ordinance. Approved.

**DATA CENTER RESOLUTION:** The Board discussed to move this item to next week's agenda.

**DATA CENTER SET DATES FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS:** The Board discussed to move this item to next week's agenda.

**LOST RESOLUTION:** Discussion continued regarding the proposed LOST ballot language and whether the funds would be deposited into the General Fund. Supervisor Walker stated the Board had previously discussed keeping the funds separate and expressed concern that the proposed language appeared to place the revenue in the General Fund. Supervisor Hoadley stated the attorney advised that the funds could be deposited into the General Fund while maintaining a clear accounting trail and tracking the funds separately. Supervisor Walker also clarified that only voters in the unincorporated areas of the county would vote on the measure. There were some disagreements with that statement. Supervisor Hoadley stated the county faces potential financial shortages and needs flexibility to prepare for future expenses. Supervisor Walker noted the county has experienced the effects of the 2% revenue cap along with additional growth. Discussion was held regarding when the proposed changes would take effect and how existing LOST funds would be handled. It was noted that the proposed change would take effect July 1 and that revenue received prior to that date would remain under the current designation. Engineer Kauffman stated it would be easier for the Auditor to maintain separate accounts for funds received before and after the effective date. Supervisor Christoffersen expressed concern that the Board had not reached agreement and felt the decision was being rushed because of the ballot deadline. He stated he supported the general concept but would have preferred additional legal guidance and discussion. Supervisor Hoadley referenced an email from the attorney outlining the proposed use and accounting of the funds and stated the ballot language would specifically identify the authorized uses. Supervisor Baier stated other surrounding counties use similar arrangements. Supervisor Christoffersen agreed that other counties have adopted similar practices but reiterated concerns about the limited legal guidance received by the Board. Moved by Hoadley and seconded by Baier to approve the LOST Resolution and place the LOST measure on the ballot. Roll Call Vote: Walker, nay; Hoadley, aye; Baier, aye; Wedemeyer, nay; Christoffersen, nay. Motion failed.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Moved by Wedemeyer and seconded by Baier to adjourn at 10:11 a.m. Approved.

**ADAIR COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:** \_\_\_\_\_ Jerry Walker, Chair

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_ Ruthie Smith, Auditor