

**Supervisors Room, Courthouse  
Pocahontas, Iowa  
February 17, 2026**

The Board of Supervisors of Pocahontas County, Iowa, met for a regular session pursuant to adjournment. Members present: Chairman, Louis Stauter; Supervisors, Peter Seehusen, Clarence Siepker, Kyle Smith, Brent Aden; Nita Hinrickson, Auditor. Others present: Erin Sommers, Reporter; Steve Nelson, Sheriff; Elias Toshiro; Justin Wills; Russ Jergens, Erin Rydgren – telephonically; Mayors – Bob Rosenboom, Chris Archer, Stephanie Sindt; Angela Duistman; Trevor Kruger.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Smith to approve the minutes from February 10, 2026 as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Seehusen to approve the agenda as posted. Ayes all, motion carried.

At 10:02 a.m., motion by Siepker, seconded by Aden to open Public Hearing for the proposed Solar Energy Systems Ordinance #44. Ayes: Seehusen, Siepker, Smith, Aden. Stauter-abstain. Motion carried.

A summary of the ordinance was read by the Vice Chairperson as published with full copies available for those in attendance. Comments from the last hearing were taken under advisement and all could go to the variance board. If, the same variance is being requested, an amendment to the ordinance will be created. Written comments were received from Jerry Depew and Alex Delworth, Senior Policy Associate Center for Rural Affairs. Seehusen said he was asked if someone was in the city limits and the city doesn't have an ordinance if this applies. Supervisors advised, it would not, just in the unincorporated parts of the county.

At 10:06 a.m., motion by Seehusen, seconded by Aden to close Public Hearing for the proposed Solar Energy Systems Ordinance #44. Ayes: Seehusen, Siepker, Smith, Aden. Stauter-abstain. Motion carried.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Aden to approve the second reading of Solar Energy Systems Ordinance #44. Roll call vote: Seehusen-aye, Siepker-aye, Smith-aye, Aden-aye. Stauter-abstain. Motion carried.

Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Aden to set the third reading of Solar Energy Systems Ordinance #44 to February 24, 2026. Roll call vote: Seehusen-aye, Siepker-aye, Smith-aye, Aden-aye. Stauter-abstain. Motion carried.

Bob Rosenboom, Palmer Mayor along with Chris Archer, Varina Mayor; Stephanie Sindt, Rolfe, Mayor; Angela Duistman, Fonda clerk, discussed the letter they received for the proposed cost of Law Enforcement. Rosenboom and Archer advised that they would not be able to pay the 14% that was proposed in the letter. After discussions, with their counsels, the mayors requested to come back on March 10 to discuss what they determined from their meeting. The supervisors also talked with them about a Unified Law Enforcement. Supervisors feel working towards this, if taxpayers in those towns approve the Unified Law Enforcement Levy, would offset the cost to provide law enforcement. The mayors in attendance agreed and it would be something that could potentially be on the ballot in 2027.

Tate Schmeling, Engineer was out sick. Hinrickson advised that he would like to set the date for the County Pavement Marking Project bid letting for March 17, 2026. Motion by Aden, seconded by Smith to set March 17, 2026 at 10:03 a.m. for bid letting for the County Pavement Marking Project. Ayes all, motion carried.

Steve Nelson, Sheriff discussed AG Bird's Opinion requiring boards to set sheriff's compensation comparable to professional law enforcement administrators. Nelson gave each supervisor a copy of the opinion and Compensation Board's minutes. Nelson advised that this became law in 2021. A couple of lawsuits have been filed and AG Bird's office formalized an opinion. Stauter advised he would like to get more information and will reach out to the attorney. Motion by Siepker, seconded by Seehusen to table any decision until next week. Ayes all, motion carried.

Nita Hinrickson, Auditor presented two bids for digitizing records in the Auditor's office which include: Transfer of Lands, Transfer of Town Lots, Supervisors Minutes, Plat Books, and Drainage Records. These records will be available for the public. ArcaSearch in the amount of \$48,181.00 with an annual fee of \$2,744.00 and Cott Systems in the amount of \$43,665.00 not including Plat Books with an annual cost of \$2,400.00. Hinrickson stated that Kristi Seiler and herself sat through presentations and felt that ArcaSearch would be the better fit for the county.

Hinrickson is working on a grant for historical preservation to possibly help offset part of the cost of digitizing.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Seehusen to approve ArcaSearch quote of \$48,181.00 to begin after the July 1, 2026. Ayes all, motion carried.

BV Glass was onsite last week and looked at windows and provided samples. Owner, Trevor Kruger, was in the area and stopped with an estimate of \$251,100.00 for 96 windows. Kruger recommended doing all the windows at once, so there wouldn't be any mismatched coloring. In his quote, there was also an alternate to add \$21,500 for the front doors and arched glass.

The board has attempted to get other quotes/estimates. Contractors have come and looked at the windows but have not submitted anything. In July of 2024, a company provided a quote to be the project manager with an unofficial estimate of \$1 million. No other formal estimates/quotes were received.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Seehusen to approve the estimate plus the \$21,500 for the front door and arched glass. The county will pay 20% down to keep pricing as estimated. Ayes all, motion carried.

Hinrickson discussed dates for the Tax Levy Hearing. Motion by Aden, seconded by Seehusen to set March 31 at 11:00 a.m. for the Tax Levy Hearing. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Smith to acknowledge receipt and sign the CASI Cost Allocation Plan for FY 2027. Ayes all, motion carried.

Seehusen reviewed and agrees with the Matrix provided for the Hawkeye Partners LLP Cummins North, Construction Application. Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Aden to approve the application. All ayes, motion carried.

Seehusen reviewed and agrees with the Matrix provided for the Hawkeye Partners LLP Cummins South, Construction Application. Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Siepker to approve the application. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Aden to approve BV County Engineer Assistant invoice for services on JT DD 88-46 & 9-13 in the amount of \$840.00. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Seehusen to approve Manure Management Plans: (1) KD Farms – ID# 61797 SW SW, Section 9, Des Moines Township David Rittgers & Ken Schultes as owners & David Rittgers contact. Ayes all, motion carried.

Weekly meetings: Seehusen- Solid Waste, Bridge & Drainage Concerns, City Law Enforcement; Siepker- Assessor Mtg; Stauter- Fair Board, Drainage Concern, Assessor Mtg, Law Enforcement; Smith- Jail, Mtg with School Planning, Assessor Mtg, Solar, Windows; Aden- Assessor Mtg, Revolving Loan.

With no further business, motion by Seehusen, seconded by Siepker to adjourn. Ayes all, motion carried.

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Louis Stauter, Chairman

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Nita Hinrickson, Auditor