

**Supervisors Room, Courthouse
Pocahontas, Iowa
January 2, 2026**

The Pocahontas County Board of Supervisors met for the organizational meeting pursuant to Chapter 331.213 of the Code of Iowa.

Members present: Supervisors, Kyle Smith, Peter Seehusen, Louis Stauter, Clarence Siepker, Brent Aden and Nita Hinrickson, Auditor. Others present: Erin Sommers, Reporter.

The first item of business was the election of Chairman and Vice-Chairman by secret ballot. The ballot count was as follows: Chairman: Stauter-3, Aden-1, Smith-1; Vice-Chairman: Smith -3, Aden -2. The Board affirmed the vote and declared Louis Stauter as Chairman and Kyle Smith as Vice-Chairman for the 2026 calendar year.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Aden to approve the minutes from December 23, 2025 as presented. Ayes all, motion carried.

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

Motion by Aden, seconded by Smith to set Tuesday as the 2026 regular meeting day for the Board of Supervisors commencing at 10:00 a.m. and with claims being approved, audited, and allowed on the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Siepker to utilize Roberts Rules of Order to conduct the meetings of the Board of Supervisors. Ayes all, motion carried.

The Pocahontas Record Democrat, The Laurens Sun and the Buena Vista Journal, each having filed letters requesting to be the official newspapers for Pocahontas County, IA for the 2026 calendar year, with each stating they meet the requirements as stated in Iowa Code 618.3. Motion by Aden, seconded by Siepker to approve all applicants as the official newspapers of Pocahontas County. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Seehusen to declare the County holidays of non-union employees for the 2026 calendar year as follows: New Year's Day, Presidents Day, Good Friday, Memorial Day, Independence Day (Observed July 3rd), Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving Day, the Day after Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Christmas Eve will be ½ day with 4 hours being holiday pay. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Seehusen that all newly hired non-union personnel in Pocahontas County government shall follow the salary matrix system approved November 30, 2021. All employees working over 40 hours shall be compensated as set out in the County's Employee Handbook and according to the Fair Labor Standards Act, except for elected officials and those as set forth in the Code of Iowa and those under collective bargaining contracts. Ayes all, motion carried.

The mileage reimbursement was reviewed. The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has announced the standard mileage rate for the 2026 year for business use of an automobile is 72.5¢ per mile. Motion by Siepker, seconded by Seehusen to set the mileage reimbursement rate as 60¢ per mile, effective January 1, 2026. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Smith that the General Assistance Director consult with the Board of Supervisors before authorizing any expenditure in excess of \$500 and the County Engineer to \$20,000. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Smith to authorize the County Farm Manager to have Power of Attorney to sign for the County in all matters pertaining to the county farm, specifically all Farm Service Agency and government program papers. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Siepker to adopt Resolution-2026-01-#1 Authorization of County Auditor to Issue Warrants. The Chairman called the question with the following vote: Ayes: Seehusen, Stauter, Smith, Siepker, Aden. Nays: None. Where by the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit. Full resolution can be requested at the Auditor office.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Seehusen, to adopt Resolution-2026-01-#2 Public Bidder. The Chairman called the question with the following vote: Ayes: Seehusen, Stauter, Smith, Siepker, Aden. Nays: None. Where by the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit. Full resolution can be requested at the Auditor office.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Aden, to adopt Resolution-2026-01-#3 Depositories of Public Funds. The Chairman called the question with the following vote: Ayes: Seehusen, Stauter, Smith, Siepker, Aden. Nays: None. Where by the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit. Full resolution can be requested at the Auditor office.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Siepker to adopt Resolution-2026-01-#4 County Engineer for Completion of Work. The Chairman called the question with the following vote: Ayes: Seehusen, Stauter, Smith, Siepker, Aden. Nays: None. Where by the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit. Full resolution can be requested at the Auditor office.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Seehusen to adopt Resolution-2026-01-#5 Right of Way Assurance Statement. The Chairman called the question with the following vote: Ayes: Seehusen, Stauter, Smith, Siepker, Aden. Nays: None. Where by the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit. Full resolution can be requested at the Auditor office.

Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Aden, to adopt Resolution-2026-01-#6 Authorization for the County Engineer to Close Roads. The Chairman called the question with the following vote: Ayes: Seehusen, Stauter, Smith, Siepker, Aden. Nays: None. Where by the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit. Full resolution can be requested at the Auditor office.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Smith, to adopt Resolution-2026-01-#7 Precinct Election Officials Compensation. The Chairman called the question with the following vote: Ayes: Seehusen, Stauter, Smith, Siepker, Aden. Nays: None. Where by the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit. Full resolution can be requested at the Auditor office.

The Board reviewed the Construction Evaluation Resolution for confinement facilities. Said resolution provides the opportunity for the Board of Supervisors to conduct an evaluation of every construction permit application and provide input if such facility shall be built or denied. Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Aden to adopt Resolution-2026-01-#8 Construction Evaluation Resolution. The Chairman called the question with the following vote: Ayes: Seehusen, Stauter, Smith, Siepker, Aden. Nays: None. Where by the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit. Full resolution can be requested at the Auditor office.

Motion by Siepker, seconded by Seehusen, to adopt Resolution-2026-01-#9 Authorizing the Pocahontas County Treasurer to Pay Midwest Group Benefits Prior to Weekly Regular Board Meeting. The Chairman called the question with the following vote: Ayes: Seehusen, Stauter, Smith, Siepker, Aden. Nays: None. Where by the Chairman declared the resolution duly adopted to-wit. Full resolution can be requested at the Auditor office.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Seehusen to appoint Ryan Buske as drainage attorney. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Seehusen to reappoint Tate Schmeling as the County Engineer, and Mel Bierl, as the County Weed Commissioner for calendar year 2026. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Siepker, to appoint the following people to the Eminent Domain Commission for 2026. Ayes all, motion carried.

Group No. 1 Owners-Operators-Agricultural	
Rick Wadle	Fonda
Craig Rubel	Plover
Doug DeWall	Palmer
Brian Dreith	Rolfe
Austin Sparks	Pocahontas
Donna Seehusen	Pocahontas
Bruce Boysen	Havelock

Group No. 2 Owners of City Property	
Al Stroufe	Rolfe
Kerry Peterson	Palmer
Ben Storms	Laurens
Kent Wood	Pocahontas
Karen Johnson	Rolfe
Randy Hopkins	Laurens
Chris Mercer	Fonda

Group No. 3 RE Salesperson or Brokers	
Donna Hudson	Pocahontas
Kevin Maurer	Laurens
Rick Winegarden	Pocahontas
Abi Klumpp	Pocahontas
Katie Halligan	Pocahontas
Kerrie R. Woodley	Laurens
Lori Hopkins	Havelock

Group No. 4 Bankers & Auctioneers	
Jerry Hammen	Fonda
Rick Winegarden	Pocahontas
Patrick Sullivan	Laurens
Kyle Brinkman	Rolfe
Tom Eberle	Rolfe
Matt Stauter	Fonda
Jim Malecek	Pocahontas

Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Smith to appoint the following people to the different committees, agencies, and board members for 2026. Ayes all, motion carried.

Board of Health: Kyle Smith, Alternate: Brent Aden

County Conservation Board: Clarence Siepker, Alternate: Kyle Smith

County Fair Board: Louis Stauter, Alternate: Brent Aden

Courthouse Committee: Kyle Smith & Nita Hinrickson

County Farm Manager: Brent Aden, Alternate: Louis Stauter

Courthouse Security Commission: Peter Seehusen, Supervisor; Steve Nelson, Sheriff; Russ Jergens, EMA/E911/Zoning Director; Nita Hinrickson, Auditor; Judge Kurt J. Stoebe; Sheri Miller, Clerk of Court; Mary Lauver, Magistrate

Community & Family Resources Board: Peter Seehusen

CPW County DCAT Board: Clarence Siepker

E911 & LEPC Administrative Board: Kyle Smith

Emergency Management Administrative Board: Kyle Smith

Emergency Medical Services Advisory Board: Louis Stauter

General Liabilities & Workman's Compensation Insurance Committee: Peter Seehusen, Nita Hinrickson

Health Insurance Committee: Kyle Smith, Nita Hinrickson, Amy Johnson, Cathy Frerk, Jessica Paulsen, Jill Conlin, Tate Schmeling

HIPPA: Kyle Smith, Privacy Officer; Dereck Hebert, Security Officer; Kristi Seiler, Compliance Officer

Iowa Drainage District Association Meeting Voting Delegates: Peter Seehusen, Clarence Siepker; Alternate: Brent Aden

Jt. DD 181 Interim Committee: Louis Stauter, Clarence Siepker

Linking Families & Communities: Clarence Siepker

Midas Council of Governments:

- County Representative: Brent Aden, Alternate: Peter Seehusen
- City Representative: Angela Duitsman, Alternate:
- Economic Development Representative: Mary Jo Litwiller, Alternate: Louis Stauter

- Strategic Partners-TAC: Tate Schmeling, Alternate: Cory Bailey
- NW IA Tourism Council: Mary Jo Litwiller, Alternate: Kyle Smith
- PCEDC: Peter Seehusen, Alternate: Brent Aden
- Pocahontas County Solid Waste Commission: Peter Seehusen, Brent Aden
- Pocahontas County Trails Committee: Clarence Siepker, Alternate: Peter Seehusen
- Region V Hazmat Foundation Board: Peter Seehusen
- Revolving Loan Fund Committee for PCEDC: Brent Aden
- Safety Committee: Kyle Smith, Russ Jergens, Nita Hinrickson, Robin Moore, Dereck Hebert, Jill Conlin, John Runneberg, Kyle Scheidegger, Missy Zuetlau, Derek Essing, Orene Cressler, Laura Erickson, Steve Nelson, Peter Seehusen
- Upper Des Moines Opportunity: Clarence Siepker
- Youth Emergency Service Center: Louis Staute

Motion by Aden, seconded by Smith to acknowledge Sierra Dodson's 12 months of employment as full-time dispatcher/jailer with Sheriff's Department on January 6, 2026. Her new rate of pay will be \$22.52 per hour plus shift differential. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Seehusen, seconded by Siepker to acknowledge Trisha Alderson's 18 months of employment as full-time dispatcher with Sheriff's Department as of January 1, 2026. Her new rate of pay will be \$22.88 per hour. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Smith, seconded by Seehusen to acknowledge receipt of the Planning & Zoning Commission's approval of the MIDAS 2025 Comprehensive plan and to set the date of February 3 at 11:00 am. for a public hearing to accept the 2025 Pocahontas County Comprehensive Plan. Ayes all, motion carried.

Motion by Aden, seconded by Seehusen to approve Manure Management Plans: (1) Marton/Pedersen, Finisher Farm – ID# 57922 NW NW, Section 13, Garfield Township Marton Pork Production, Inc. as owner & Iowa Select Farms, LLP as contact person (2) Poky 240 – ID# 69900 SW SW, Section 27, Sherman Township JGB Farms, LLC as owner & Sean Moore as contact person (3) A1 – ID# 69903 SW NW, Section 11, Dover Township Spud Farms, LLC as owner & Sean Moore as contact person (4) Laurens 3 – ID# 69850 NE NW, Section 3, Dover Township Spud Farms, LLC as owner & Sean Moore as contact person. Ayes all, motion carried.

Nita Hinrickson, Auditor advised the board that the new automatic transfer switch was installed on the courthouse generator. ICAP insurance is all in place for 2026.

Hinrickson told the Board that she advised Dept. Heads to budget \$846.00 for single and \$2,148.00 for family health insurance rates which includes self-funding cost. There was a \$7.00 and \$14.00 increase in monthly rates respectively. We also added 10% increase in self-funding.

It was determined that starting on February 3 at 1:00 p.m. the Board will review budgets with Dept. Heads continuing on February 4. Hinrickson will come up with a schedule.

Weekly meetings: Seehusen- none; Staute- Atherton Retirement; Smith- Jail, Planning & Zoning Meeting; Siepker- UDMO, Atherton Retirement; Aden- Atherton Retirement, Planning & Zoning Meeting.

With no further business, motion by Smith, seconded by Aden to declare the meeting adjourned. Ayes all, motion carried.

Louis Staute, Chairman

Nita Hinrickson, Auditor