Courthouse
Emmetsburg Iowa
January 2, 2026, 8:00 a.m.

The Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors met on January 2, 2026, the first working day of the Calendar Year to approve all resolutions and appointments for the year 2026. Supervisors present: Craig Merrill, Roger Faulstick, Linus Solberg, Keith Wirtz, Ronald Graettinger.

Unless otherwise indicated, all of the motions offered at this meeting were carried with the following vote: Ayes: Faulstick, Merrill, Graettinger Wirtz, Solberg. Nays: None. Abstentions: None.

Roger Faulstick, Chair, called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Graettinger to approve agenda for January 2, 2026. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Solberg to approve minutes for December 23, 2025. Motion Carried.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Graettinger to nominate Linus Solberg as Chair and Keith Wirtz as Chair Pro-Tem for the calendar year 2026. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Merrill to cease nominations. Motion Carried.

Walter Davis-Oeth, County Engineer, met with the Board and presented Resolutions for calendar year 2026. Walter and the Board discussed N40 widening & reconstruction and possible improvements to 350th Avenue. Walter updated the Board on road tile crossing project on 510th Avenue.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Merrill to introduce and approve Resolution 1-2-2026(A). Ayes: Merrill, Graettinger, Wirtz, Solberg Faulstick. Nays: none. Resolution passed.

RESOLUTION NO. __1-2-2026 (A)_____
RIGHT OF WAY ASSURANCE STATEMENT
2026

County of Palo Alto
Approve Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement with Iowa DOT

To comply with the provisions of the 1970 Uniform Relocation Assistance and Land Acquisition Policies Act, as amended by Title IV of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987, the Board of Supervisors of Palo Alto County furnishes the following:
Assurances to the Iowa Department of Transportation.

1. It is the policy of the Palo Alto County to acquire right of way in accord with Title III of said 1970 Act, as amended by Title IV of the Surface Transportation and Uniform Relocation Assistance Act of 1987, and applicable state laws.
2. It is the policy of the Palo Alto County to provide relocation assistance benefits in accord with Title II of said 1970 Act, as amended by Title IV, and applicable state laws.

3. The above named county will contact the Iowa Department of Transportation for assistance as needed to assure compliance with applicable laws which are summarized in the instructions entitled “Uniform Manual, Real Property Acquisition and Relocation Assistance.”

1-2-2026
/s/Roger Faulstick, Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Wirtz to introduce and approve Resolution 1-2-2026 (B). Ayes: Faulstick, Solberg, Wirtz, Graettinger, Merrill. Nays: none. Resolution passed.

RESOLUTION NO. ___1-2-2026 (B)_____

AUTHORIZATION FOR THE COUNTY ENGINEER TO CLOSE ANY SECONDARY ROAD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ROUTINE MAINTENANCE PROCEDURES OR CONSTRUCTION DURING 2026

WHEREAS: The Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors is concerned about Tort Liability involved during construction and maintenance of the Secondary Road System, and

WHEREAS: The Board is further interested in accommodations for the traveling public, adjacent landowners, and all related users during construction maintenance operations

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors, on this __2___ day of January 2026, the Palo Alto County Engineer is hereby authorized to temporarily close sections of roadways in Palo Alto County’s road system when necessary, because of construction, maintenance, or natural disaster.

PALO ALTO COUNTY
Board of Supervisors

/s/Roger Faulstick

/s/LJ Solberg

/s/Keith Wirtz

/s/Ron Graettinger

/s/Craig Merrill

Recommended:
/s/Walter D. Oeth, Palo Alto County Engineer
Attest: /s/Carmen Moser, Auditor

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Solberg to introduce and approve Resolution No. 1-2-2026(C). Ayes: Merrill, Graettinger, Wirtz, Solberg, Faulstick. Nays: none. Resolution passed.

RESOLUTION NO.__1-2-2026 (C)_____

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Palo Alto County, Iowa, that

Walter Davis-Oeth, P.E., the County Engineer of Palo Alto County, Iowa, be and is hereby designated, authorized, and empowered on behalf of the Board of Supervisors of said County to execute the certification of completion of work and final acceptance thereof in accordance with plans and specifications in connection with all **Farm-to-Market** and **Federal or State aid** construction projects in this county.

Dated at Palo Alto County, Emmetsburg, Iowa, this ____2nd___ of January 2026.

Board of Supervisors

Palo Alto County, Iowa

/s/Roger Faulstick

/s/LJ Solberg

/s/Keith Wirtz

/s/Ron Graettinger

/s/Craig Merrill

Attest: /s/Carmen Moser, Auditor

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Wirtz to approve Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement with Iowa DOT. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Faulstick to introduce and approve Resolution # 1-2-2026.
Ayes: Merrill, Graettinger, Wirtz, Solberg, Faulstick. Nays: none. Resolution Passed.

RESOLUTION # 1-2-2026

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING DOCUMENTS PERTAINING TO PALO ALTO COUNTY'S COMPLIANCE WITH TITLE VI PROVISIONS OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964.

WHEREAS, Palo Alto County has been a recipient of federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, in receiving such financial assistance Palo Alto County is mandated to comply with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; and

WHEREAS, in order to continue receiving federal financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Iowa Department of Transportation the adoption of certain documents and establishment of certain programs is necessary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Palo Alto County that:

1.) The Palo Alto County Auditor, Carmen Moser, is hereby designated the Title VI Coordinator for Palo Alto County Secondary Roads.
2.) The Palo Alto County Title VI Plan is hereby adopted and that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors and Title VI Coordinator are authorized to sign said plan where required.
3.) The Standard DOT Title VI Assurances are hereby adopted and that the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors is authorized to sign said document where required.
4.) The Title VI Notice to the public is hereby adopted and shall be posted where other public notices are displayed in the Palo Alto County Administration Building and County Engineer's Office. Furthermore, said notice shall be placed on the County's official website.
5.) The Title VI Coordinator is authorized to take any other actions necessary and/or recommended by the Iowa Department of Transportation, or other designated authority to comply with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

APPROVED this January 2, 2026.
/s/LJ Solberg
Chair, Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors
ATTEST: /s/Carmen Moser, Auditor

No one was present for public comment.

Motion by Merrill, and 2nd by Graettinger to introduce and approve the following Resolution:

Resolution 1-2-2026 (D)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Palo Alto County, Iowa, that they do hereby designate the following banks to be depositories, and the Elected Officials named below shall deposit funds in the amount not to exceed the amounts named opposite each of said designated depositories and said Officials are hereby authorized to deposit the funds in each bank as follows:

Iowa Trust & Savings	Sue Ruppert, Recorder	$100,000
Iowa Trust & Savings	John King, Sheriff	$200,000

Ayes: Faulstick, Solberg, Wirtz, Graettinger, Merrill. Resolution Passed.

Motion was made by Faulstick, and 2nd by Wirtz to introduce and approve the following Resolution:

Resolution 1-2-2026(E)

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of Palo Alto County, Iowa, that they do designate the following banks to be depositories for the County Treasurer Funds in the amount not to exceed that amount named opposite each designated bank or depository and the County Treasurer is hereby authorized to deposit County Funds in the amounts not to exceed aggregate amounts named for said banks or depositories as follows:

West Iowa Bank	West Bend, Iowa	$20,000,000
Iowa Trust & Savings	Emmetsburg, Iowa	$30,000,000
Cent Credit Union	Emmetsburg, Iowa	$ 5,000,000

Ayes: Merrill, Graettinger, Solberg, Wirtz, Faulstick. Resolution Passed.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Merrill to reappoint Tim McCain as Palo Alto County Tax Agent for the 2026 year. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, and 2nd by Wirtz to designate the combined Emmetsburg Democrat & Reporter, and the combined Graettinger Times, Ruthven Zip Code and West Bend Journal as the two Official Newspapers for the 2026 year. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Faulstick, and 2nd by Merrill to inform Township Trustees and Clerks that while engaged in Official County Business, they shall be compensated $15.00 per hr. plus mileage, however the minimum daily pay for attending a scheduled meeting shall be $30.00 per meeting. Motion Carried.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Wirtz to reappoint Jeff Stillman to the Planning & Zoning Board of Adjustment with term to expire on December 31, 2028. Motion Carried.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Faulstick to reappoint Jeff Reichter to the County Conservation Board for a 5-year term ending on December 30, 2030. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Merrill reappoint the following Medical Examiners for a 2-year term ending on December 31, 2027: Dr. David Ruzicka, Dr. Daunyale Sporaa, Dr. Jason Patton, Dr. Obidike Nwadike. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Merrill to reappoint Shelly Schmitt to Civil Service Commission representing the County Attorney with term expiring on October 1, 2031. Motion Carried.

Motion was made by Graettinger, 2nd by Faulstick to appoint the following persons to serve as members of the compensation commission for the eminent domain cases for the 2026 year. Motion Carried.

BUSINESS PERSONS

1 Alex Bleuer, 605 S. Broadway, West Bend Iowa	515-890-0565
2 John Spies 302 Lakeshore Drive, Emmetsburg, Iowa	712-852-4023
3 Wm. S. Brown 4577 280th St. Graettinger, Iowa	712-859-3880
4 Jeff Treveer 1208 South St. Box 264, Ayrshire, Iowa	712-426-2202

5 Joe Noonan, 42125 360th Ave, Ruthven, Iowa 712-298-1504
6 Mike Gehrt 803 Micawber St. Mallard, Iowa 712-425-3560
7 Kurt Bonnstetter, 111 Iowa St, Cylinder, Iowa 712-424-3961
8 Keton Joynt, 906 Micawber, Mallard Iowa

FARMERS
9 Gerald Thatcher 407 4th St. West Bend, Iowa 515-887-5959
10 Fred Schmidt, 4169 580th Ave, Whittemore, Iowa 515-884-2549
11 Kathy Cramer 4283 440th St. Curlew, Iowa 712-855-2874
12Jerome Kuyper 5728 500th St. West Bend, Iowa 515-887-3457
13 Craig Thu, 102 Ford Rd, Emmetsburg, Iowa 712-415-1072
14 Cory Fehr, 5727 440th St, West Bend, Iowa 712-358-0831
15 Scott Kibbie, 10 N Huron St, Emmetsburg 712-298-3738
16 Steve Licht, 4411 380th Ave, Ayrshire 712-260-6020

CITY AND TOWNSHIP PROPERTY OWNERS
17 Chad Clausen, 4957 490th Ave, Mallard, Iowa 712-298-2359
18 Mike Flaherty, 410 N Maple Ave, Graettinger, Iowa 712-859-3578
19 Matt Greene, 3765 380th Ave, Ruthven, Iowa 712-837-4843
20 David Morey, 4812 510th Ave, Mallard, Iowa 712-425-3234
21 David Neilson 104 South Elder Ave. Graettinger, Iowa 712-859-3860
22 Rich Stillman, 34789 Cy-Hawk Ave, Emmetsburg

REALTORS
23 Judy Johnson 3586 450th Ave. Emmetsburg, Iowa 712-852-4921
24 Mike Wentzel, 804 King St. Emmetsburg, Iowa 712-852-2294
25 Roger Wagner 3856 440th Ave. Emmetsburg, Iowa 712-852-4257
26 Brian Jackson 212 North Wallace St. Emmetsburg, Iowa 712-852-3211
27 Jay Bargman, 5579 430th St, West Bend, Iowa 515-887-5579
28 Chuck Sikora, 1006 Gowrie St, Ruthven 712-260-2788

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Graettinger to introduce and approve Resolution #1-2-2026 (F) Construction Evaluation Resolution. Ayes: Faulstick, Solberg, Wirtz, Graettinger, Merrill. Nays: none. Resolution Passed.

RESOLUTION # 1-2-2026 (F)
CONSTRUCTION EVALUATION RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Iowa Code section 459.304(3) sets out the procedure if a board of supervisors wishes to adopt a "construction evaluation resolution" relating to the construction of a confinement feeding operation structure; and

WHEREAS, only counties that have adopted a construction evaluation resolution can submit to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) an adopted recommendation to approve or disapprove a construction permit application regarding a proposed confinement feeding operation structure; and

WHEREAS, only counties that have adopted a construction evaluation resolution and submitted an adopted recommendation may contest the DNR's decision regarding a specific application; and

WHEREAS, by adopting a construction evaluation resolution the board of supervisors agrees to evaluate every construction permit application for a proposed confinement feeding operation structure received by the board of supervisors between February 1, 2026 and January 31, 2027 and submit an adopted recommendation regarding that application to the DNR; and

WHEREAS, the board of supervisors must conduct an evaluation of every construction permit application using the master matrix created in Iowa Code section 459.305, but the board's recommendation to the DNR may be based on the final score on the master matrix or may be based on reasons other than the final score on the master matrix;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PALO ALTO COUNTY that the Board of Supervisors hereby adopts this construction evaluation resolution pursuant to Iowa Code section 459.304(3).
/s/LJ Solberg, Chair, Board of Supervisors
1-2-2026 ATTEST: /s/Carmen Moser, County Auditor

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Merrill to approve the master matrix for Henriksen Hogs, in Section 15 of Independence Township. Motion Carried.

Julie Edwards, Upper Des Moines, met with the Board for the annual report and budget request for FY27. The budget request is $20,000 and $1,000 for CHORE services. General Assistance request is $11,000.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Faulstick to appoint the following supervisors to various committees and boards as follows for the year 2026. Motion Carried.

Committee/Board	Appointment	Alternate
Ag Committee	Ron Graettinger	Linus Solberg
Courthouse Security Committee	Ron Graettinger	
DECAT Board	Ron Graettinger	Keith Wirtz
Economic Development Board	Craig Merrill	Roger Faulstick
Empowerment Board	Keith Wirtz	Ron Graettinger
Emergency Management Board	Linus Solberg	Ron Graettinger
E 911 Board	Linus Solberg	Craig Merrill
HIPAA Compliance Board	Keith Wirtz	
IDDA	Keith Wirtz	Linus Solberg
North Central Regional Emergency Response Commission	Linus Solberg	Craig Merrill
NW Iowa Regional Housing Authority	Roger Faulstick	
NW Planning & Development	Roger Faulstick	Ron Graettinger
PACGDC (gaming corporation)	Roger Faulstick	Linus Solberg
RIDES Board	Roger Faulstick	Ron Graettinger
Solid Waste Task Force	Ron Graettinger, Roger Faulstick	
Safety/Wellness Committee	Keith Wirtz	Craig Merrill
Upper Des Moines Opportunity Board	Ron Graettinger	Linus Solberg
Mid Iowa Growth Partnership	Craig Merrill	
Palo Alto County Connections Coalition	Roger Faulstick	Linus Solberg
Palo Alto County Fair Board	Ron Graettinger	
North Racoon Watershed Management	Keith Wirtz	

Committee Reports: Craig—drainage.

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Wirtz to adjourn. Motion Carried.

_____ _____
Linus Solberg, Chairman Carmen Moser, County Auditor