Courthouse
Emmetsburg, Iowa
March 17, 2026, 8:00 a.m.

The Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors met in regular session. Members present: Linus Solberg, Chair; Keith Wirtz, Ron Graettinger, Craig Merrill, Roger Faulstick. Present: Diane Weiland, Reporter/Democrat; Dean Gunderson.

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.

Linus Solberg, Chair, called the meeting to order and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Faulstick to approve the agenda for March 17, 2026. Motion Carried.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Wirtz to approve the minutes for March 10, 2026. Motion Carried.

Nathan Reffer, B & W Control Specialists Inc, met with the Board to present the quotes for tree and brush control. Nathan will get back to the Board with updated estimate for Jt. 63.

The Board held conference call with Kossuth County Board of Supervisors. The joint board considered the Pay estimate and change order for PAK#1 with Reutzel Excavating.

Motion by Kyle Stecker, Kossuth Co. Supervisors, 2nd by Linus Solberg, Palo Alto, to approve the change order with Reutzel Excavating for PAK1. Motion Carried.

Motion by Kyle Stecker, Kossuth Co. Supervisor, 2nd by Ron Graettinger, Palo Alto, to approve the pay estimate for $126,892.72 to Reutzel Excavating for PAK #1. Motion carried.

No one was present for public comment.

Walter Davis-Oeth, County Engineer, met with the Board for the annual performance review. Walter requested a close session per Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i).

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Merrill to go into Closed session at 8:31 a.m. per Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i). Ayes: Merrill, Graettinger, Wirtz, Solberg, Faulstick. Motion Carried.

The Board exited closed session at 8:45 a.m.

Ben Huntley, Environmental Health, met with the Board for the annual performance review. Ben requested a close session per Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i).

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to go into Closed session at 8:51 a.m. per Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(i). Ayes: Merrill, Graettinger, Wirtz, Solberg, Faulstick. Motion Carried.

The Board exited closed session at 9:07 a.m.

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Graettinger to introduce and approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION # 03-17-26
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
AMENDMENT OF CURRENT COUNTY BUDGET
2025/2026

The Board of Supervisors met this date for the purpose of amending the current FY26 County Budget. No objectors were present therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PALO ALTO COUNTY TO adopt the amended budget as published and change the following appropriations as listed:

Department Number	Department Title	Appropriation Prior to Resolution	Appropriation Adjustment Per Resolution	Final Appropriation Per Resolution
05	Sheriff	$1,387,015	$8,000	$1,395,015
20	County Engineer	$8,649,253	$628,100	$9,277,353
22	Conservation Board	$744,514	$12,000	$756,514
23	Local Health	$201,506	$10,000	$211,506
25	Social Services	$50,000	$10,000	$60,000
29	Jail	$528,393	$18,000	$546,393
51	Courthouse	$112,791	$600	$113,391
73	IRVM- Rural Services	$182,243	$284	$182,527
74	Zoning & Sanitation	$165,210	$20,000	$185,210
99	Nondepartmental	$4,141,661	$4,163	$4,145,824

Adopted this 17th day of March, 2026 by the Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors, with the vote thereon being as follows: Ayes: Faulstick, Merrill, Graettinger, Wirtz, Solberg. Nays: none. Resolution Passed.
/s/Linus Solberg, Chairman /s/Carmen Moser, Auditor

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Graettinger to set the date for the Hearing on Improvement to Drainage District No. 62 for April 14, 2026, at 9:30 a.m. in the Courthouse Boardroom. Motion Carried.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Wirtz to approve the master matrix for Kollasch Farms Inc in Freedom Township, Section 23. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports: Linus—proposed legislation; Keith—drainage.

With the FY25 county audit, findings in the report suggest that actual approved wages of elected officials are to be documented in the Board of Supervisors minutes. Below is the correction to January 27, 2026, minutes, to include the approved wages in the Board of Supervisors minutes.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to approve a 3% increase for the county supervisors effective July 1, 2026. Nays: Solberg. Motion Carried. Effective July 1, 2026, the salary is as follows: County Supervisors $35,100.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Graettinger to approve a 3% increase for the County Auditor, County Treasurer, County Recorder, County Attorney effective July 1, 2026. Motion Carried. Effective July 1, 2026, the salary is as follows:

County Auditor	$ 77,424
County Treasurer	$ 77,424
County Recorder	$ 77,424
County Attorney	$111,434

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to approve a 4% increase for the County Sheriff effective July 1, 2026. Motion Carried. Effective July 1, 2026, the salary is as follows: County Sheriff $103,779

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Merrill to adjourn. Motion Carried.

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Linus Solberg, Chairman Carmen Moser, Auditor