Courthouse
Emmetsburg, Iowa
May 26, 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; Jordan Morey, Auditor's Office;

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 Faulstick, 2nd by Wirtz to approve the agenda for May 26, 2026. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to approve the minutes for May 12, 2026. Motion Carried.

Anne Quail, County Attorney, met with the Board to present Resolution No. 5-26-2026 establishing hourly compensation rate for court appointed attorney.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Faulstick to introduce and approve Resolution No. 5-26-2026.
Ayes: Wirtz, Graettinger, Merrill, Faulstick, Solberg.
Nays: none. Resolution Passed.

Resolution No. 5-26-2026
Resolution Establishing an Hourly Compensation Rate
for Court-Appointed Attorney and Establishing a Payment Method
for Court-Appointed Attorneys Under Iowa Code 915.37

WHEREAS, it is desirable and necessary to fix the hourly rate of compensation for court-appointed attorneys by written resolution of the Board of Supervisors; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code 915.37, Guardian ad Litem for Prosecuting Child Witnesses, provides that an attorney shall be appointed in certain circumstances, but does not provide a method for that attorney to be paid and there is no other apparent means for which an attorney should be paid in these circumstances; and,

WHEREAS, it is desirable and necessary to guarantee attorneys appointed under Iowa Code 915.37 are paid for performing the work required of them;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors hereby adopts a reasonable compensation rate based on the local market-based hourly rate for attorneys at the time of the appointment that are appointed at County expense, and includes attorneys appointed under Iowa Code 915.37 as attorneys appointed at County expense unless otherwise directed by the Court.

Dated this 26 day of May, 2026
/s/LJ Solberg, Chair
/s/Attest: Carmen Moser, County Auditor

Committee Reports: Craig—drainage, Keith—Early Childhood.

No one was present for public comment.

Walter Davis-Oeth, County Engineer, met with the Board. The Board held a discussion regarding trees in Section 19 of Nevada Township.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Merrill to approve a utility permit for IA Lakes Electric in Sections 16, 17, & 21 in Lost Island Township. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Merrill to approve a utility permit for West Bend Municipal in Section 13 of West Bend Township. Motion Carried.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Graettinger to approve a utility permit for West Bend Municipal in Section 34 of Fern Valley Township. Motion Carried.

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Graettinger to approve a utility permit for Windstream along N Huron and 360th St, Emmetsburg. Motion Carried.

Motion by Merrill 2nd by Graettinger to approve a utility permit for Windstream in Emmetsburg Township. Motion Carried.

Jon Rosengren, Bolton & Menk, met with the Board. Present: Rob Allen, County Conservation. Jon explained the benefits of wetland sites for drainage district tiles to function better or eliminate future maintenance on district tiles.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to appoint Bolton & Menk for engineering design of six wetland sites included in packet for fees as shown for each project and sub-task. Motion Carried.
Total project cost as follows: DD 923 Lat L, $64,600; DD 61 Branch B, Branch B11, $64,600; DD 83 Main, $60,600; Jt 1 Main, 141, $64,600; DD 95 Main, Br 1, $64,600; Jt. 22, $60,600. (detailed fees on file at the Auditor's Office).

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Merrill to appoint Bolton & Menk for engineering design for Burns Prairie wetland design services for total cost of $87,500 on project for County Conservation using IDALS funding. Motion Carried. (detailed fees on file at Auditor's Office)

Kayla Hagen, EMA Director, met with the Board. Kayla presented drone footage of Cylinder Creek in Section 4 of West Bend Township. The Board discussed the trees.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Graettinger to update and approve the Procurement Policy for Palo Alto County. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Faulstick to approve the subaward agreement for the Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion Carried.

Jarid Kuchenreuther, EMS Director, met with the Board to present a resolution in committing to Goal of Zero Roadway Fatalities & Serious injuries.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Faulstick to introduce and approve the following Resolution No. 5-26-2026 (A). Ayes: Wirtz, Graettinger, Merril, Faulstick, Solberg.
Nays. None. Resolution Passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 5-26-2026 (A)
A RESOLUTION COMMITTING TO THE GOAL OF ZERO ROADWAY FATALITIES AND SERIOUS INJURIES IN PALO ALTO COUNTY

WHEREAS, every life is precious, and no number of roadway fatalities or serious injuries is acceptable on the transportation network within Palo Alto County; and
WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) has established the "Safe Streets and Roads for All" (SS4A) program to support local initiatives to prevent roadway deaths and serious injuries; and
WHEREAS, a data-driven analysis of **239 local injury and fatal crashes** in Palo Alto County identifies a critical "Trauma Gap" where ground EMS units consistently arrive **32.2 minutes faster** than air-medical assets; and

WHEREAS, the Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors recognized that a "Safe System Approach" requires a commitment to the five pillars of safety, with a specific focus on **Post-Crash Care** to increase survival rates following a roadway incident; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) establishes a vision of "Zero Fatalities" on all Iowa roads;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF PALO ALTO COUNTY, IOWA:

1. **OFFICIAL COMMITMENT:** Palo Alto County officially adopts the goal of **zero roadway fatalities and serious injuries** within its jurisdiction.

2. **TARGET DATES:** Palo Alto County commits to a reduction in fatal and serious injury crashes of at least **20% by the year 2030**, with the ultimate goal of reaching **Zero** fatalities by 2050.

3. **PLAN ADOPTION:** The County formally adopts the Iowa Strategic Highway Safety Plan as its guiding framework and commits to using localized crash data to drive safety investments.

4. **PROJECT AUTHORIZATION:** The County authorizes the pursuit of the SS4A Planning and Demonstration Grant (Total Project Cost: **$519,639**) to deploy life-saving technology across the county's High Injury Network.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 26 day of May, 2026.
/s/Linus Solberg, Chair, Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors
Attest: /s/Carmen Moser, County Auditor / Clerk

John King, County Sheriff, met with the Board. John requested approval for Dustin Petersen, Reserve, to carry a firearm after completion of training.

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Merrill to approve Dustin Petersen as a Reserve to carry a firearm effective May 26, 2026. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Merrill to approve the Library Contract for FY27 for $85,000. Motion Carried.

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Wirtz to approve the RIDES Agreement for FY27 for $8,000. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Merrill to appoint Samantha Bruellman to the West Bend Library board to fill the resignation of Doug Miller for the remaining term which expires on June 30, 2030. Motion Carried.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Faulstick to cancel the board meeting for June 2, 2026. Motion Carried.

Collin Klingbeil, Jacobson-Westergard, met with the Board by conference call to file the Appraiser Report for right-of-way acquisition on Drainage District No. 62.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Faulstick to accept the Appraiser Report for right of way acquisition on Drainage District No. 62 and to set the hearing date for June 23, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. at the Courthouse Boardroom. Motion Carried. Abstain: Merrill.

The Board called Gary Armstong by telephone conference regarding trees in the Cylinder Creek.

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Merrill to approve the county claims and drainage claims for May 26, 2026. Motion Carried.

General Basic Fund

Amazon Capital Services	Stationery/Forms/Gen Ofc	98.47

AT&T Mobility	Telecommunications Serv.-	421.46
Rob Sand, Auditor of State Off	Acct/Audit/Clerical Servi	68730.05
Boji Powersports	Minor MV Parts & Access	54.99
BUSINESS FORMS & SYSTEMS CO.	Data Processing Supplies	690.85
Canon	Office & Data Processing	245.64
Central Business Forms	Buildings	366.00
Critical Hire	Education/Training/Hotel	200.00
E.M.U.	utilities	1720.99
Emmetsburg Publishing Co.	Official Pub & Legal Noti	1047.61
GALLS, LLC	Wearing Apparel & Uniform	259.94
Graettinger Times	Official Pub & Legal Noti	1210.81
Heiman, Inc	Buildings	1976.90
Iowa's Co. Conservation System	Dues & Memberships	1500.00
IA Lakes Electric Coop	Electric Light & Power	926.00
Iowa Lakes Regional Water	Water & Sewer	293.80
Robin Jamison	Employee Mileage & Meals	702.99
KRISTAT AUTO PARTS LLC	Minor MV Parts & Access	80.03
Loffler Companies - 131511	Photocopy & Dup. Serv.	71.06
Lost Island Ruthven Betterment	Dues & Memberships	140.00
MidAmerican Energy	electricity	713.25
NSG,LLC Norgaard Sand & Gravel	Permanent Landscaping	693.12
Palo Alto Co Comm Health Ser	Board of Health	1908.96
Palo Alto Co Sec Road	Fuels	1211.06
Parallel Ag	Minor MV Parts & Access	229.79
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL FINANCIAL	Postage & Mailing	1147.32
Plumbing & Heating Wholesale	Buildings	29.45
Professional Office Services	Postage & Mailing	455.20
Quill Corporation	Stationery/Forms/Gen Ofc	254.98
Rooney's Auto & Custom Exhaust	Tires & Tubes	252.28
Rouse Tire and Repair, LLC	Tires & Tubes	362.00
Ruthven Coop Oil Co	Fuels	2317.50
Ruthven Zipcode	Official Pub & Legal Noti	320.07
Soil & Water Cons District	Permanent Landscaping	509.51
Spencer Office Supplies JCL So	Stationery/Forms/Gen Ofc	181.97
Swanson Hardware	Buildings	278.93
UMB BANK, N.A. Attn: Diana Van	Misc Expense	600.00
VISA	Postage & Mailing	2002.10
West Bend Journal	Official Pub & Legal Noti	233.96
LaDonna R. Wildeman	Stationery/Forms/Gen Ofc	30.00
Windstream	phone	1572.66
General Supplemental Fund		
Amazon Capital Services	Stationery/Forms/Gen Ofc	39.88
E.M.U.	utilities	184.42
MidAmerican Energy	electricity	30.33
Jail Special Revenue Fund		
MEDIACOM LLC	Protection/Security Serv.	263.10
Rural Services Basic Fund		
IA Lakes Electric Coop	Electric Light & Power	334.00
Aletha King	Miscellaneous Repair	60.00
KRISTAT AUTO PARTS LLC	Misc Expense	30.00
Northern Rolloff	Sanitation & Disposal Ser	3174.00
Shamrock Recycling, Inc	Sanitation & Disposal Ser	2617.22
Secondary Road Fund		
Alliant Energy	Engineering Services	167.22

Amazon Capital Services	Engineering Services	3933.72
Arnold Motor Supply ATT: Sue	Engineering Services	59.98
Ascentek, Inc	Engineering Services	1066.75
Cintas	Engineering Services	82.16
E.M.U.	Engineering Services	316.28
Emmetsburg Publishing Co.	Engineering Services	302.80
Fareway	Engineering Services	24.42
Graettinger Hardware	Engineering Services	465.00
IA Lakes Electric Coop	Engineering Services	298.49
King Excavation	Engineering Services	600.00
KRISTAT AUTO PARTS LLC	Engineering Services	2101.50
Lawson Products Inc	Engineering Services	99.27
MidAmerican Energy	Engineering Services	200.70
Murphy Tractor & Equipment	Engineering Services	420.50
New Century FS	Engineering Services	28939.07
Nuss Truck & Equipment	Engineering Services	791.45
Palo Alto Co Auditor	Engineering Services	33.26
Rooney's Auto & Custom Exhaust	Engineering Services	254.54
Swanson Hardware	Engineering Services	82.29
Titan Machinery	Engineering Services	159.54
Truck Center Companies	Engineering Services	100.54
City of West Bend	Engineering Services	172.83
Ziegler Inc	Engineering Services	3723.05
Emergency Mgmnt Agency		
Kayla Hagen	Education/Training/Hotel	282.06
Palo Alto Co Sec Road	Parts	276.41
E911 Surcharge Fund		
Amazon Capital Services	Equipment	129.99
AT&T Mobility	Engineering Services	41.77
Century Link	Engineering Services	33.95
HM CRAGG	Equipment	2985.72
Windstream	phone	80.44
WINDSTREAM IA Comm Inc	phone	161.51
Drainage Claims		
Bill Brown	DD 62-ROW Appr	100.00
GREG CUNDIFF	DD Tri Jt 73-Beaver Trap	80.00
Nick Leuer	DD 62-ROW Appr	100.00
KENT MALM	DD 29 Lat 6-Inspection	80.00
KENT MALM	DD 923 Lat 17-Inspect	80.00
Reutzel Excavating Inc	DD 61 Main-Repair	7940.00
Wirtz Backhoe	DD 29 Lat 6-Repair	2775.00
Wirtz Backhoe	DD 923 Lat 17-Repair	1300.00

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

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Linus Solberg, Chairman Carmen Moser, Auditor