Courthouse
Emmetsburg, Iowa
July 7, 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; Anne Quail, County Attorney; Jordan Morey, Deputy Auditor. Present on conference call: Dave Knoer, Renee Von Bokern, Collin Klingbeil.

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 Wirtz, 2nd by Merrill to approve the agenda for July 7, 2026, with the addition of a septic grant application. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Faulstick to approve the minutes for June 23, 2026. Motion Carried.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Graettinger to approve the Veteran Affair's monthly report for July 2, 2026, and the quarterly report ending June 30, 2026. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Merrill to approve the Recorder's monthly report ending June 30, 2026. Motion carried.

Collin Klingbeil, Jacobson-Westergard, met with the Board by conference call and update the Board on the 2024 FEMA flood repairs to drainage districts.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to set the hearing date for repairs on Drainage Districts No. 61 Main Open, 80 Lower Main, 84 and 175 for August 11, 2026, at 10 am. at the Election Center. Motion Carried.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Wirtz to set the hearing date for repairs on Drainage Districts No. Jt 63 Main Open Ditch for August 11, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. at the Election Center. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Merrill to introduce and approve Resolution No. 7-7-2026.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-7-2026
To Approve Transfer of Funds

WHEREAS, it is desired to authorize the County Auditor to transfer sums from the General Basic Fund to the Economic Development Fund, and

WHEREAS, said transfers must be in accordance with Section 331.432, 2026 Code of Iowa,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Palo Alto County, Iowa as follows:

That the Auditor is authorized to transfer $55,000 from the General Basic Fund to the Economic Development Fund effective July 7, 2026;

That the Auditor is directed to correct the books when said operating transfers are made and to notify the County Treasurer of the amounts of said transfer.

The above Resolution was passed and adopted by the Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors on July 7, 2026.

Ayes: Faulstick, Merrill, Graettinger, Wirtz, Solberg.
Nays: none.
Resolution Passed.
/s/Linus Solberg, Chair
/s/Attest: Carmen Moser, Auditor

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Merrill to approve $5,000 to Patty Schany for completion of septic grant. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to approve a septic grant application for Gerald Myers. Motion Carried.

Committee Reports: Craig-economic development; Ron—Upper Des Moines.

David Vollmar, Invenergy, was present for public comment and updated the Board on the solar panel project and requested the Board for the battery storage ordinance.

Anne Quail, County Attorney, met with the Board and presented a Resolution for a moratorium on data centers.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Graettinger to introduce and approve Resolution No. 7-8-2026 for a moratorium on data centers.
Ayes: Faulstick, Merrill, Graettinger, Wirtz, Solberg.
Nays: none.
Resolution Passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 7-8-2026
A RESOLUTION OF THE PALO ALTO COUNTY SUPERVISORS APPROVING A MORATORIUM ON THE ACCEPTANCE, PROCESSING, AND APPROVAL OF APPLICATIONS FOR ALL CLASSES OF DATA CENTERS WITHIN THE UNINCORPORATED AREAS OF PALO ALTO COUNTY

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Chapters 331 and 335 vests the Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors ("Board") with the authority to protect the public health, safety and general welfare of county residents, and to regulate land uses within the unincorporated areas of Palo Alto County; and,

WHEREAS, data centers have begun to emerge nationwide as large-scale industrial facilities that vary significantly in size operational intensity, environmental impact, water and energy demand, noise generation, and compatibility with surrounding land uses; and,

WHEREAS, such facilities may involve substantial levels of water use, electrical consumption, continuous mechanical noise generation, large-scale cooling infrastructure, accessory substations, emergency backup power systems, and other related components that may pose unique and significant land-use impacts on surrounding properties, natural resources, public services and rural quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that Palo Alto County's current zoning ordinances do not specifically address the general scope of modern data centers; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that meaningful evaluation of these issues requires coordination among affected municipalities, utility providers, regional planning organizations, state agencies, emergency management agencies, and other public and private stakeholders before data center applications are accepted for review; and,

WHEREAS, the Board believes that before any such facilities are constructed in Palo Alto County, ordinances should be put in place to ensure that the Board is aware of these projects in Palo Alto County; and,

WHEREAS, the Board wishes to engage in a thorough review of its zoning ordinance, including but not limited to definitions, siting requirements, use classifications, performance standards, environmental protections, and public infrastructure and environmental considerations related to data centers; and,

WHEREAS, under the direction of the Board, the Planning and Zoning Commission will require time to gather information and coordinate with multiple agencies for the purpose of reviewing, updating, or creating ordinances, policies, procedures relative to data centers; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that the acceptance or approval of new applications for data centers, until due diligence regarding these zoning considerations can take place, would undermine the purpose of such review, could expose Palo Alto

County to incompatible land uses, and could jeopardize the County's ability to develop consistent and protective zoning standards; and,

WHEREAS, a temporary moratoria of reasonable duration are a recognized and lawful planning tool used by counties throughout Iowa to prevent development from occurring under outdated regulations while comprehensive studies and ordinance updates are being completed; and,

WHEREAS, the Board finds that establishing a temporary moratorium on data center applications is necessary and reasonable to protect public health, safety, and welfare while the county studies the issue and develops appropriate regulations. The Board intends that this moratorium be temporary in nature, limited in duration, and used to allow sufficient time to evaluate existing regulations, obtain additional technical information, engage with stakeholders, prepare technical studies, develop or update planning documents as appropriate, and determine whether amendments to the Palo Alto County Comprehensive Plan or other county policies are appropriate; and,

NOW THEREFORE, the Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors, following review, consideration, and discussion, **RESOLVES** to establish and impose a temporary moratorium on the acceptance, processing, consideration and approval of any zoning, subdivision, site plan, conditional use, building permit, rezoning, or other development applications for any type or class of data center within the unincorporated areas of Palo Alto County, effective immediately and until to July 8, 2027, or upon the passage of an ordinance for the regulation of data centers, whichever is sooner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the moratorium may be extended as permitted by law by the Board for further action if the Board determines that, upon the conclusion of the moratorium period, substantial deficiencies exist in the comprehensive review and additional time is necessary to complete the required work for public protections such as: technical studies; collecting and evaluating relevant data; resolving ordinances issues; coordinating with municipalities, neighboring jurisdictions, utility providers, regional planning organizations, emergency management agencies, state and federal agencies, and other affected stakeholders; updating the Palo Alto County Comprehensive Plan and related planning documents; and obtaining public input due to lack of public review.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that no data center facilities, or appurtenance's thereto, shall be constructed or installed in the unincorporated areas of Palo Alto County. This shall include the renovation of any existing structures to be used as said facility.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, for the purposes of this Resolution, the term "data center" shall include any facility used for the centralized storage, management, processing, or transmission of digital data; and any facility whose principal use involves high density servers, information technology equipment, specialized mechanical cooling systems, or related digital infrastructure, such as energy storage systems. This definition is intended to be interpreted broadly and includes enterprise data centers, colocation data centers, hyperscale data centers, server farms, cloud computing facilities, and similar operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the following direction to Palo Alto County Staff, including the Zoning and Planning Commission:

a) Conduct a comprehensive review of zoning provisions related to data centers utilized by other jurisdictions.
b) Conduct a comprehensive review of issues related to data centers currently constructed and in use.
c) Propose updated definitions, standards and regulatory frameworks designed to address modern data center land-use impacts.
d) Present draft recommendations to the Board for further review and consideration.
e) Consult with the County Attorney's Office regarding the legal and regulatory implications of the proposed recommendations.

If any section, provision, or part of this resolution shall be adjudged invalid or unconstitutional, such adjudication shall not affect the validity of the resolution as a whole or any section, provision, or part thereof not adjudge invalid or unconstitutional.

The Board discussed the Jt. 63 Branch 5 open ditch petition filed by Mark White to clean out the ditch from the bulkhead to B63 Hwy. Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Merrill to direct King Excavation to clean out the Jt. 63 Branch 5 open ditch from the bulkhead to B63. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to designate the notice of meetings for the Palo Alto County Board of Supervisors, Board of Adjustment, Zoning Commission and Solid Waste Task Force shall be posted on the glass door on the east side of the Palo Alto County Courthouse effective 7-7-2026. Motion Carried.

The Board held a conference call with Renee Von Bokern to discuss possible HR services & negotiations. Renee discussed with the Board the annual fixed fee for HR questions and handbook updates.

The Board held a conference call with Kossuth County Board of Supervisors regarding Joint Drainage District No. PAK 1 Main Open Ditch. Present on conference call: Collin Klingbeil, Jacobson-Westergard; Kossuth County Supervisors: Amber Garman, Kyle Stecker, Carter Nath, Howard Haas. Absent: Joshua Waechter. Present on conference call: Melissa Arndorfer, Deputy Auditor; Heather Estes, Drainage Clerk. Palo Alto County Supervisors: Linus Solberg, Keith Wirtz, Ron Graettinger, Roger Faulstick, Craig Merrill, Jordan Morey, Deputy Auditor.

Motion by Craig Merrill, Palo Alto Supervisor, 2nd by Amber Garman, Kossuth Supervisor, to approve Change Order #5 for $15,587.17 for additional pipe work. Motion carried.

Motion by Kyle Stecker, Kossuth Supervisor, 2nd by Keith Wirtz Palo Alto Supervisor, to approve pay estimate #4 for $ 116,041.31 to Reutzel Excavating. Motion Carried.

Motion by Kyle Stecker, Kossuth Supervisor, 2nd by Roger Faulstick, Palo Alto Supervisor, to accept the engineer's completion report and set the date for hearing on completion for August 4, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. at the Kossuth County Boardroom. Motion Carried.

Aletha King, Zoning, met with the Board to provide an update on Bed Rock Renewable Towers. Bed Rock has requested to repower the turbines which will require an amendment to the wind ordinance.

In accordance with the Iowa Code Section 349.18, the following wages were paid to full-time and part-time employees of Palo Alto County for Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026.

Robert P Allen	64,984.84
Gary N Anderson	30.00
Byron L Anliker	30.00
Morgan J Armstrong	8,170.89
Donald E Banwart	30.00
John A Banwart	30.00
Marlene K Banwart	180.00
Jay L Bargman	30.00
Daniel A Berven	27,529.47
Blake K Bixby	5,425.00
Joey D Boevers	30.00
David A Bolte	60.00
Robert J Brady	2,915.78
Devon T Bringleson	90.00
Donald P Bruch	30.00
Myron C Bruhn	30.00
Dawn M Buettner	62,780.34
Terry L Chamberlain	600.00
Renee M Chism	28,204.91
Kevin R Christensen	57,431.64
Seth M Christensen	46,119.54
Kyle S Cook	57,295.85

Philip M Currans	180.00
George D DeMoss	56,112.60
Todd R Ditch	48,472.80
Christina R Doidge Clausen	600.00
Isaiah D Dow	4,050.00
Douglas D Drost	31,066.29
Margaret A Drost	57,336.00
Brian P Duhn	37,302.12
Jennifer M Dykshoorn	21,285.74
Robert L Edwards	54,784.13
Michael J Egland	57,400.04
Kyle R Elbert	30.00
Martin J Elbert	30.00
Carl N Fank	30.00
Chad N Fank	30.00
Roger V Faulstick	34,077.84
Lindsy N Frambach	57,546.00
Thomas W Fuchs	57,582.78
Jeffrey R Gambell	30.00
Leo F Geelan	30.00
Martin F Geelan	30.00
Therese M Geelan	57,420.00
Douglas A Girres	62,246.72
Staci L Girres	244.10
Ronald D Graettinger	34,102.84
Elizabeth M Grose	180.00
Kayla M Hagen	57,025.00
Kyle K Hagen	84,325.18
Melissa A Hall	58,420.44
Troy M Hall	58,281.38
Amanda S Hansen	57,361.00
Daniel L Harr	4,323.78
Zachary D Harris	57,426.62
Neal M Heldt	30.00
Angela K Hetrick	30.00
Mark A Hobart	30.00
Jeff L Hoffman	57,443.67
Dallas R Horne	45,000.00
Stephanie L Hudson	57,427.00
Lawrence B Hurley	60.00
Kylie K Iverson	7,768.25
Robin A Jamison	75,359.96
Marie K Jensen	54,808.09
Jodi S Jergens	75,193.96
Blake R Jesse	56,302.00
Bruce V Johnson	30.00
Robby A Johnson	58,403.75
Mark H Jorgensen	60.00
Donald T Joyce	69,711.74
Tashia M Joynt	55,122.30
Avery N Keenan	38,253.62
Tiffani R Keller	56,109.53
Justin P Kibbie	30.00
Aletha M King	28,089.52

Johnathon D King	99,787.92
Frank W Kliegl	1,468.80
Dexter D Knobloch	30.00
MacKenzie J Kollasch	2,534.82
Austin I Krause	60,740.04
Ronald D Kropf	60.00
Travis R Lampe	83,090.88
Donald C Larsen	12,487.13
Mercedes D Leners	59,014.07
Bryan A Long	64,412.71
Trent J Lyle	3,892.50
Samuel L Lyon	83,282.88
Kent D Malm	52,186.80
Kevin M Malm	41,860.80
Lucas R Malm	2,776.00
Steven L Malm	128.52
Gary L Manwarren	58,415.00
Jana J Mathisen	60.00
Benedict J Matthews	4,216.00
Timothy S McCarthy	29,050.92
Kaden M McCoy	57,431.64
Craig D Merrill	34,077.84
Victoria L Merwald	24,762.72
Duane E Meyer	60.00
Nathan D Meyer	57,459.12
Paul A Molitor	60.00
Kurt W Moore	2,300.00
Adam D Morey	57,458.65
Benjamin H Morey	83,045.82
David H Morey	30.00
Jordan J Morey	57,403.00
Kathryn A Mortenson	57,603.00
Carmen L Moser	75,197.96
Colten J Moser	57,425.64
Penny L Murphy	24,542.70
Jillian P Myers	21,435.73
Ronn A Naig	30.00
Tim D Naig	30.00
David R Neilson	58,401.90
Seth C Nelson	84,844.84
Jac R Netsch	8,695.13
Kyle M Norris	60.00
Stewart W Ohrtman	30.00
Trey E Olson	58,817.11
Adam J Osborn	60.00
Lena M Peters	57,646.13
Clinton W Petersen	57,720.18
Heather B Pullen	1,378.96
Anne J Quail	108,213.88
Michael J Reding	60.00
Melanie K Rouse	59,196.00
Brad S Rubel	120.00
Penelope A Rubel	150.00
Susan E Ruppert	75,193.96

Brooke E Sabin	48,925.32
Richard H Sample	600.00
James R Schoning	60.00
Thomas M Schultes	84,697.92
Jenna M Shirk	40,874.94
Megan A Sikora	3,270.09
Brody A Simington	36,350.58
Jessica A Sinning	10,736.94
Andrew J Soenen	30.00
April J Soenen	30.00
Chase N Soenen	57,459.12
Robert J Soenen	30.00
Linus J Solberg	34,077.84
Allen J Stangl	30.00
Mark T Steier	30.00
Kaitlin J Steinle	55,922.80
Jeffrey W Stillman	30.00
Tyler D Stokes	85,981.21
Andrew M Stolley	69,727.12
Claude A Thayer	57,618.00
Jeannie K Thilges	4,370.07
Robin R Thomsen	57,487.00
Craig N Thu	60.00
Jacob A Treybal	64,037.91
Trig T Troyer	5,066.25
Mike P Vaughan	57,438.64
Matthew J Veon	87,567.75
Todd A Wegener	30.00
Brandon F Wejrowski	6,995.00
Jane M Wentzel	19,806.04
Steven W Westfall	70,187.77
Jeffrey A Wickman	57,472.86
LaDonna R Wildeman	57,448.00
Justin D Williams	83,875.00
Brooke E Williamson	11,534.19
Keith B Wirtz	34,077.84
Daniel F Zeigler	30.00

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

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Linus Solberg, Chairman Carmen Moser, Auditor