Courthouse
Emmetsburg, Iowa
August 4, 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: Anne Quail, County Attorney; Jordan Morey, Auditor's Office; Jim & Sharon Neighbors; Jim Kuecker, Dean Gunderson, Aletha King, Jeff Stillman, Fred Wirtz Jr; Conference call: Joan Mersch.

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 Graettinger to approve the agenda for August 4, 2026. Motion Carried.

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Graettinger to approve the minutes for July 28, 2026. Motion Carried.

Motion by Merrill, 2nd by Wirtz to approve the Veteran Affair's monthly report for July 31, 2026. Motion Carried.

Rob Allen, Conservation Director, met with the Board. Rob gave an update on the Burns Prairie IDALS project. The project is funded by IDALS and the county will need to do a FY27 budget amendment for the project.

Walter Davis-Oeth, County Engineer, met with the Board to give an update on Secondary Roads. Walter discussed with the Board upcoming railroad crossing projects and the road repairs.

No one was present for public comment.

Chad Fields, DNR, met with the Board to discuss the water supply in Palo Alto County regarding pipelines, bitcoin, battery storage and data centers.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to approve a septic grant application for Eileen Rouse Estate. Motion Carried.

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

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Merrill to approve Pay Estimate #1 to B&B Farm Drainage for $162,440.55 for work on Drainage District No.69. Motion Caried.

Meredith Burnison, Business Management Development with Wells Ag Supply, met with the Board to request a letter of support for the FIELDS Grant. Wells Ag Supply would like to put a fertilizer plant near Emmetsburg. Their current facility is located at Fonda. Meredith presented information about Wells Ag Supply and the proposed $30 million project.

Motion by Faulstick, 2nd by Wirtz to approve a letter of support for the FIELDS Grant with Wells Ag Supply. Motion Carried.

Motion by Graettinger, 2nd by Wirtz to approve Pay Estimate #1 for $191,432.17 to LeRoy & Sons Inc for Drainage District 923 IDALS project. Motion Carried.

Motion by Wirtz, 2nd by Faulstick to approve Pay Estimate #2 for $27,185.07 to LeRoy & Sons Inc for Drainage District 923 IDALS project. Motion Carried.

The Board met by zoom with Kossuth County Board of Supervisors for the Completion Hearing on PAK #1 Main Open Ditch repairs.

Palo Alto County Board present: Linus Solberg, Keith Wirtz, Ron Graettinger, Craig Merrill. Absent: Roger Faulstick. Kossuth County Board present: Amber Garman, Carter Nath, Kyle Stecker, Howard Haas. Absent: Joshua Waechter.

Motion by Kyle Stecker, Kossuth County, 2nd by Craig Merrill, Palo Alto County, to open the public hearing for the Completion Hearing on PAK#1 Main Open Ditch repairs. Ayes: All. Motion Carried. Absent: Faulstick.

Collin Klingbeil, Jacobson-Westergard, presented the completion report for PAK #1. The total cost of the project was $487,364.17. The Joint Board reviewed the crop damages spreadsheet prepared by Collin and adjusted by the Board. Landowners filed claims for damages and were reviewed by the Board.

Motion by Kyle Stecker, Kossuth County, 2nd by Keith Wirtz, Palo Alto County, to close the public hearing. Ayes: All. Motion Carried. Absent: Faulstick.

Motion by Carter Nath, Kossuth County, 2nd by Linus Solberg, Palo Alto County, to approve the completion of the contract with Reutzel Excavating and release the retainage in 30 days; and to approve the crop damages as discussed and amended at the hearing. Ayes: All. Motion Carried. Absent: Faulstick.

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

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Linus Solberg, Chairman Carmen Moser, Auditor