Approved Emmet County Board of Supervisor Minutes
March 4, 2025, at 08:30 a.m.
Regular Meeting
Board Room, Courthouse

Present: Lisa Hansen, Chair; John Pluth; Todd Glasnapp; Jeff Quastad; Tim Schumacher

Media: Mike Tidemann, Ed Funston

Emmet County Employees present: Heidi Goebel, Roxie Budach

Chairman Hansen, called the meeting to order. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Quastad, second by Pluth to approve the minutes of the last meeting 2.25.2025 also approving them for publication. Motion to approve the agenda by Glasnapp, second by Pluth. All Ayes, motion carried.

Schumacher joined the meeting at 8:33 a.m.

Committee updates: Quastad and Hansen-ECCOG; Pluth-DCAT meeting, regions will be changing for DCAT.

Public forum: Goebel shared with the board the status of the HF 718 letters and tax rates for FY2026 being entered into the Department of Management's website by county, cities and K-12 schools.

Discussion about the upcoming forecasted blizzard and the procedure for closing the building if needed.

Assessor Bohm passed out the maps of Emmet County airports.

Lexie Ruter, Director of Estherville Chamber of Commerce as well as several members of the Chamber Board and Susan Pytleski, Chamber office associate, joined the meeting. Ruter's discussion is about RAGBRAI and the overnight stay in Estherville July 21, 2025. Estherville did not apply for RAGBRAI. RAGBRAI approached the City of Estherville for permission to be an overnight town. Forty miles of the route will be in Emmet County. Route has not been released.

Ruter is requesting $20,000 from Emmet County. City of Estherville has committed $20,000 of city LOSST funds. City is also taking care of utility expenses. RAGBRAI is requesting $120,000 for an overnight location infrastructure. RAGBRAI contributes $50,000 towards the $120,000. Quastad asked about the economic impact of RAGBRAI in an overnight town. Ruter will follow up with the board on those statistics.

Discussion about past RAGBRAI visits in Emmet County. Chamber members; Jason Bendixen, Bob Leifeld and Michelle Majerus made comments in support of RAGBRAI.

Pluth made a motion to approve the $20,000 contribution to the Chamber of Commerce and put the use of LOSST funds for RAGBRAI on next week's agenda, second by Glasnapp. All ayes. Motion carried. Schumacher asked that detailed records be kept from local vendors about how they ended up financially for the future.

Roxanne Budach, Auditor's Assistant, discussed the postal machine contract renewal. A new machine is needed to comply with new postal regulations.

Schumacher made the motion to appoint Lisa Hansen to Board of Health, second Quastad. All ayes. Motion carried.

Goebel presented the Board with the updated FY 2026 proposed Emmet County budget after updating with the approved tax rates from last week.

Walter Davis-Oeth, County Engineer, brought a utility permit from Iowa Lakes Electric Cooperative on 570th Avenue in Armstrong Grove township. Motion by Pluth, second by Schumacher. All ayes. Motion carried. Davis-Oeth commended his staff for all the work they have done on the new shop with little snow removal this year.

Goebel presented the Board with FY 2025 budget amendment #2 prior to sending it to the paper for publication this week.

Several citizens with interest in the proposed wind energy ordinance joined the meeting. Richard McKean, Planning and Zoning Chairperson, was also present.

Proposed wind energy ordinance discussion. Planning and zoning gave the draft wind energy ordinance back to the board of supervisors. Quastad commented on the ordinance contents section by section. Quastad wanted to go through all his comments today. Hansen, Glasnapp, Pluth and Schumacher also made comments on varying sections. Board agreed that a work session for these comments would be the best path forward to develop the list of written recommendations. Discussion within the work session will then be prepared as written recommendations to present back to the planning and zoning committee. March 18th work session after the board meeting.

Denise Ballard, IGHCP, Emmet County renewal rates for health and dental insurance. Health insurance rates proposed at 0%, .37% (to cover the increased broker fees) and 3% increase. EBS self-insured dental proposed increase at 12% premium, alternate plan Delta Dental is a 11.2% premium increase. Also Delta Vision insurance quote provided. County life insurance rates had a 0% premium increase for FY26. Discussion on changes to the county paid portion of dental premium. The Board did not make any decisions on the insurance rates for FY 2026. The premiums and changes to the insurances will be on the March 11 agenda.

Schumacher left the meeting at 11:10.

Steve Christensen and Joel Christensen dropped of some samples for the building addition metal trim and brick exterior panels.

Proposed wind energy ordinance discussion continued with Quastad comments on the ordinance as he will be absent from the board meeting on March 11. Hansen made additional comments. McKean offered clarifications of certain ordinance sections.

Board reviewed manure management plans.

Facility	Owner	Site
LB Prok Shumski Site	LBH Partners	58949
NFP Farm 192	New Fashion Pork	64370
Farm 238	New Fashion Pork	67122
Section 24 Beef LLC	Section 24 Beef LLC	65084
Halfa Finisher Farm	Understood Farms	70097

Hansen would like zoning director position added to next week's agenda.

Motion by Quastad, second by Pluth to adjourn at 12:19 p.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

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Heidi Goebel, Auditor Lisa Hansen, Chairman