Approved Emmet County Board of Supervisor Minutes
March 24, at 08:30 a.m.
Regular Meeting
Board Room, Courthouse

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

Media: Mike Tidemann, Nathan Pohl

Emmet County Employees present: Melanie Summers-Bauler

Chairperson Hansen, called the meeting to order. All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Motion by Quastad, second by Schumacher to approve the board meeting minutes from the meeting 3.17.2026, also approving them for publication. All ayes. Motion carried. Motion to approve agenda by Pluth, second by Glasnapp. All Ayes, motion carried.

Committee updates: Hansen-ECNCI; Pluth-Legislative forum in Emmetsburg; Quastad-Regional Housing Trust; Hansen-Department Head Meeting.

Public forum: Mike Tidemann shared his notes from the Regional Housing Trust Committee meeting.

Goebel shared that the Iowa Secretary of State's office is hosting election training across the state this week. These training courses are conducted to incorporate the Election Incident Response Plan and scenarios on how to plan for election emergencies. The Auditor's Office staff as well as other emergency response departments will be attending the training on Wednesday, March 25th in Mason City. The Auditor's Office will be open Wednesday from 8:30 to 12:30.

Goebel stated that three local candidates filed for the Primary Election from the Republican party: Supervisor-John Pluth, Treasurer-Lisa Rosburg; Recorder-Diann Minion. No candidates received from the Democratic party or for the office of Attorney.

Joanne Fallon, Alyssa Petersen and Jenny Dykema from the Iowa Great Lakes Corridor presented the Corridor's annual report and Business Retention and Expansion report.

Nate Reffer, B & W Weed Control Specialists present bids for county weed control and drainage weed control for 2026.

DRAINAGE: Drainage district weed spraying bid presented $36,500.
DD17-$14,000; DD17 Lat 3-$2,500; DD17 Lat 4-$2,500; DD29-$2,500; DD121-$6,500; DD60 -$6,500; ED1-$1,500; DD44-$500

County roadside ditches brush weed control bid presented $61,620. County bridges weed control bid presented $2100 (21 bridges x $100). County wide brush control bid presented $16,252 for southern 1/3 of county including townships of Twelve Mile, High Lake, Jack Creek, Denmark.
Motion to accept the bids presented by Schumacher, second by Pluth. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion to adopt Resolution 26-12 Continuation of a Moratorium on Issuing Conditional Use, Zoning Permits for the Construction of Wind Energy Conversion Systems by Schumacher, second by Glasnapp. Roll call vote: Schumacher-aye; Glasnapp-aye; Pluth-aye; Quastad-aye; Hansen-aye. Resolution adopted.

RESOLUTION #26-12 CONTINUATION OF A MORATORIUM ON ISSUING CONDITIONAL USE/ZONING PERMITS FOR THE CONSTUCTION OF COMMERCIAL WIND ENERGY CONVERSION SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Chapter 335 grants counties the ability to adopt Zoning Ordinances to regulate land use within its jurisdictional boundaries; and
WHEREAS, from time to time, it is necessary and prudent to review and study ordinances for updates to ensure proper regulation; and
WHEREAS, the size and impact of Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems (CWECS) have the potential to create an excessive burden on the County's infrastructure, the environment, wildlife, nearby property owners and a potential to interfere with the operation of Doppler Weather Radar accuracy; and
WHEREAS, CWECS require a rezoning subject to consideration and action by the Emmet County Zoning Board of Supervisors; and
WHEREAS, the Emmet County Board of Supervisors recognizes that Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems may affect the character of the surrounding area and the Board desires that all applications for Commercial Wind Energy Conversion Systems be considered consistently within the purpose and intent of an amended Emmet County Zoning Ordinance so that the most appropriate uses of land are encouraged throughout unincorporated Emmet County; and
WHEREAS, the Emmet County Board of Supervisors desires to amend the current zoning ordinance as it pertains to CWECS and has not yet approved the version passed by Emmet County's Planning and Zoning Commission; and
WHEREAS, Emmet County is currently in the process of reviewing the amendment to the zoning ordinance and said process will involve multiple sessions;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Emmet County Board of Supervisors hereby established a temporary moratorium on issuing conditional use/zoning permits for the purpose of constructing a CWECS, that was to expire at 11:59 p.m. Central Time on March 31, 2026. This moratorium will be continued until April 2, 2026 at 11:59 p.m. by action of the Board of Supervisors, to allow the above referenced changes to the Emmet County Zoning Ordinance concerning CWECS, to be considered by the Emmet County Board of Supervisors; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution and resulting moratorium continuation does not affect any currently filed permit applications for CWECS; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Emmet County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to end the moratorium continuation prior to the approved term of the moratorium upon completion of the amendments to the Emmet County Zoning Ordinance and satisfactory resolution of the issues as determined by the Emmet County Board of Supervisors; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the moratorium continuation approved by this Resolution shall be effective immediately upon adoption of this Resolution. Adopted this 24th day of March, 2026. Lisa Hansen, Board of Supervisors' Chair. Attest: Heidi Goebel, Auditor

Motion to adopt Resolution 26-13 Continuation of a Moratorium on the Construction of USSES and BESS in the Unincorporated Areas of Emmet County by Quastad, second by Pluth. Roll call vote: Schumacher-aye; Glasnapp-aye; Pluth-aye; Quastad-aye; Hansen-aye. Resolution adopted.

Resolution No. 2026-13. Resolution to Establish a Temporary Moratorium on the Construction of Utility Scale Solar Energy Systems (USSES) and Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in the Unincorporated Areas of Emmet County Iowa; and

WHEREAS the Board of Supervisors, hereafter referred to as "Board", has concerns that in the future persons may desire to construct Utility Scale Solar Energy Systems (USSES), commonly referred to as solar farms, and/or Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in the unincorporated areas of Emmet County, Iowa; and

WHEREAS the Board believes that before any such facilities are constructed in Emmet County, ordinances should be put in place to ensure that the Board and Zoning Administrator are aware of these projects in Emmet County and that the construction, operation, and deconstruction of these facilities would be subject to reasonable regulations that would ensure that said facilities are constructed and operated in a safe manner, the rights of persons or property within reasonable distance of said facilities are appropriately protected, and the conditions of County roads are protected; and

WHEREAS the Board desires to have said temporary moratoriums in place until such time as ordinances can be prepared and passed to provide appropriate regulation of said facilities.

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED by the Emmet County Board of Supervisors that:

1. The board does hereby establish and impose a temporary moratorium on the construction of a Utility Scale Solar Energy System (USSES), commonly referred to as solar farms, in the unincorporated areas of Emmet County. No USSES facilities or appurtenances to said facilities shall be constructed in the unincorporated areas of Emmet County. This shall include the renovation of any existing structures to be used as said facility. This moratorium will remain in place until September 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. unless extended by the Board prior to the expiration.

2. The Board does hereby establish and impose a temporary moratorium on the construction of a Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in the unincorporated areas of Emmet County. No BESS facilities or appurtenances to said facilities shall be constructed in the unincorporated areas of Emmet County. This shall include the renovation of any existing structures to be used as said facility. This moratorium will remain in place until September 30, 2026, at 11:59 p.m. unless extended by the Board prior to the expiration.

3. The Emmet County Board of Supervisors reserves the right to end the moratorium on either USSES or BESS prior to the approved term of the moratorium upon completion of the amendments to the Emmet County Zoning Ordinance and satisfactory resolution of the issues as determined by the Emmet County Board of Supervisors.

4. This resolution as to both temporary moratoriums shall become effective upon passage. Signed 24th day of March, 2026. Lisa Hansen, Board of Supervisors' Chair. Attest: Heidi Goebel, Auditor

Motion to go into closed session at 10:02 a.m. pursuant to Iowa Code 21.5 (1) (c) by Pluth, second by Quastad. All ayes. Motion carried.

Motion by Pluth, second by Quastad to leave closed session at 10:38 a.m. Roll call vote: Schumacher-aye; Glasnapp-aye; Pluth-aye; Quastad-aye; Hansen-aye. Motion carried.

No decision made in closed session.

Manure management plan reviewed:
Bates Site Owner: Howard Hogs LLC Site #58134

Motion to adjourn by Pluth, second by Schumacher at 10:41 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

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Heidi Goebel, County Auditor Lisa Hansen, Chairman