



Classified/Legals

Thursday,
March 14, 2024

West Branch Times

Cedar county payroll

VENDOR	PAY DATE	VENDOR TOTAL
Benefits Inc.	2/23/2024	1,169.97
Phelps the Uniform Specialists		34.54
Washington National Ins Co.		212.08
Fidelity Investments		1,200.00
Cincinnati Life Insurance Co		580.56
IPERS		104,581.95
Cedar County Health Fund		142,395.76
Nationwide Retirement Solution		140.00
Cedar County Treasurer		75,065.78
Cedar County Treasurer		10,171.00
Cedar County Treasurer		8,855.02
Cedar County Treasurer		530.93
Cedar County Treasurer		586.23
COUNTY TOTAL		345,523.82

WBT 11

West Branch city council

(The following is a synopsis of the minutes of the West Branch City Council meeting. A video recording is available for inspection at westbranchiowa.org. The minutes are not approved until the next regularly scheduled City Council meeting.)
West Branch, Iowa; City Council; March 4, 2024
Council Chambers; Regular Meeting; 7:00 p.m.
Mayor Roger Laughlin called the West Branch City Council regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
Roll call. Council members present: Mike Horihan, Jerry Sexton, Tom Dean, Jodee Stoolman and Nick Goodweiler. City Staff present: City Administrator Adam Kofeod, City Clerk Leslie Brick, Police Chief Greg Hall, Public Works Director Matt Goodale and City Attorney Kevin Olson. City Staff attending via Zoom: Finance Officer Heidi Van Auken, Library Director Jessie Schafer and Sergeant Cathy Steen.
APPROVE THE AGENDA
Motion by Dean, second by Goodweiler to approve the agenda. Motion carried on a voice vote.
APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA
Approve the minutes from the February 20, 2024 City Council meeting.
Approve a Class E Retail Alcohol License for Casey's Marketing Company #3463, 615 S. Downey St., West Branch. Approve the December 2023 Monthly Financial Report.
Approve the January 2024 Monthly Financial Report.
Approve Claims for March 4, 2024.
EXPENDITURES - 3/4/2024
BAKER & TAYLOR-BOOKS-395.42
CEDAR COUNTY RECORDER-RECORDING FEES-42.00
HI-LINE-SHOP SUPPLIES-PW-41.00
IMPACT7G-WIDENING WAPSI CREEK-4,970.00
IOWA ONE CALL-UTILITY LOCATION SERVICE-21.60
KIESLER POLICE SUPPLY-EQUIPMENT-POLICE-242.00
LIBERTY COMMUNICATIONS-LIBERTY COMMUNICATIONS-1,578.17
LYNCH'S EXCAVATING-EASTSIDE MAIN PAYMENT & MAIN REPAIR-44,464.00
MAINSTAY SYSTEMS OF IOWA-BACKUP SOFTWARE & LAPTOPS-2,377.00
MOORE'S WELDING-PLOW REPAIR-127.50
OVERDRIVE-DIGITAL & AUDIO BOOKS-39.99
STEEN, CATHERINE-ILEA CONF REIMBURSE-STEEN -402.48
THOMAS HEATING & AIR-FOOD PANTRY FURNACE REPAIR-85.00
UNIFORM DEN-UNIFORM-POLICE-974.90
VEENSTRA & KIMM-VARIOUS PROJECTS-23,729.80
TOTAL--79,490.86
PAYROLL-WAGES, TAXES, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - 9/1/2024
40,621.96
PAID BETWEEN MEETINGS
AMAZON.COM-MEMBERSHIP FEES 2022. 2023-358.00
LEAF CAPITAL FUNDING-COPIER LEASE-CITY OFFICE-435.60
MEDIACOM-CABLE SERVICE-41.90
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL-POSTAGE METER LEASE-LIBRARY -77.37
VERIZON WIRELESS-VERIZON WIRELESS-412.88
METLIFE-INSURANCE-1,084.43
SISCO-INSURANCE-9,830.02
BOOMERANG-WW TREATMENT PAY ESTIMATE 16-62,781.19
IA INSURANCE DIVISION-CEMETERY REPORT FILING FEE-171.00
SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 2/20/2024-1,620.00
TOTAL--76,812.39
GRAND TOTAL
EXPENDITURES--196,925.21
FUND TOTALS
001 GENERAL FUND-22,387.77
022 CIVIC CENTER-130.22
031 LIBRARY-7,010.53
110 ROAD USE TAX-4,867.86
112 TRUST AND AGENCY-13,877.33
321 WIDENING WAPSI CREEK-10,411.50
324 WW TREATMENT FACILITY-75,473.13
326 ROUNDABOUT MAIN & CEDAR-220.00
329 EASTSIDE WATER MAIN PH1-40,240.00
330 EASTSIDE WATER MAIN PH2-3,969.04
600 WATER FUND-11,253.35
610 SEWER FUND-6,568.25
740 STORM WATER UTILITY-516.23
GRAND FUND TOTAL--196,925.21
REVENUE-FISCAL YEAR 2023
FUND DECEMBER
001 GENERAL FUND-70,129.61
022 CIVIC CENTER-880.16
026 SIGNS ACCIONA DONATION-86.77
031 LIBRARY-1,260.76
036 TORT LIABILITY-968.16
110 ROAD USE TAX-30,219.22
112 TRUST & AGENCY-6,136.02
119 EMERGENCY TAX FUND-520.31
121 LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX-27,214.58
125 TIF-2,448.39
126 TIF LMI MEADOWS PT 4-619.98
226 DEBT SERVICE-3,943.63
300 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT

RESERVE-993.02
324 WW TREATMENT FACILITY-556,055.90
500 CEMETERY PERPETUAL FUND-504.89
501 KROUTH PRINCIPAL FUND-742.95
502 KROUTH INTEREST FUND-347.32
600 WATER FUND-60,428.78
610 SEWER FUND-79,117.88
740 STORM WATER UTILITY-5,541.09
TOTAL--848,159.42
REVENUE-FISCAL YEAR 2024
FUND JANUARY
001 GENERAL FUND-35,241.36
022 CIVIC CENTER-374.68
031 LIBRARY-365.15
036 TORT LIABILITY-333.64
110 ROAD USE TAX-29,371.85
112 TRUST & AGENCY-3,244.22
119 EMERGENCY TAX FUND-179.28
121 LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX-25,650.25
125 TIF-707.57
226 DEBT SERVICE-1,521.22
300 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE-342.22
324 WW TREATMENT FACILITY-467,595.89
500 CEMETERY PERPETUAL FUND-172.87
600 WATER FUND-55,244.77
610 SEWER FUND-73,966.60
740 STORM WATER UTILITY-6,459.16
TOTAL--700,770.73
Motion by Dean, second by Horihan to approve the Consent agenda. AYES: Dean, Horihan, Sexton, Stoolman, Goodweiler. NAYS: None. Motion carried.
PRESENTATIONS / communications / open forum
Rebecca Whitaker, 406 Dawson Drive addressed the Council and expressed her disappointment with the proposed termination of the Building Incentive Program. Whitaker said the incentive was in part what attracted her to West Branch as well as others in her new neighborhood. Whitaker said affected eligible homeowners were not notified by the Council or city staff to discuss the proposal and was disappointed in the lack of communication. Whitaker said she feels that the program was "false advertisement".
PUBLIC HEARING / NON-CONSENT AGENDA
Resolution 2024-17 - Approving a contract with Willie Guy for Cubby Park concession sales and management for 2024. / Move to action.
No discussion.
Motion by Dean, second by Sexton to approve Resolution 2024-17. AYES: Dean, Sexton, Stoolman, Horihan, Goodweiler. NAYS: None. Motion carried.
Resolution 2024-18 - Approving the termination of the West Branch Building Incentive Program. / Move to action.
Sexton said he was part of the committee who developed the program in 2015 when no growth was occurring in West Branch. The committee consisted of builders, realtors, developers, bankers, private citizens, city staff and business owners. All had a vested interest in seeing the city grow. He said no one expected to see the quick growth the program would see, but is happy with the results. Sexton said he feels the rebate portion of the program should continue for those eligible homeowners. He added that the rebate was similar to "TIF rebates given to developers, the city doesn't take that away." Goodweiler argued in support of ending the program and in favor of hiring a Parks & Recreation Director with those funds. He reminded the Council that Parks & Recreation has been around for over twenty years and residents expect it. Horihan added that when the program was first introduced in 2015, as a private citizen he wasn't for it. He also felt the Council should have had a hard end date from the get go. To address why the Council proposed ending the program, Van Auken reminded them that the additional three hundred thousand dollars added to the police budget was a factor. Van Auken said that she and City Administrator Kofeod looked for other areas to cut, but this program will cut to help save another. She added that in recent months, senior residents have asked why there were no activities for the senior population as well as children programs. Kofeod added a long list of areas that have been cut starting in 2022 to current. He said he struggles with giving property owners "who can afford a new home, over kids from the mobile home village who can't afford recreation activities" and said sacrifices have to be made somewhere. Kofeod too, said he is eligible for the program so it affects him as well.
Motion by Sexton, second by Dean to approve Resolution 2024-18. AYES: Dean, Goodweiler, Horihan. NAYS: Sexton, Stoolman. Motion carried.
Resolution 2024-19 - Approving to hire Erin Laughlin as the Full-time Parks & Recreation Director. / Move to action.
Laughlin recused herself from this portion of the meeting due to his relationship with the proposed candidate. Horihan asked Kofeod to provide some background on Miss Laughlin's background that qualified her for the position. Kofeod responded that (Erin) was interviewed in October of 2023 when the position was vacated by the director hired in early 2023. Kofeod said that five applications were received and that Erin

was in the top two and interviewed twice. Kofeod said although Erin does not have a parks and recreation background, she has volunteered and organized youth activities in the past. Kofeod described Erin as a "go-getter, and someone who is willing to take on any kind of challenge".
Motion by Goodweiler, second by Dean to approve Resolution 2024-19. AYES: Goodweiler, Dean, Stoolman, Horihan, Sexton. NAYS: None. Motion carried.
Resolution 2024-20 - Approving Support for the City Administrator to apply for Cedar-Johnson Road Reconstruction Funding under Congressperson Miller-Meeks FY2025 Community Project Funding Program. / Move to action.
Kofeod said Council support will allow him to apply for the Miller-Meek's Community Project Grant which he applied for last year, but was unsuccessful. Kofeod said there is no cost to apply for the grant and said he would apply to fund the cost of the Cedar-Johnson Road reconstruction costs.
Motion by Sexton, second by Horihan to approve Resolution 2024-20. AYES: Sexton, Horihan, Goodweiler, Dean, Stoolman. NAYS: None. Motion carried.
Discussion - Review tree quotes for the Wapsi Creek Widening Project
Eric Gould of Veenstra & Kimm informed the Council that his firm had received four quotes on taking down trees in the project area that needs to be complete by March 31st of this year so as to not interfere with the bat habitat that begins in April. Gould said approximately three hundred trees will need to come down and the low quote came from Barnhart Custom Services in the amount of \$7440.00. Gould said if the city uses their own funds for the tree removal, it would have no effect on the SRF Sponsored Project grant. The Council verbally accepted the low quote to keep the project moving forward to meet the March 31st deadline.
CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
Kofeod reminded the Council of the many service projects the West Branch Lions Club does for the community such as helping fundraise and receive grant funds for the new mobility lift at Town Hall and offering to help the City with the annual Easter Egg Hunt. Kofeod also welcomed Chief Hall as the new police chief and recognized the qualities that made him the city's top candidate.
CITY ATTORNEY REPORT - No report
CITY ENGINEER REPORT - Absent
STAFF REPORTS - No reports
COMMENTS from mayor and council members
Goodweiler mentioned that the city's new online payment system seemed to have some quirks and asked if others were experiencing issues as well.
adjournment
Motion to adjourn by Sexton, second by Dean. Motion carried on a voice vote. City Council meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Roger Laughlin, Mayor
ATTEST:

Leslie Brick, City Clerk
WBT 11



DARREN MILLER
PHOTOGRAPHY

<http://ddmiller.zenfolio.com/>



CAREER OPPORTUNITY:
IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR A SERVICE TECHNICIAN.
WORK IN A STATE OF THE FACILITY.
WAGES CORRELATE WITH EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING
FORD TRAINING PROVIDED.

SEND RESUME TO: JPOIRISH@YAHOO.COM
OR CALL 319 743 5673



319-471-6574

Gary Wilson
papa0962@yahoo.com
mowing • trimming • fertilizing
• leaf and debris cleanup
Not the Biggest Only the Best
No Contracts Required

Legal Notice

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the Cedar County Board of Supervisors following the public hearing concerning the proposed sale, will receive bids, sell and convey the interests of Cedar County in the following described real estate, to-wit: Lots one (1), two (2), three (3), four (4) and five (5) in Block eleven (11) in the Town of Downey, Iowa, Cedar County, more commonly known as "Pioneer Park."

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that an auction sale shall be held at 10:00 a.m. on April 9, 2024, in the boardroom of the Cedar County Courthouse, Tipton, Iowa, that the minimum bid is \$20,000.00, that sale is "as is" via a Quit Claim Deed, and that no abstract will be furnished. Anyone wishing to submit a sealed written bid may do so by delivering the bid to the Cedar County Auditor prior to 9:00 a.m. on April 9, 2024. At 10:00 a.m. all bids will be opened and the highest bid will be the starting point for the auction unless said highest bid is less than the minimum bid in which case the starting bid will be the minimum bid, the successful bidder shall pay a minimum of 10% down and enter into a purchase agreement with sale to occur within 30 days, and that notice of hearing shall be published as required by law.

Prospective purchasers are further notified that the sale of the property is conditioned on the purchaser signing a binding agreement, prior to closing, to demolish the existing septic system and to plug the existing well in the event the purchaser does not intend to use the existing well. Up to \$500.00 in grant funding may be available to assist with plugging the existing well.
ADOPTED this 5th day of March 2024
WBT 11

Cedar county board

BOARD PROCEEDINGS
(FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES. FULL TEXT OF DAY'S MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AUDITOR'S OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE--WWW.CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV)
TIPTON, IOWA
Feb. 27, 2024
Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Feb. 27, 2024 with following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Members of public were also present.
Board viewed correspondence from various agencies.
Manure Management Annual Updates submitted.
It noted following Handwritten Disbursement issued on 2/23/2024 to Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #437913 for \$139.75-self funded medical claims.
Moved by Bixler seconded by Gaul to approve agenda.
Ayes: All
Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. EMA Director Freet provided a letter to Board members that Cities and Townships received regarding upcoming meetings with MCM Consulting.
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve Board Minutes of Feb. 20, 2024.
Ayes: All
Moved by Gaul seconded by Kaufmann to approve Payroll Disbursements #196604-196756 for period ending 2/17/24 and to be paid on 2/23/24.
Ayes: All
Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Barnhart to elect Chairperson Bell to Cedar County Radio Governance Board.
Ayes: All
Bell informed Board that new generator will need to be moved from where permanent placement set to be. Proposed area is further east due to wires going into Courthouse. Bell said they had two options when hooking up new generator. They could either rent a generator to power building for 4-5 days with an estimated cost of \$5,600 or commission new generator onsite in parking lot to use until permanent spot ready with an estimated cost of \$1,500. Consensus of Board to commission new generator onsite in parking lot to use until permanent placement completed.
Environmental and Zoning Director LaRue met with Board to set public hearing dates for following petition: Gary and Rita Burmeister, 1363 Rose Avenue, Tipton, IA, (Owners) - Requesting a change in zoning from A-1 Agricultural District to AR-1 Agricultural Recreational District for purpose of constructing a recreational cabin at 313 150th St., Mechanicsville, IA, on property located in SW ¼, SW ¼, Section 27, T-82N, R-4W, in Pioneer Township. Said petition is to rezone 1.00 acres of a 19.5 acre tract.
Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to set public hearing dates at 9:30 a.m. on 3/12/2024 and 3/19/2024.
Ayes: All
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve the Resolution for permit fees effective 3/1/2024.
Ayes: All
EMA Director Freet met with Board to update them on BRIC grant. Due to a Federal error on grant, we will have a \$5,500 shortfall. Freet said she could possibly apply for a Community Foundation grant to cover shortfall.
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to authorize EMA Director Freet to apply for Community Foundation grant for up to \$5,000.
Ayes: All
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Kaufmann to authorize and approve Resolution awarding project number STP-S-C016(117)-5E-16, resurfacing of X54 from Interstate 80 to Muscatine County Line.
Ayes: All
Finance Director Dauber gave Board updated fund balances and discussed levy rates. Dauber will be in next week to set public hearing dates for FY24/25 proposed property tax levy.
Moved by Gaul seconded by Barnhart to adjourn at 10:15 a.m. to March 5, 2024.
Ayes: All

Jon Bell, Chairperson
Stephanie Wiese, Auditor
WBT 11

Now Hiring!

CUSTOM APPLICATOR

- Operate and maintain custom application equipment
- Flexible hours in offseason
- Competitive wage
- Health Insurance, 401K with company match, and paid time off
- Applicator licence preferred, willing to train

See full job description and application at:
www.cedarcountycop.com/careers

Questions? Contact Travis Benhart at
tbenhart@cedarcountycop.com

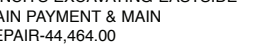
Seasonal Employment Opportunities


Duties may include:
*Nurse truck driving *Shop helper
*Farm Deliveries *Loading trucks

Must be at least 18 and have a good driving record.

Pre-employment drug testing is required.


To apply call Tipton
Liqui-Grow at:
563-886-3200 for an interview
Or email wburke@liqui-grow.com






DARREN MILLER
PHOTOGRAPHY

<http://ddmiller.zenfolio.com/>



CAREER OPPORTUNITY:
IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR A SERVICE TECHNICIAN.
WORK IN A STATE OF THE FACILITY.
WAGES CORRELATE WITH EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING
FORD TRAINING PROVIDED.

SEND RESUME TO: JPOIRISH@YAHOO.COM
OR CALL 319 743 5673



319-471-6574

Gary Wilson
papa0962@yahoo.com
mowing • trimming • fertilizing
• leaf and debris cleanup
Not the Biggest Only the Best
No Contracts Required

CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS



Formerly Jan Dendinger Real Estate • 311 Cedar St., Tipton, IA • 563-886-2679
<http://WWW.CSHOMESIOWA.COM> THE DIFFERENCE IS "RESULTS!"

IOWA CITY & CEDAR RAPIDS MLS

NEW LISTINGS

1394 210TH ST, TIPTON, \$910,000

Acreage/Mini-Farm Alert! A one of a kind 35+- acre acreage with pond, timber, crop ground, pasture, hunting, and open green space. Completely remodeled 6 bedroom and 3 bath Ranch home with walkout basement. New roofs on house and all buildings except Pole shed. This acreage has trails through timber and pond area. Pond is spring fed and fully stocked. Fences are all just inside the lines and belong to this property. Driveway has an easement for property to the West and shares maintenance. There is a 26' W x 42' L x12' H walls detached garage with 6" studded walls fully insulated and insulated ceilings which has a heated and air-conditioned office and a workshop or room for your dogs. Also, a 32' x 44' machine shed with electric fence underground for pasture fence. Water tank for pasture with shut off by the well West side of detached garage. 3-year-old oversized septic system and TOT is done and complete. Water test is done, and results are excellent. Don't miss out!

202 SAND TRAP CIRCLE, TIPTON \$405,000

206 SUNRISE DR, TIPTON \$364,500

310 FAIR CT, BENNETT \$310,000

409 WALNUT ST, TIPTON, \$166,500.

304 S. Elm St., Stanwood \$131,500

215 W. 6th St., Tipton \$124,900

201 2ND AVE, STANWOOD \$99,500

416 E 4TH ST, TIPTON \$69,900

416 E 4TH ST, TIPTON, \$69,500

SUBDIVISIONS, LOTS, ACREAGES & COMMERCIAL

SUNRISE ESTATES PHASE 10 LOCATION! LOCATION! RARE BUILDING LOTS BORDERING CITY PARK, AQUATIC CENTER, BASEBALL DIAMONDS & SOCCER FIELDS. CITY OF TIPTON IS OFFERING 100% TAX ABATEMENT ON NEW CONSTRUCTION FOR 7 YEARS!
LOT 1 - \$57,000 LOT 2 - \$57,000
LOT 3 - \$58,000 LOT 4 - \$52,000
LOT 5 - \$58,000 LOT 6 - \$59,000
LOT 7 - \$59,900 LOT 8 - \$59,900
LOT 9 - \$58,000

ACREAGE ALERT!! WEST BRANCH'S NEWEST SUBDIVISION JUST EAST OF WEST BRANCH WITH LOTS RANGING IN SIZE FROM 2.40-3.25 ACRES. CREEK ON EAST SIDE OF PROPERTY. CHARLES AVE ADJACENT TO LOTS WILL BE SEAL COATED IN SPRING. LOTS 7 & 8 SHARE DRIVEWAY. LOTS 508 SHARE COMMUNITY WELL. 1 OUTF-BUILDING, 1 GAZEBO & SWIMMING POOL PERMITTED BEHIND HOME..

1908 CHARLES AVE - \$164,900 1928 CHARLES AVE - \$154,900
1912 CHARLES AVE - \$164,900 1932 CHARLES AVE - \$154,900
1924 CHARLES AVE - \$154,900

5.2 Acres 1692 Baker Ave. West Branch \$198,000

2 Lots E. 4th St., Tipton \$43,000

1007 PARKVIEW LN., TIPTON. \$53,000

LOT 11 260TH ST \$54,900

The Area's Most Experienced Real Estate Team



Teresa Horton
Broker/Owner
563-889-9119



Jeff Walick
Realtor/Auctioneer
563-886-4953



Kim Harmel
Realtor
563-210-6792

CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS

CALL CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS! • CALL CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS! • CALL CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS! • CALL CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS! • CALL CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS!

CALL CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS! • CALL CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS! • CALL CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS! • CALL CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS! • CALL CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS!



West Branch High School releases honor roll for first semester

West Branch High School released the honor roll for the first semester of the 2023-24 school year.

The following students earned a 3.5 grade point and above (* = 4.0):

Grade 9: Chloe Albrecht, Bryce Anderson, Robby Boaz, Sullivan Bucknell*, Ava Burnett*, Hunter Christoffel*, Connor Davidson, Brayden Depoorter*, Harper Driscoll, Eli Farmer, Keaton Gates, Rylee Grace*, Spencer Green, Grace Hamann*, Anthony Heitzman, Julia Herring, Evan Highly*, Seth Hosier, Sawyer

Jeffries, Shay Kinsinger*, Eli Klinkkammer, Preston Mayhew, Ashleigh Miller, Cody Mizejewski, Gavin Oxley*, Lilah Pedersen, Mason Pedersen, Lyla Popkes*, Logan Revis, Kaleb Rios, Finley Rushton*, Joseph Schlitz, Olivia Schlitz*, Connor Sexton, McGavin Smith*, Garrett Sotzen, Cassandra Swisher*, Olivia Thomas*, Max Tucker, Allison Tygrett, Hunter VanDerHorst, Victoria Vikel*, Grace Vincent*, Emma Wolf*, Holly Woody* and Joshua Zmolek.

Grade 10: Ewan Arlen*,

Gray Baker, Larkin Brown, Wilder Alexis Calixto Tomas, Wyatt Chapman*, Logan Christoffel*, Danielle Crutchley, Brennen Dale, Kellen Dykstra, Addison Finley, Alison Gade*, Reese Gingerich, Saylee Gingerich, Jenie Gomez, Caitlyn Harrison*, Adelyn Hetrick, Carter Hetrick, Jerricho Hobbs, Rena Holmes, Briley Kaalberg*, Tate Lynch*, Lynden MacGillivray*, Aizlyn Marsh*, Michael Montgomery, Lincoln Naber*, Madalyn Neuberger*, Mia Rice, Addison Schultes*, Kennedy

Simpson, Lexi Skay*, Whitney Spratt, Nolan Staker*, Oliver Trepanier, Madelynn Tygrett*, Alyssa Vargason, Lillian Waters*, and Audrey Watt*.

Grade 11: Ava Abdagic, Dawson Brick, Reed Brooke*, Sullivan Brooke, Zebulun Brown, Seth Cantrell*, Cole Crosthwaite*, Tate Frantz*, Kayla Garrett*, Elijah Hansen, Keegan Hansen*, Nathan Hills*, Elliot Hinkhouse*, Timmy Hosier, Dawn Johnson, Dilan Kazlauskas, Joshua Kroemer*, Hanna Lacina, Katey Lenoch, Jackson

Marcy, Ethan Miller, Wylder Morehead, Ian Nelson, Keaton Norfleet*, Catarina Perez Marcos, Alyssa Pierce, Connor Rios, Layla Samuelson*, Dylan Schiele*, Miley Shields, William Tidrick*, Paxton Tisinger, Zayden Waite, Jordan Waters*, Amber Wolf*, and Eleanor Ziehr*.

Grade 12: Holden Arnaman, Peyton Braddock, Cooper Burger, Zachary Capper, Diego Carrillo, Emily Coleman, Reece Druecker*, Lincoln Edwards*, JaLynn Falco, Shae Farmer, Cameron Gingerich, Jade Gongora*,

Logan Graves, Joelle Haas*, Joseph Hamann*, Brianna Hudson*, Claire Jarrett*, Kaylee Kettler, Alyse Klinkkammer*, Lucas Lacina*, Maxwell Lodge, Auron Marsh*, Maryam Martin*, Kya Montgomery*, Olivia Naber*, Ashlynn Nash*, Kathryn Noble, Caleb Pedersen, Noah Pedersen, Kylie Pickett, Madelyn Reed*, Trenton Schutte*, Bradyn Sexton*, Cale Seydel, Madelyn Stout*, Fern Stubbs, Jacob Swisher*, Nina Torkelson*, Reese Trepanier, Cheyanne Waite*, Ellison Walsh-Blindt and Logan Wright.

Parks

From Page 1

already familiar with the town and was in the top two after two phases of interviews.

That said, Kofoed took issue with the Facebook discussion that criticized Erin's candidacy though many came to her defense.

"It bugs me a little bit that ... I feel this is a little bit unfair to Erin," the city administrator said. "She's been heavily scrutinized enough."

Kofoed said the parks

director candidate "is taking a severe pay cut to come here."

He said the committee discussed tweaking the job's responsibilities which may have led to a fresh round of applications and interviews.

"She was 100 percent understanding and was OK with it," he said. "Every time I threw a curve ball at Erin, she was willing to go with it. And right now, that is what we need because we're in some weird, trying times with property tax reform, with inflation that hasn't even been this high since I was negative 10 years

old."

Kofoed said Erin will handle the challenges of a changing budget. "To me, you're never going to have a more tested candidate for a job. This has gone too far, in my opinion, for someone who's just a parks and rec director. I should have been scrutinized like this," he said. "I think this is very unfair to Erin. I can't give you a bigger or better track record of someone who has had to prove themselves more than they needed to and still wants to take the job — taking the cut and still wants to

take the job."

On the Facebook post, Kofoed said he conferred with City Attorney Kevin Olson and Miller "to inform them the mayor was not able to serve on the hiring committee. They agreed."

"I kicked the mayor off the committee. Funny thing is, he had no idea why. So I had to explain his daughter applied," Kofoed wrote. "When I talked to Roger, he didn't even know she applied. He thought maybe she might, but he had no idea she actually took that step. ... There's been no Roger-involvement at all."

Former Mayor Pro Tem Colton Miller took to Facebook to say that the committee expected the criticism.

"As far as the 'mayor's daughter' we tried as hard as we could to not hire who we thought was the best candidate," Miller wrote. "Our leadership skills made us believe that we were put in this position to make the best decision for the city. The energy of this young lady is amazing. If residents have issues with other financial decisions being made, that is understandable, but please (give) this young lady

a chance to make our town better."

Councilmember Jodee Stoolman asked if, by hiring a parks director, the city could still afford to hire up to six police officers and a paid fire chief.

Kofoed said the proposed city budget can pay for training, equipping and hiring a fifth police officer.

He said the city also has surplus funding for a part-time fire chief for the 2024-25 budget and a full-time chief in the 2025-26 budget. "There is emergency money where that is covered," Kofoed said.

Awards

From Page 8

11-game winning streak at one point in the year. The team won by a total of 219 points among those 14 wins. After saying a few words about each player, Duwa said that he was proud of "how they stayed together" during the year, and how the players emphasized winning over individual statistics along with staying in their roles.

ity to relate to the players and help the program.

He gave a shout out to his wife, Betsy and their children. Kern said that Betsy would like to come to more events but has to fill the "behind the scenes" role

while helping their children when he is not at home.

After thanking his parents, Kern thanked the coaching staff. He said that Meth did not have to work with the junior varsity and varsity teams, but volun-

teered his time to help out after school and at games.

He also thanked assistant and Bears alumni Cooper Kabela for helping his old school and Duwa for being his "day one." Kern said that the coaching staff did not

always agree with him, leading to healthy and productive debates about the best moves to make.

Kern concluded the ceremony by challenging the returning players to push themselves to improve over

the summer.

He said that playing other sports and participating in the strength and conditioning program are good steps, but real improvement happens during offseason basketball workouts.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Proposed WEST BRANCH Property Tax Levy Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025		
Location of Public Hearing: Hoover Elementary Library	Date of Public Hearing: 3/25/2024	Time of Public Hearing: 05:30 PM
Location of Notice on School Website: https://www.west-branch.k12.ia.us/proposed-tax-notice/		

At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present oral or written objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed budget.

	Current Year Final Property Tax Dollar Levy FY 2024	Budget Year Effective Property Tax Dollar Levy (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2025	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax Dollar Levy FY 2025
General Fund Levy	1	3,634,148	4,057,739
Instructional Support Levy	2	416,716	427,357
Management	3	229,014	481,326
Amana Library	4	0	0
Voted Physical Plant and Equipment	5	460,745	509,576
Regular Physical Plant and Equipment	6	143,006	157,207
Reorganization Equalization	7	0	0
Public Education/Recreation (Playground)	8	0	0
Debt Service	9	1,400,612	1,270,770
Grand Total	10	6,284,241	6,903,975
	Current Year Final Property Tax Rate FY 2024	Budget Year Effective Property Tax Rate (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2025	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax Rate FY 2025
Grand Total Levy Rate		15.00378	15.00201
Property Tax Comparison	Current Year Property Taxes	Proposed Property Taxes	Percent Change
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000	820	695	-15.24
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000	820	695	-15.24

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$100,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current: The district's management and cash levies increased due to increased costs in insurance along with special education costs not funded by the state, however due to valuation increases, the district will not be raising the tax rate for the upcoming year.

CITY NAME: WEST BRANCH **NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING - CITY OF WEST BRANCH - PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY** **Fiscal Year July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025** **CITY #: 16-142**

The City Council will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year City property tax levy as follows:
Meeting Date: 4/1/2024 Meeting Time: 06:00 PM Meeting Location: City Council Chambers 110 N. Poplar St. West Branch, IA 52358
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of the proposed tax levy. After the hearing of the proposed tax levy, the City Council will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed city budget.

City Website (if available) <https://westbranchiowa.org/>

City Telephone Number (319) 643-5888

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax 2023 - 2024	Budget Year Effective Property Tax 2024 - 2025	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax 2024 - 2025
Taxable Valuations for Non-Debt Service	154,029,878	185,278,586	185,278,586
Consolidated General Fund	1,310,024	1,310,024	1,529,897
Operation & Maintenance of Public Transit	0	0	0
Aviation Authority	0	0	0
Liability, Property & Self Insurance	77,389	77,389	74,526
Support of Local Emergency Mgmt. Comm.	11,823	11,823	12,466
Unified Law Enforcement	0	0	0
Police & Fire Retirement	0	0	0
FICA & IPERS (If at General Fund Limit)	177,735	177,735	200,723
Other Employee Benefits	163,706	163,706	213,641
Capital Projects (Capital Improv. Reserve)	79,373	79,373	99,369
Taxable Value for Debt Service	177,145,926	209,464,833	209,464,833
Debt Service	318,523	318,523	355,122
CITY REGULAR TOTAL PROPERTY TAX	2,138,573	2,138,573	2,485,744
CITY REGULAR TAX RATE	13.61430	10.91557	13.19494
Taxable Value for City Ag Land	515,710	501,287	501,287
Ag Land	0	0	0
CITY AG LAND TAX RATE	0.00000	0.00000	0.00000
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed	Current Year Certified 2023/2024	Budget Year Proposed 2024/2025	Percent Change
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000			
City Regular Resident	744	611	-17.88
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000	Current Year Certified 2023/2024	Budget Year Proposed 2024/2025	Percent Change
City Regular Commercial	744	611	-17.88

Note: Actual/Assessed Valuation is multiplied by a Rollback Percentage to get to the Taxable Valuation to calculate Property Taxes. Residential and Commercial properties have the same Rollback Percentage at \$100,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current: Increases in general fund and benefits are to fund increased wages for public safety employees due to the communities growing demand for public safety. Capital reserve increases are to reduce interest costs for future projects. Benefit increases are from reallocating workers comp to benefits.