

Cedar county payroll

VENDOR	PAY DATE	VENDOR TOTAL
Benefits Inc.	2/21/2025	815.74
Phelps the Uniform Specialists		33.88
Washington National Ins Co.		167.26
Fidelity Investments		1,200.00
Cincinnati Life Insurance Co		484.25
IPERS		106,561.30
Cedar County Health Fund		152,649.86
Nationwide Retirement Solution		140.00
Cedar County Treasurer		74,268.31
Cedar County Treasurer		10,128.26
Cedar County Treasurer		9,030.28
Cedar County Treasurer		464.51
Cedar County Treasurer		641.99
COUNTY TOTAL		356,585.64

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
February 25, 2025
Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. February 25, 2025 with following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Gaul absent. Minutes reported by Deputy Auditor Hamdorf. Members of public were also present. Board viewed correspondence from various agencies.
It noted following Handwritten Disbursement issued on 2/21/2025 to Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #441514 for \$7,153.13-self funded medical claims. Moved by Bixler seconded by Barnhart to approve agenda.
Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul
Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. Beverly Meixner informed Board she has an ongoing issue with rocks into her yard due to snow removal. Meixner held pictures for Board and Engineer to review.
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve Board Minutes of February 18, 2025.
Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve Payroll Disbursements #200512-200657 for period ending 2/15/25 and to be paid on 2/21/25.
Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul
Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.
Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to approve EMS branding presented by EMS Director Dinsch.
Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve application and resolution on Competitive Highway Bridge Program 28E with Scott County and City of Iowa City.
Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bell to approve 28E agreement with Jones and Jackson Counties for use and maintenance of Portable Traffic Signals purchased under a TSIP grant.
Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve and authorize Chairperson Bell to sign Release of Community Services Network (CSN) Data/Records and approve Resolution as Custodian of Data/Records in CSN, Cedar County is Approving Request to Release Data to IHHS.
Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul
Jerry Goldsmith, Doug Schroeder and Lisa Dircks met with Board to discuss an ordinance for pipelines within Cedar County. Schroeder feels this is perfect opportunity to implement an ordinance with setbacks. Goldsmith provided handouts for Board to review. General discussion held. Consensus to have board talk to our Heartland attorney and report back. Financial Director Dauber met with Board to discuss ending fund balances after reductions directed by Board last week. Discussion held on hours in Auditor's office currently at 35 but asked by Auditor Welch to increase to 37.5. Welch informed Board most everything in her office is by code besides majority of Board duties and with an employee being cut last FY office staff has been increasing comp time. Bell said he talked to prior auditor and feels this isn't necessary. Barnhart feels Board should stay within auditor office. Kaufmann feels as a new incoming auditor learning everything, we should provide her tools to succeed. Discussion held.
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to set Proposed Property Tax Hearing at 9:15 a.m. on March 25, 2025.
Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Barnhart to increase Auditors hours from 35 to 37.5.
Ayes: None
Nays: All
Absent: Gaul
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to increase Auditors hours from 35 to 37.5 and Deputy Auditor going from 75% to 80% with a total increase of \$13,871.13.
Ayes: All
Nays: Bell
Absent: Gaul
Discussion held with Treasurer Delaney regarding two of her office staff at a Clerk I position and changing to a Clerk II position. Delaney has worked with HR Attorney Galloway. Discussion held.
Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Barnhart to approve change of two employees from a Clerk I to a Clerk II for FY25/26.
Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul
Conservation Director Dauber voiced his concern that our Sheriff gave up hiring a new deputy and feels Cedar County needs to work on our public safety. Sheriff Welington appreciated Dauber's concern, but he feels we need to take care of employees that we currently have.
Moved by Bixler seconded by Barnhart to adjourn at 11:26 a.m., to March 4, 2025.
Ayes: All
Absent: Gaul

Jon Bell, Chairperson
Nicki Welch, Auditor
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 3, 2025
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: Colton Miller, Mike Horihan, Tom Dean, Jerry Sexton. Absent: Jodee Stoolman.
City Staff present: City Administrator Adam Kofeod, City Clerk Leslie Brick, Finance Officer Heidi Van Auken, Police Chief Greg Hall, Park & Recreation Director Erin Laughlin and City Attorney Dave Scheehring. Attending via Zoom: Library Director Jessie Schafer and Sergeant Cathy Steen.
APPROVE THE AGENDA
Motion by Miller, second by Horihan to approve the agenda. Absent: Stoolman. Motion carried on a voice vote.
APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA
Approve minutes from the February 18, 2025 City Council meeting.
Approve the January 2025 Monthly Financial Report.
Claims for March 3, 2025.
EXPENDITURES - 3/3/2025
AMAZON.COM-VARIOUS ITEMS-357.24
BAKER & TAYLOR-BOOKS-365.75
COTTERILL, DANIEL-HEALTH PREMIUM REFUND-104.20
CROELL-SAND FOR STREETS-879.32
GOERDT INSPECTION -BLDG INSPECTIONS-1,470.00
LRS HOLDINGS-GARBAGE STICKERS-285.00
LYNCH'S PLUMBING-FAUCET REPAIR-POLICE-126.40
MAINSTAY SYSTEMS OF IOWA-DELL LAPTOP-P&R-1,206.00
STERICYCLE-SHREDDING SERVICES-91.04
THE HOME DEPOT PRO-WALL CLOCK FOR CHAMBERS-39.19
VEENSTRA & KIMM-VARIOUS PROJECTS-49,924.20
WEST BRANCH REPAIRS-VEHICLE SERVICE-POLICE-91.50
TOTAL--54,939.84
PAYROLL-WAGES, TAXES, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - 2/28/2025
68,305.85
PAID BETWEEN MEETINGS
JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL-BLDG SUPPLIES-CITY, POLICE-122.05
MEDIACOM-CABLE SERVICE-41.90
SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 2/24/2025-33.25
IA INSURANCE DIVISION-CEMETERY REPORT FILING FEE-121.00
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY-AIR FILTER-PW-35.39
CASSABAUM, LEE & PATRICIA-LAND PURCHASE 1ST PAYMENT-4,750.00
COMPASS MINERALS AMERICA-SALT FOR STREETS-6,904.23
IA DNR-WW TREATMENT OPERATOR CERT-20.00
LEAF CAPITAL FUNDING-COPIER LEASE-CITY OFFICE-396.00
PITNEY BOWES GLOBAL-POSTAGE METER LEASE-LIBRARY-77.37
QC ANALYTICAL SERVICES-LAB ANALYSIS-1,052.00
USA BLUE BOOK-WATER PLANT SUPPLIES-1,445.26
VERIZON WIRELESS-VERIZON WIRELESS-454.71
SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 2/18/2025-16.56
CARDCONNECT-ANNUAL SECURITY BUNDLE FEE-249.99
ALLIANT ENERGY-ALLIANT ENERGY-21,405.40
AMAZON.COM-PRIME MEMBERSHIP FEES-LIB, CITY-308.00
ARNOLD MOTOR SUPPLY-TIRE GAUGUE & EXHAUST FL-FIRE-73.27
CEDAR COUNTY COOP-FUEL-PW-1,407.46
CULLIGAN WATER TECH-WATER SOFTENER SERVICE-30.49
FIRE SERVICE TRAINING BUREAU-TRAINING - FIRE-150.00
FRONTLINE PLUS FIRE & RESCUE-WARNING SIRENS MAINT SERVICE-700.00
MOPPY MO'S-CLEANING SERVICES-FIRE-17.50
OVERDRIVE-DIGITAL & AUDIO BOOKS-464.13
US BANK CORPORATE CARD-CREDIT CARD PURCHASES-2,568.85
TOTAL--42,844.81
GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES 166,090.50
FUND TOTALS
001 GENERAL FUND-49,500.67
022 CIVIC CENTER-873.86
031 LIBRARY-6,674.26
110 ROAD USE TAX-15,231.41
112 TRUST & AGENCY-15,395.39
321 WIDENING WAPSI CREEK-2,288.00
330 EASTSIDE WATER MAIN PH2-89.00
331 CEDAR JOHNSON RD RECONS-43,929.50
600 WATER FUND-16,188.50
610 SEWER FUND-15,391.49
740 STORM WATER UTILITY-528.42
GRAND FUND TOTAL--166,090.50
REVENUE-FISCAL YEAR 2025 FUND JANUARY
001 GENERAL FUND-57,443.06
022 CIVIC CENTER-650.00
031 LIBRARY-67.40
036 TORT LIABILITY-272.68
110 ROAD USE TAX-29,811.93
112 TRUST & AGENCY-4,713.16
121 LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX-35,122.88
125 TIF-337.95
226 DEBT SERVICE-1,433.98
300 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT RESERVE-363.59
324 WW TREATMENT FACILITY-2,413.50
330 EASTSIDE WATER MAINS PH2-136,162.46
500 CEMETERY PERPETUAL FUND-1,262.19
600 WATER FUND-62,333.48
610 SEWER FUND-83,092.92
740 STORM WATER UTILITY-6,164.52
TOTAL--421,645.70
Motion by Dean, second by Miller to approve the Consent agenda. AYES: Dean, Miller, Horihan, Sexton. NAYS: None. Absent: Stoolman. Motion carried.
PRESENTATIONS / communications / open forum
Forrest Brown - Proposed Trail plan expansion (via Zoom)
Brown, owner of Brown's Jeep, Dodge car dealership on Tidewater Drive, West Branch laid out his plans to expand his dealership which consists of a new, larger building to hold more cars as well as installing charging stations for electric vehicles. Brown, who has been in contact with Kofeod over the past twelve months or so is requesting a TIF rebate for the improved future value of his property proposed other improvements such as; possibly purchasing property from Tidewater to join a "future" walking trail to the east side of the Tidewater property and possibly a small dog park. Brown also asked the city to consider improving East Tidewater in front of his property stating that the chip and seal road is bad condition. Kofeod asked the Council to provide direction on Brown's request for street improvements.
Gwen Senio - Juneteenth significance to the community and event planning
Senio, representative for the West Branch Humans for Racial Justice group asked the Council to consider having Juneteenth observed as a city holiday. Senio, an active participant in the group provided the history and significance of Juneteenth and its relation to the history of West Branch. Senio said the group is planning a week-long celebration during the week of June 14th which will provide education and history of the Juneteenth holiday.
PUBLIC HEARING / NON-CONSENT AGENDA
Public Hearing - on proposal to enter into a Franchise Agreement with Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative for the provision of providing for the distribution, transmission and sale of electricity within the City of West Branch, Iowa; assessment of a one percent Franchise Fee and allowing for the petition for an election.
Laughlin opened the public hearing at 7:25 p.m. There were no public comments. Laughlin closed the public hearing at 7:26 p.m.
Public Hearing - on proposal to amend a Franchise Agreement with Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant Energy) for the provision of providing for the distribution, transmission and sale of electricity within the City of West Branch, Iowa; assessment of a one percent Franchise Fee and allowing for the petition for an election.
Laughlin opened the public hearing at 7:27 p.m. There were no public comments. Laughlin closed the public hearing at 7:28 p.m.
Public Hearing - on proposal to amend a Franchise Agreement with Interstate Power and Light Company (Alliant Energy) for the provision of providing for the distribution, transmission and sale of natural gas within the City of West Branch, Iowa; assessment of a one percent Franchise Fee and allowing for the petition for an election.
Laughlin opened the public hearing at 7:28 p.m. There were no public comments. Laughlin closed the public hearing at 7:29 p.m.
1st Reading Ordinance 823 - Granting to Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative, its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive Twenty-Five-year Franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate an electric system in the City of West Branch, Iowa, and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee. / Move to action.
Van Auken informed the Council that the Iowa League of Cities released information last week regarding a bill the state legislature is considering that will end allowing cities to collect franchise fees effective July 1, 2025. Van Auken reached out to both the League and Alliant Energy to get clarification on the proposed bill. The consensus from the League is that it would abolish all franchise fees in effect. Van Auken stated that franchise fees are being sought by cities as a result of HF718 (property tax reform) which have cities scrambling to find ways to replace lost revenues by that bill. Miller asked if the Council should move forward with the franchise ordinance as a result of this new information. Van Auken encouraged the Council to continue with adopting the ordinance as the bill may or may not pass. City Attorney Olson agreed with Van Auken.
Motion by Dean, second by Miller to approve the first reading of Ordinance 823. AYES: Dean, Miller, Sexton, Horihan. NAYS: None. Absent: Stoolman. Motion carried.
1st Reading Ordinance 824 - Repealing Ordinance No. 533, and granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise to acquire, construct, erect, maintain and operate an electric system in the City of West Branch, Iowa and to furnish and sell electric energy to the City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the City. / Move to action.
Motion by Miller, second by Dean to approve the first reading of Ordinance 824. AYES: Miller, Dean, Horihan, Sexton. NAYS: None. Absent: Stoolman. Motion carried.
1st Reading Ordinance 825 - Repealing Ordinance No. 695 and granting to Interstate Power and Light Company, its successors and assigns, a non-exclusive twenty-five-year franchise to erect, construct, reconstruct, maintain, and operate plant and systems for the distribution of natural gas in the City of West Branch, Iowa and to sell, distribute, and supply natural gas to said City and its inhabitants, and requiring said company to pay a franchise fee to the City. / Move to action.
Motion by Dean, second by Miller to approve the first reading of Ordinance 825. AYES: Dean, Miller, Horihan, Sexton. NAYS: None. Absent: Stoolman. Motion carried.
Resolution 2025-23 - Setting a Public Hearing date (April 7, 2025) for the Maximum Proposed Property Tax Levy Rate for Fiscal Year 2026. / Move to action.
Brick reminded the Council that the state requires the council to hold a separate meeting for the max levy public hearing. Brick said the public hearing will be held at a special meeting on April 7th at 6:30 p.m.
Motion by Sexton, second by Dean to approve Resolution 2025-23. AYES: Sexton, Dean, Horihan, Miller. NAYS: None. Absent: Stoolman. Motion carried.
Resolution 2025-24 - Amending the City of West Branch Schedule of Fees. / Move to action.
Brick said the only change to the schedule is for inspection fees for mechanical, plumbing and electrical permits and is due to the City covering their expense for inspections performed by the building inspector.
Motion by Dean, second by Sexton to approve Resolution 2025-24. AYES: Dean, Sexton, Miller, Horihan. NAYS: None. Absent: Stoolman. Motion carried.
324 WW TREATMENT FACILITY-2,413.50
330 EASTSIDE WATER MAINS PH2-136,162.46
500 CEMETERY PERPETUAL FUND-1,262.19
600 WATER FUND-62,333.48
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assessment of a one percent Franchise Fee and allowing for the petition for an election.

reflect the same. Brick spoke with Chief Hall who agreed. In addition, the Chief asked for additional wording that required his approval for officers to take police vehicles home in extraordinary circumstances. Miller stated that he didn't like the idea of the City's police cars being in "other cities", but Hall said he felt that these instances would be far and few between.
Motion by Dean, second by Sexton to approve Resolution 2025-27. AYES: Dean, Sexton, Horihan, Miller. NAYS: None. Absent: Stoolman. Motion carried.
Discussion - Housing Market Updates
Kofeod shared updates and recommendations for the Council to consider regarding housing trends as West Branch continues to grow. Kofeod shared some photos of neighborhoods and design choices that provide flexibility with front yard setbacks. Kofeod said the Planning & Zoning Commission has approved some ordinance changes that he would like to bring forward in the future.
CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT
Kofeod said that State Representative Kerry Gruenhagen made a drop-in visit at the library last Friday. Gruenhagen had several questions for Library Director Schafer and even spoke with some library patrons regarding proposed state and federal funding cuts to libraries and other topics being proposed at the state level.
CITY ATTORNEY REPORT - No report
CITY ENGINEER REPORT - Absent
STAFF REPORTS
Van Auken asked the Council to consider how and when they decide to give TIF Rebates to businesses and developers and suggested that the City begin using TIF Rebate Application (which many other cities currently do). Van Auken said the application could include information necessary such as: cost of the proposed project, plans, specifications, benefit to the City, number of jobs created, timeline for completion, reason for the TIF request, etc. Van Auken said the application would be submitted to the Administration (city) staff who would review the applicants request, gather all pertinent information and then share the request with all of the Council members at the same time, who could then provide feedback, ask questions and provide direction to move forward or deny the request. Van Auken said this would be in the best interest of the City and help facilitate the process to ensure that the Council has good information to make an informed decision.
COMMENTS from mayor and council members - None
adjournment
Motion to adjourn by Dean, second by Miller. Motion carried on a voice vote.
City Council meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Certified Police Officers

The City of West Branch is recognized as a fast-growing community in Iowa and is located in Johnson and Cedar Counties. The City is currently accepting application for the position of Police Officer. The West Branch Police Department performs law enforcement and crime prevention for the safety and protection of life and property in the City of West Branch. West Branch offers a family-friendly environment featuring quality parks, schools and trails. The West Branch Police Department is very team oriented and has a culture of success with the focus on community-oriented policing. Please contact Chief Greg Hall (319) 643-2222 or westbranchpolice@westbranchiowa.org. Applications accepted on a rolling basis.
Certified Officers wage range is \$66,560 - \$81,302
Non-Certified Police Officers will start at \$62,400.
And after successful completion of the police academy, wages will increase to \$66,560.

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IOWA CITY & CEDAR RAPIDS MLS

NEW LISTINGS

208 INDIAN AVE, MECHANICSVILLE, \$299,900
Acreage Alert 4.93 Acres
Enjoy beautiful sunsets & country views. Recent upgrade to fiber-optic internet. The solid and spacious home has many updates and more!
Call today for a private showing!

116 W 5TH ST, TIPTON, \$175,000
Great Investment opportunity!!
Upstairs is a fantastic one-bedroom apartment for the business owner or lease for additional income. This area would be a great spot and Airbnb. Fine line upstairs and downstairs have been completely stripped down to the studs, new electrical, plumbing, sewer and water line connections to the city.

FEATURED PROPERTIES

Let us help you find your dream home!

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

SUBDIVISIONS, LOTS, ACREAGES & COMMERCIAL

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

2 Lots E. 5th St., Tipton \$43,000

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

FOR RENT

Corner - Commercial for office for rent!! Great Cedar St Location with windowfrontage!!
Welcoming reception area.
Large private office area.
Shared kitchenette. High speed internet available for \$25/mo.

WHAT ARE WE ABLE TO DO FOR COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES THAT NO ONE ELSE IN TOWN DOES?

- 3 MLSs - IOWA CITY - CEDAR RAPIDS & QUAD CITIES
- MEMBERS OF EASTERN IOWA COMMERCIAL MLS
- UPGRADED EXPOSURE ON THE 3 LARGESTEST NATIONAL BUSINESS/COMMERCIAL WEBSITES - CREX1 - LOOPNET & COSTAR
- ON MULTIPLE OTHER COMMERCIAL & INVESTOR BASED WEBSITES
- HISTORY OF NETWORKING WITH MULTIPLE BUSINESSES
- AGENTS EXPERIENCED WITH COMMERCIAL SALES

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Broker/Owner
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Jerry Bumgarner
Salesperson
319-361-1554

Kim Harmel
Realtor
563-210-6792

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Juneteenth

From Page 1

request.

City Administrator Adam Kofoed said he would craft a proclamation for the next council meeting, March 17.

The Juneteenth National Independence Day falls on June 19 to mark the ending of slavery when the United States in 1865 began the final enforcement push to end slavery under the Emancipation Proclamation.

"This proclamation had been issued by President Lincoln more than two years earlier and it enforced the freeing of all the remaining slaves in the state of Texas," Senio said.

HFRJ plans a week-long observance starting Saturday, June 14, in conjunction with Main Street West Branch's Summer Kickoff. The week would end on June 19.

"We are planning educational displays and events that will weave together the history of Juneteenth with the rich history of West Branch and the role that it played in the cause of freedom," Senio said.

She pointed to how the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem reflect messages of freedom.

"It's easy to forget what these words truly represent," Senio said. "Just as the Fourth of July is an important celebration of the independence of our original colonies, Juneteenth is an important celebration of freedom for those who were enslaved."

President Biden signed legislation in 2021 to make Juneteenth a federal holiday.

"The City of West Branch and the surrounding areas are rich in the history of abolishing slavery and supporting individuals and their flight for freedom along the Underground Railroad," she said.

Events include celebrating Traveler's Rest, a station along the UGRR and where abolitionist John Brown stayed while helping transport slaves to freedom, Senio said.

The group also plans to recognize the Quakers who lived in Springdale, "a welcoming community on the Underground Railroad" that hosts a cemetery where "former slave and beloved community member Uncle Tom is buried."

HFRJ also plans to bring attention to the Maxon Home, another stop on the UGRR just north of Springdale where Brown spent two winters "as he trained his party of men prior to his raid on Harper's Ferry," she said.

"Due to the dangerous nature of aiding slaves on their path to freedom, much history of the Underground Railroad could not be documented, making it all the more important that we not let this history be forgotten," Senio said.

The group wants to amplify how West Branch individuals "have positively transformed society," she said.

"The actions of early settlers in our community tell an important piece of our town's story and inspire us as we move forward," Senio said.

In other business, the council:

- set a public hearing for 6:30 p.m. April 7 regarding

setting a maximum proposed tax levy rate for fiscal year 2026.

- approved a policy regarding naming rights on city-owned properties. When the city agreed to let the West Branch Lions Club's build pickleball courts at Cubby Park, Parks & Rec Director Erin Laughlin realized the city had no protocols in place to either allow or screen sponsors.

The policy allows descriptive names like hills and rivers; honoring certain people; large donors of money, property, or time; and limits sponsors who may conflict with grant funding.

The policy also excludes names associated with smoking, vaping, alcohol, contraceptives, religious organizations, political candidates, or partisan organizations; violations of local, state, or federal laws; and the "dedication of small park amenities with an identifiable lifespan not intended to be permanent."

Any naming suggestions would first go through city staff and then need final approval from the city council and may be denied "for any reason or no reason."

- approved the city handbook to allow police officers to take vehicles home with permission from the police chief. This was allowed before but only if officers lived up to eight miles from town; now they may live 30 miles away.



Tour at Nordex in West Branch. Photo provided by Kerry Gruenhagen's office

Gruenhagen

From Page 3

It builds on the successes we saw from the 2023 reforms to bring real relief to Iowa property taxpayers, reform the property tax system, and make property taxes more predictable for businesses and local governments.

This proposal is the biggest overhaul in property taxes in decades. At this time, it is estimated

to provide a \$426 million cut in property taxes for Iowans, implement a revenue restriction to ensure relief, and deliver additional relief for Iowa's veterans and senior citizens.

This bill will phase out the antiquated rollback system for residential, commercial, and industrial properties over five years.

The system was put in years ago but has made property taxes unpredictable and complicated. By

eliminating the rollback, along with lowering levy rates, limiting revenue increases and moving from tax credits to exemptions, this bill will provide more stability for local governments and businesses, and make property taxes simpler and fairer for all.

This bill is a major step forward in providing real relief for Iowans and making sure our state is a great place to call home.

As always, if you have

any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out!

To contact Senator Gruenhagen during the week, call the Senate Switchboard at 515-281-3371. E-mail him at kerry.gruenhagen@legis.iowa.gov. Gruenhagen serves on the following committees: Government Oversight Committee; Commerce; Education; Technology; Transportation; and Ways and Means.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY		
Proposed WEST BRANCH Property Tax Levy Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026		
Location of Public Hearing: Hoover Elementary Library	Date of Public Hearing: 3/26/2025	Time of Public Hearing: 05:30 PM
Location of Notice on School Website: https://www.west-branch.k12.ia.us		

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 Tax Dollar Levy	Final Property Tax FY 2025	Budget Year (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2026	Effective Property Tax Rate (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2026	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax Dollar Levy FY 2026
General Fund Levy	1	4,038,204	4,038,204	4.038%	4,290,818
Instructional Support Levy	2	427,357	427,357	4.274%	451,241
Management	3	481,326	481,326	4.813%	603,058
Amana Library	4	0	0	0%	0
Voted Physical Plant and Equipment	5	509,576	509,576	5.096%	541,388
Regular Physical Plant and Equipment	6	157,207	157,207	1.572%	164,785
Reorganization Equalization	7	0	0	0%	0
Public Education/Recreation (Playground)	8	0	0	0%	0
Debt Service	9	1,270,770	1,270,770	12.708%	1,271,604
Grand Total	10	6,884,440	6,884,440	6.884%	7,322,894
		Current Year Tax Rate FY 2025	Budget Year Effective Property Tax Rate (No change in Property Tax Dollars Levied) FY 2026	Budget Year Proposed Property Tax Rate FY 2026	
Grand Total Levy Rate		14.95881	14.21133	15.12455	
Property Tax Comparison	Current Year Property Taxes	Proposed Property Taxes	Percent Change		
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$100,000/\$110,000	693	789	13.85		
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Value of \$300,000/\$330,000	3,059	3,526	15.27		

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 \$150,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation. The Proposed Property taxes assume a 10% increase in property values for the year as a comparison to the current year.

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.

COUNTY NAME: CEDAR COUNTY	NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026	COUNTY NUMBER: 16
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The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County tax asking as follows:

Meeting Date: 3/25/2025 Meeting Time: 08:15 AM Meeting Location: Board of Supervisor Room

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 Board will publish notice and hold a hearing on the proposed county budget.

County Website (if available)
WWW.CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV

County Telephone Number
(563) 886-6413

Iowa Department of Management	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2024/2025	Budget Year Effective Tax FY 2025/2026	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2025/2026
Taxable Valuations-General Services	1,488,719,451	1,578,087,913	1,578,087,913
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates Except Debt Service	8,190,056	8,190,056	8,733,186
Taxable Valuations-Debt Service	1,523,048,235	1,610,738,625	1,610,738,625
Requested Tax Dollars-Debt Service	767,251	767,251	811,426
Requested Tax Dollars-Countywide Rates	8,957,307	8,957,307	9,544,612
Tax Rate-Countywide	6.00517	5.66619	6.03779
Taxable Valuations-Rural Services	959,582,381	1,011,040,986	1,011,040,986
Requested Tax Dollars-Additional Rural Levies	2,686,831	2,686,831	2,775,409
Tax Rate-Rural Additional	2.80000	2.65749	2.74510
Rural Total	8.80517	8.32368	8.78289
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed			
Residential property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$100,000/\$110,000	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2024/2025	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2025/2026	Percent Change
Urban Taxpayer	278	315	13.31
Rural Taxpayer	408	458	12.25
Tax Rate Comparison-Current VS. Proposed			
Commercial property with an Actual/Assessed Valuation of \$300,000/\$330,000	Current Year Certified Property Tax FY 2024/2025	Budget Year Proposed Tax FY 2025/2026	Percent Change
Urban Taxpayer	1,228	1,408	14.66
Rural Taxpayer	1,801	2,048	13.71

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 \$150,000 Actual/Assessed Valuation. The Proposed Property taxes assume a 10% increase in property values for the year as a comparison to the current year.

Reasons for tax increase if proposed exceeds the current:

Rural Services - proposed levy is lower than current levy rate.

73%

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