

## 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

March 18, 2025  
Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. March 18, 2025, with following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Minutes reported by Auditor Welch. Members of public were also present.

Employee certificates were presented by Chairperson Bell to Kevin Morris and Derek Meyer for 5 years of service and Bobbie Conrad for 20 years of service. Board viewed correspondence from various agencies.

It noted following Handwritten Disbursement issued on 3/14/2025 to Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits, Inc. for an electronic deposit: #441792 for \$3,969.29-self funded medical claims. Moved by Gaul seconded by Bixler to approve agenda.

Ayes: All  
Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. There were none.

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve Board Minutes of March 11, 2025.

Ayes: Kaufmann, Bixler, Bell, Gaul  
Abstained: Barnhart

Board reported on Outreach/Committee Meetings they attended.

Chairman Bell reported receiving phone calls regarding confusion with proposed property tax mailing that went out last week.

Chairman Bell informed Board of plan he and Head Custodian Gritton developed to address last week's ADA compliance complaint regarding handicap parking spaces in south lot.

Chairman Bell received a phone call inquiring on possibility of setting up a tent for Class of 1965 to gather during 4th of July parade. After discussion with Board, Chairman Bell will advise they go through Auditor's office to do so.

Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to adopt abatement of taxes resolutions presented by Treasurer Delaney for address 302W 5th Street, 403 W 3rd Street, 54 Walnut Street and 105 Mulberry Street, Tipton.

Ayes: All  
At 9:00 a.m. Board of Supervisors, convened as a 2nd Tier Canvass Board to canvass votes cast in Bennett Community School Special Election of March 4, 2025. Auditor Welch met with Board. Present were Supervisors: Gaul, Bixler, Barnhart, Kaufmann and Chairperson Bell. Results were as follows:

Bennett Community School District-Director at Large-To Fill A Vacancy Ian Bjurstrom: eighty-four (84) votes  
Write-In: three (3) votes  
Total: eighty-seven (87) votes  
Bennett Community School Public Measure DM

For Public Measure DM, there were: ninety-four (94) votes  
Against Public Measure DM, there were: eighteen (18) votes  
TOTAL--one hundred twelve (112) votes  
We therefore declare Public Measure DM to be adopted.

Community Services Director Tischuk informed board of uncertainty of funding for committal services currently provided through a 28E agreement with Scott County's Mental Health Advocate. At this time five counties are provided service from Scott County's Mental Health Advocate. If county to be responsible for this cost, it would be weighted by number of clients. Cedar County has approximately 14-15 commitments currently receiving services. In 2019 when county responsible for paying for this service case load a little smaller and cost approximately \$1100/month. Discussion held on budgeting for this service if county is determined to be responsible. Chairman Bell recommended waiting with other Supervisors agreeing.

Engineer Fangmann informed board of a proposal by Iowa County Engineers Association for a secondary roads levy to create transparency for taxpayers and help correct an unintended consequence of potentially freezing farm to market funds as a result of HF718. This would not be an additional tax, it would just be breaking out current transfer, making it a separate line item on tax statements so taxpayers can see what county funds are provided directly to secondary road fund. He asked board for their support in this proposal.

EMS Director Dinsch provided a request for capital purchases for approval to board. request included a 2024 Tahoe, (2) TTVentilators, (2) LUCAS Mechanical CPR, Power Load Stretcher, Power Stair Chair, Mobile Radios, and Portable Radios for a total of \$246,989.95. mechanical CPR, stretcher and stair chair will possibly be lower by approximately \$2,000 each. Discussion held. Gaul moved to approve purchase request with a maximum of \$246,989.95. Bixler seconded motion.

Ayes: All  
Absent: Bell

Conservation Director Dauber gave an update on Hoover Bridge. Work possibly going to start in April but is now set to start in June. Conservation Director Dauber requested to move expenses budgeted for project in this fiscal year to next since expenses will not be paid until next fiscal year. Barnhart moved to allow Conservation Director Dauber to move \$320,000 budgeted for Hoover Bridge Project to next fiscal year, Bixler seconded motion.

Ayes: All  
Absent: Bell  
Moved by Barnhart seconded by Gaul to adjourn at 10:23 a.m., to March 25, 2025.

Ayes: All  
Absent: Bell  
Jon Bell, Chairperson  
Nicki Welch, Auditor  
WBT 14

## West Branch school board special meeting

Special Board Meeting  
03/26/2025 05:30 PM  
Hoover Elementary Library  
148 N. Oliphant St.  
West Branch, IA 52358  
MEETING MINUTES

Attendees  
Voting Members  
Mr. Greg Hetrick, Board President  
Mrs. Amanda Whaley, Board Vice President  
Mrs. Julie Sexton, Board Member  
Ms. Lindsay Shultz, Board Member  
Mr. Pete Swisher, Board Member  
Non-Voting Members  
Dr. Marty Jimmerson, Superintendent  
Mrs. Angie Klunkammer, School Business Official/Board Secretary  
Gregory Norfleet, John Walsh, Amanda Key, Sam Ogilvie, Laura Heithoff, Holly Hansen, Jane Elderding, Mike Kusick, Kevin Noe.

1. Call to Order/Property Tax Hearing FY2026  
Board President Hetrick called the hearing to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Vision, Mission & Destination Statements  
Board President Hetrick read the statements.

3. Approval of Agenda  
Motion to approve the agenda.  
Motion made by: Mrs. Amanda Whaley  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Pete Swisher  
Voting: Unanimously Approved

A. Proposed Property Tax

Levy  
Dr. Jimmerson explained that district's management and cash levies increased due to increased costs in insurance along with special education costs not funded by the state. The district is proposing a tax rate of \$15.12 with every intention of lowering it to \$15.00 before the beginning of the fiscal year. Last year, the district proposed a tax rate of \$15.00, but due to some changes in state money, the actual rate was \$14.95. The district wants to have a consistent tax rate of \$15.00 like we've had for many years prior, so to ensure we can levy the \$15.00 tax rate for FY26, we will be proposing a higher rate until we know what SSA is for next year and also what changes the state might make prior to the beginning of the fiscal year.

B. Public/Board Comments  
There were no public comments.  
C. Adjournment  
Motion to adjourn at 5:32 p.m.  
Motion made by: Mrs. Amanda Whaley  
Motion seconded by: Mr. Pete Swisher  
Voting: Unanimously Approved

4. Call to order Special Board Meeting  
Board President Hetrick called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

5. WBESA Negotiations  
Opening Proposal  
The West Branch Education Association presented their opening proposal which included a 3.87 total package increase.

The Board of Education presented their opening proposal to the WBESA proposing a 2.01 total package increase.

6. WBESA Negotiations  
Opening Proposal  
The West Branch Education Support Association presented their opening proposal which included a 3 percent increase and a condensed step schedule.

The Board of Education presented their opening proposal to the WBESA proposing a 2 percent total package increase.

7. Adjournment  
Motion to adjourn at 5:45 p.m.  
Motion made by: Mrs. Amanda Whaley  
Motion seconded by: Ms. Lindsay Shultz  
Voting: Unanimously Approved

Chairperson  
Secretary  
WBT 14

## Real Estate

**FOR SALE - 2 Bedroom, 2 Bath Condo, Durant, Iowa. Completely Refurbished W/ New furnace, New Air Conditioner. Call 563-210-1238. #30tf**

## Wanted

**WANTED - JUNK appliances - will pick up. Farm steel, batteries and cars. 319-331-8122. #17tf**

**BUYING ALL Antiques: Fair Cash Prices for Antiques: Furniture, Signs, Toys, Crocks, Paintings, Documents, Oddities and Weird Stuff. 319.270.1251. #9tf**

## For Rent

**ONE & TWO bedroom apartments for rent in Tipton. Please call 563-357-0857. #9tf**

## Storage For Rent

**WEST BRANCH Mini Storage, 1264 East South Street, Tipton. 10 x 24 ft. stalls. Reasonable rates. 1-319-643-7150. #10tf**

## Notice

**CLASSIFIED ADS must be paid for prior to running in the paper.#28tfnc**


## Card of Thanks

Words cannot express my heartfelt "Thanks" for the help we received prior to the death of my husband, Bill Baugh, from the Tipton Police Officers and Tipton EMT's Fire & Rescue Department in helping him with his falls, and his final trip from Cedar Manor to Genesis East, Davenport. Thank you for the many prayers, the phone calls, texts, cards received and those of you who contributed to the Senior Dining Memorial after his passing into the arms of his Savior Jesus Christ. A Celebration of Life is being planned in October 2025, which would have been his 90th birthday. He loved his birthdays and was looking forward especially to the next one, inviting everyone he would meet. His family wishes to honor his life "well lived" on that 90 Heavenly birthday! Information will follow in October.  
Sincerely,  
Patricia "Patty" Baugh and Family



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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. Entire 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!*



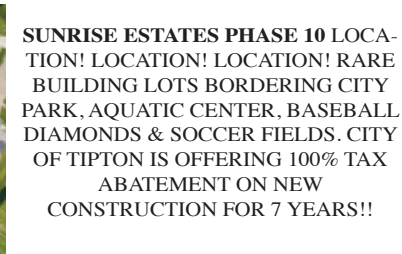
**416 E 4TH ST, TIPTON, \$69,500**

SUBDIVISIONS, LOTS, ACREAGES & COMMERCIAL




**SUNRISE ESTATES PHASE 10 LOCATION! 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!!**

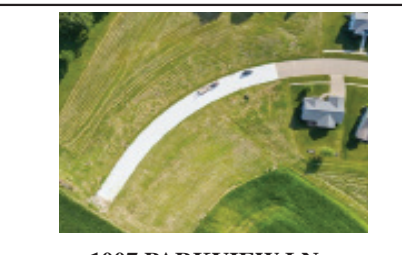
LOT 1 - \$57,000 • LOT 2 - \$57,000 • LOT 3 - \$58,000 • LOT 4 - \$52,000  
LOT 5 - \$58,000 • LOT 6 - \$59,000 • LOT 7 - \$59,900 • LOT 8 - \$59,900 • LOT 9 - \$58,000



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



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




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


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Jerry Bumgarner  
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CORNERSTONE REAL ESTATE CONSULTANTS

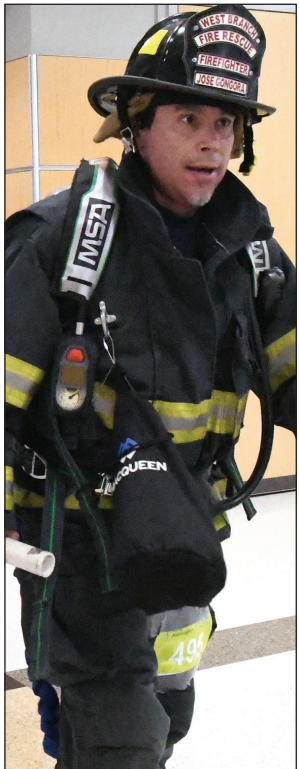
## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING Proposed WEST BRANCH School Budget Summary Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026

Location of Public Hearing: Hoover Elementary Library	Date of Hearing: 04/14/2025	Time of Hearing: 06:00 PM
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The Board of Directors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed 25/26 school budget at the above noted location and time. At the hearing, any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of the revenues and expenditures on file with the district secretary. A copy of the details will be furnished upon request.

	Budget 2026	Re-est. 2025	Actual 2024	Avg % 24-26
Taxes Levied on Property	1	7,322,894	6,884,440	6,344,494 % 7.4
Utility Replacement Excise Tax	2	78,036	79,764	82,239 % -2.6
Income Surtaxes	3	125,564	120,386	134,864 % -3.5
Tuition/Transportation Received	4	1,036,339	1,016,618	962,300
Earnings on Investments	5	104,236	99,777	100,789
Nutrition Program Sales	6	176,651	174,389	172,159
Student Activities and Sales	7	500,480	500,480	499,991
Other Revenues from Local Sources	8	962,555	956,290	928,620
Revenue from Intermediary Sources	9	0	0	15,000
State Foundation Aid	10	5,767,933	5,386,449	5,354,707
Instructional Support State Aid	11	16,703	0	0
Other State Sources	12	1,107,249	1,151,096	1,059,209
Two Tier Assessment Limitation Replacement	13	190,548	190,548	91,529
Title I Grants	14	68,251	68,251	68,251
IDEA and Other Federal Sources	15	287,224	284,287	340,854
Total Revenues	16	17,744,663	16,912,775	16,155,006
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	17	0	4,250,000	850,000
Transfers In	18	665,818	665,818	655,978
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Dispositions	19	0	0	0
Special Items/Upward Adjustments	20	0	0	0
Total Revenues & Other Sources	21	18,410,481	21,828,593	17,660,984
Beginning Fund Balance	22	5,005,566	3,393,838	3,423,726
<b>Total Resources</b>	23	23,416,047	25,222,431	21,084,710
<b>*Instruction</b>	24	9,643,041	9,149,485	8,024,908 % 9.6
Student Support Services	25	782,575	381,452	350,588
Instructional Staff Support Services	26	663,339	635,885	645,243
General Administration	27	512,029	459,238	449,729
School Administration	28	694,219	671,486	631,815
Business & Central Administration	29	268,879	255,442	241,822
Plant Operation and Maintenance	30	1,397,652	1,273,019	1,192,566
Student Transportation	31	616,204	581,078	476,770
<b>*Total Support Services (lines 25-31)</b>	31A	4,934,897	4,257,600	3,988,533 % 11.2
<b>*Noninstructional Programs</b>	32	1,510,974	1,330,974	1,135,175 % 15.4
Facilities Acquisition and Construction	33	3,068,211	2,516,531	1,551,641
Debt Service (Principal, interest, fiscal charges)	34	2,006,952	1,977,293	1,948,072
AEA Support - Direct to AEA	35	301,043	319,164	386,565
<b>*Total Other Expenditures (lines 33-35)</b>	35A	5,376,206	4,812,988	3,886,278 % 17.6
Total Expenditures	36	21,465,118	19,551,047	17,034,894
Transfers Out	37	675,805	665,818	655,978
Other Uses	38	0	0	0
Total Expenditures, Transfers Out & Other Uses	39	22,140,923	20,216,865	17,690,872
Ending Fund Balance	40	1,275,124	5,005,566	3,393,838
<b>Total Requirements</b>	41	23,416,047	25,222,431	21,084,710
<b>Proposed Property Tax Rate (per \$1,000 taxable valuation)</b>		15.12455		





Truck Captain Jose Gongora finishes a 15-story climb at EMC Insurance Co. to begin Sunday's relay.  
**Gregory R. Norfleet/  
West Branch Times**



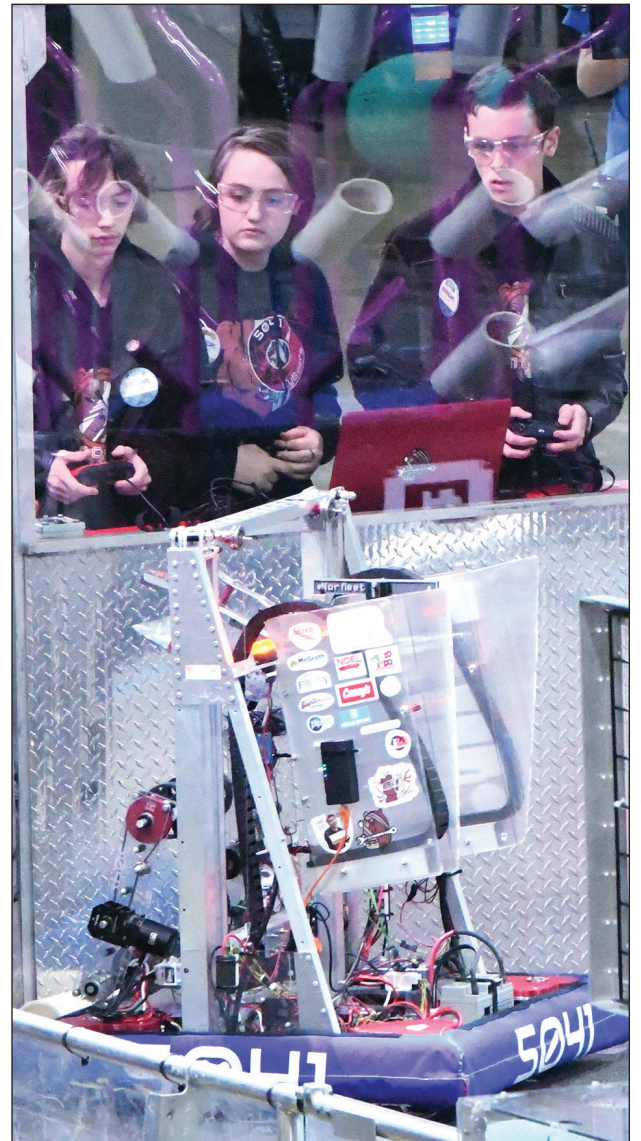
Firefighter Natalie Essington exits after finishing a 16-story climb in the Hub Tower in the second phase.  
**Gregory R. Norfleet/  
West Branch Times**



Firefighter Eric Lewis tackled the third phase with a 16-story climb, also in the Hub Tower.  
**Gregory R. Norfleet/  
West Branch Times**



Firefighter Keaton Norfleet crosses the finish line after a 32-story climb in the Ruan Center.  
**Gregory R. Norfleet/  
West Branch Times**



**To catch a coral**  
West Branch High School CyBears Team 5041 members, from left, Wyatt Chapman, Rey Watt, and Ewan Arlen move their robot into place to catch a "coral" (event theme was "Reefscape") to drop into their robot's armature Saturday while competing in the FIRST Robotics Iowa Regional at the University of Northern Iowa. The team finished the day in 17th place out of 51 schools and fought in one of the championship rounds. Their alliance in the championship bracket reached the second round before elimination. They will compete next in the Minnesota Granite City Regional in St. Cloud from April 2-5. **Gregory R. Norfleet/West Branch Times**

## Firefighters raise \$1,388 for lung research

By Gregory R. Norfleet  
gregory.norfleet@westbranchtimes.com

West Branch Fire Department's Fight for Air Climb on Sunday raised \$1,388 to benefit the American Lung Association.

The team took second place out of two in the firefighter full gear relay, finishing with a combined time of 29 minutes, 8 seconds.

The crew exceeded its

\$1,000 fundraising goal. Fire Department President and Truck Captain Jose Gongora, who organized the team, said it "feels good" to finish that climb. The team took turns climbing; Gongora climbed a 15-story building; firefighters Natalie Essington and Eric Lewis climbed a 16-story tower; and firefighter Keaton Norfleet climbed a 32-story building.

"It's a challenge and

definitely tested our endurance," Gongora said. "Right at the very end, it gets you. The (air pack seems) three times as heavy at the very end."

"Everybody did well. It was all for fun and it was also to help out the American Lung Association reach its goal," he said. "We're happy to be able to contribute to that organization. We look forward to next year!"

Winterset Fire

Department finished first with 23:38.4.

Some 659 climbers took part in the fundraiser in downtown Des Moines, climbing a total of 79 floors and 1,656 stair steps. The ALA hoped to raise \$262,000; at last count, pledges totaled almost \$183,500.

Thirteen firefighter teams took part, raising about \$11,400.

*Disclosure: Norfleet is a son of this reporter.*

## 28% of EK-8th 'far below' reading benchmark

While 63% at or above, more than 1 in 4 need more support

By Gregory R. Norfleet  
gregory.norfleet@westbranchtimes.com

A new look at state testing data shows that literacy scores are "above" or "far above" benchmarks 63 percent of the time, yet "below" or "far below" 38 percent of the time.

The reading data measures 551 pupils in grades early kindergarten through eighth grade.

At the March 10 meeting of the West Branch Board of Education, Middle School Principal Brian Walthart and Hoover Elementary Principal Dave Hlas submitted new data analyzing the Formative Assessment System for Teachers (FAST).

The school district wants children at 80 percent proficiency. The data shows that 54 percent of the pupils scored "far above" the benchmark — 86 percent and up — and 9 percent scored between 80 and 85 percent. It also showed about 10 percent came in below, but within 5 percent, of that proficiency minimum, and 28 percent came in "far below" that threshold.

"This data will show how many kids we have who are just below where

we want them to be or just above where we want them to be, meaning we have to continue to provide those

kids with more academic support to continue their growth," Hlas said.

For those who are "not

super close to meeting that benchmark, we have more work to do."

"Luckily, those num-

bers are quite a bit smaller (than those above the benchmark)," the principal said.

Here is the data by grade, showing what per-

cent of pupils are "far above" the 80-percent benchmark, which is at 80 percent or within five

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING -- PROPOSED BUDGET Fiscal Year July 1, 2025 - June 30, 2026 County Name: CEDAR COUNTY County Number: 16

The County Board of Supervisors will conduct a public hearing on the proposed Fiscal Year County budget as follows:  
Meeting Date: 4/15/2025 Meeting Time: 09:30 AM Meeting Location: Board of Supervisor Room located in the Cedar County Courthouse  
At the public hearing any resident or taxpayer may present objections to, or arguments in favor of, any part of the proposed budget. This notice represents a summary of the supporting detail of revenues and expenditures on file with the County Auditor. A copy of the supporting detail will be furnished upon request. County budgets are subject to protest. If protest petition requirements are met, the State Appeal Board will hold a local hearing. For more information, consult [dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals](http://dom.iowa.gov/local-budget-appeals)  
Average annual percentage changes between "Actual" and "Budget" amounts for "Taxes Levied on Property", "Other County Taxes/ TIF Tax Revenues", and for each of the ten "Expenditure Classes" must be published. Expenditure classes proposing "Budget" amounts, but having no "Actual" amounts, are designated "NEW".

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

County Telephone Number  
(563) 886-6413

	Budget 2025/2026	Re-Est 2024/2025	Actual 2023/2024	AVG Annual % CHG
<b>REVENUES &amp; OTHER FINANCING SOURCES</b>				
Taxes Levied on Property	1	12,320,021	11,644,138	10.15
Less: Uncollected Delinquent Taxes - Levy Year	2	0	0	0
Less: Credits to Taxpayers	3	401,466	430,699	505,685
Net Current Property Taxes	4	11,918,555	11,213,439	9,648,379
Delinquent Property Tax Revenue	5	300	1,736	502
Penalties, Interest & Costs on Taxes	6	22,300	25,565	47,283
Other County Taxes/TIF Tax Revenues	7	1,467,540	1,330,329	1,418,283
Intergovernmental	8	7,927,770	6,305,500	7,256,854
Licenses & Permits	9	75,769	78,039	70,512
Charges for Service	10	1,424,884	1,394,734	1,513,719
Use of Money & Property	11	177,256	267,556	562,673
Miscellaneous	12	155,844	309,907	287,071
<b>Subtotal Revenues</b>	13	23,170,218	20,926,805	20,805,276
Other Financing Sources:				
General Long-Term Debt Proceeds	14	0	0	0
Operating Transfers In	15	2,882,998	2,883,066	2,970,946
Proceeds of Fixed Asset Sales	16	28,000	93,000	176,350
<b>Total Revenues &amp; Other Sources</b>	17	26,081,216	23,902,871	23,952,572
<b>EXPENDITURES &amp; OTHER FINANCING USES</b>				
Operating:				
Public Safety and Legal Services	18	7,379,469	6,799,987	5,363,334
Physical Health and Social Services	19	2,107,567	1,871,254	1,712,928
County Environment and Education	21	2,591,255	2,274,306	1,872,400
Roads & Transportation	22	7,938,000	8,082,186	7,916,491
Government Services to Residents	23	716,564	660,147	659,558
Administration	24	2,370,187	2,336,049	2,605,819
Nonprogram Current	25	8,400	7,518	12,659
Debt Service	26	721,805	717,505	719,128
Capital Projects	27	3,500,000	409,000	3,937,833
<b>Subtotal Expenditures</b>	28	27,333,247	23,157,952	24,800,150
Other Financing Uses:				
Operating Transfers Out	29	2,882,998	2,883,066	2,970,946
Refunded Debt/Payments to Escrow	30	0	0	0
Total Expenditures & Other Uses	31	30,216,245	26,041,018	27,771,096
<b>Excess of Revenues &amp; Other Sources over (under) Expenditures &amp; Other Uses</b>	32	-4,135,029	-2,138,147	-3,818,524
Beginning Fund Balance - July 1,	33	8,312,299	10,450,446	14,268,970
Increase (Decrease) in Reserves (GAAP Budgeting)	34	0	0	0
Fund Balance - Nonspendable	35	0	0	0
Fund Balance - Restricted	36	2,820,071	5,671,033	6,641,812
Fund Balance - Committed	37	0	0	0
Fund Balance - Assigned	38	0	0	0
Fund Balance - Unassigned	39	1,357,199	2,641,266	3,808,634
Total Ending Fund Balance - June 30,	40	4,177,270	8,312,299	10,450,446

Proposed property taxation by type:		Proposed tax rates per \$1,000 taxable valuation:	
Countywide Levies*:	9,544,612	Urban Areas:	6.03779
Rural Only Levies*:	2,775,409	Rural Areas:	8.78289
Special District Levies*:	0	Any special district tax rates not included.	
TIF Tax Revenues:	0		
Utility Replacement Excise Tax:	96,054		

Explanation of any significant items in the budget or additional virtual meeting information:

### Obituaries

Those wishing to submit obituaries may send them to [wbtimes@lcom.net](mailto:wbtimes@lcom.net) or P.O. Box 368, West Branch, IA 52358. Past obituaries are posted online and available at [www.westbranchtimes.com](http://www.westbranchtimes.com)

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