

Working Session-December 22, 2025
Board of Supervisors
Board of Supervisors Office, Ottumwa, IA

Roll Call: Chair Darren Batterson; Vice Chair Bryan Ziegler; Supervisor Carrie Teninty, Danielle Weller, Auditor's Office; Kelly Spurgeon, Auditor; Kelly Genners, President and CEO Legacy Foundation; Liz Wilson, Chair Capitol Campaign Committee; Cindy Kurtz-Hopkins; Joan Uehling-Fall; Karen Wilcoxson, Assistant to the Board of Supervisors; Brad Skinner, Engineer, Secondary Roads; Rob Pilcher, Secondary Roads; Scott Pilcher, Secondary Roads; Mark Milligan, Secondary Roads; Eugene Cox, Secondary Roads.

12:30 p.m. Work Session Meeting called to order by Chair, Batterson. Motion by Supervisor Teninty; Vice Chair, Ziegler seconded. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Kelly and Liz spoke on behalf of the Market Street Inclusive Play Space. This will be built on the east side of the Market Street Landing area. The park is designed for multi-generational, multi-sensory space, completely inclusive and accessible space is an essential part of a healthy community and will fill a current gap in our community. It will be constructed on existing city property with high quality materials and lower-maintenance landscaping. There will be lighting, security, restrooms, a picnic area, a few special needs accessible play areas, a wheelchair charging station, play area targeted for 0-5 & 5-up, a kaleidoscope for viewing eagles has also been incorporated, and if funding goals are met there will be a water feature added to the park. There have been many private donors to help with this project, legacy and over 1.5 million in grants. The City of Ottumwa pledged \$250,000.00. We have 90% of the funds. They are requesting \$75,000.000 donation from Wapello County. On the west side of the Market Street Landing they are looking at housing and a riverwalk. Looking more like an urban design. This park will open by June 30 because they have a Destination Iowa Grant, it sets time limits on when the project needs to be completed. They also mentioned the All Wheels Park – skate park that just was completed and opened in November. This park is located by The Beach Ottumwa & The Sportsplex.

The Board of Supervisors discussed the time clock system with Brad and explained how it should be a big-time saver. It is a very detailed system. It will be clocking in electronically. It will track overtime, sick time, vacation time, shift differential, and longevity. It should be a very easy to program and as far as for Brittany, it will save her a lot of time. It is tied to the Solutions program.

Secondary Road Budget – Brad helped explain and break down some of the areas that still have money in them and why there's money that has not been spent. Spring will be an area where a lot of the funds will be spent. Bridge work, spreading gravel, reshaping roads making sure they have a crown to them, patching concrete and asphalt roads. 87th is a large project coming up. It will have 42 culverts needing replaced. If the roads are in better shape maybe it will help with economic development for the community. Brad also discussed multiple projects upcoming. Maintenance to vehicles such as tires, chains, blades, and engine overhauls try to estimate close on this budget item. Overtime budgeting – wherever there's a salary need to plan on adding overtime. Budget for just routine operations. There's a lot of areas that still have money in them that haven't been spent. The Board is questioning if we can make some cuts in these areas.

Roads Department meeting. Things seem to be going better. They are getting into winter operation. With the timing of snowy weather events Rob stepped in. Brad and Rob have discussed their different ideas and what time the crew should start snow removal. Each snow needs to be assessed a little differently. The start time, day of the week, road conditions, and expectations of how long it is expected to snow. The north and south parts of the county can also be affected differently as well, and we need to take this into consideration. The discussion amongst the foreman about training on snow equipment. When do you know if you have enough training? We don't have a set way to train a new person on equipment for snow removal. The suggestion was given to come up with a training policy. Mark said he had two hours of training before he was put out on the road. There's video training, but that's not good training. A discussion on the incident report and how Ottumwa Regional Health Center didn't do the proper testing when the driver had the incident. Occupational Health was closed and this is who does the UA for drug/alcohol testing. There was no testing done. We need to document that it appeared he was not impaired and document as much as we can on our end since the UA was not done. It is a requirement when you have a CDL if there's an accident the testing must be done. It was asked if there's any issues you guys are having. Mark handed paperwork to Chair Batterson to complain about a co-worker, and it was stopped immediately and Supervisor Teninty said we can go into closed session and invite the employee to be present if that's how you would like to talk about the issue. It was not going to be today. The guys stated there are morale issues and still chain of command issues. The communication is not great. If they cannot get hold of Brad, they need to get hold of Rob. We need to set some guidelines. It was also mentioned there's some bullying going on and Employee Handbook was brought out to see if the definition in the handbook matches what they are referring to. It's been decided they need to have weekly meetings and work through some of these issues. If you

approach someone with a complaint against them, make sure you have it in writing and signed. If you don't document, then it didn't happen. Should be kept in an employee file. Scott Pilcher announced his last day is April 24, 2026. He is going to have Brittany help him with his paperwork tomorrow (12-23-2025). Discussion on the on-call phone and they plan to request Andy to help roll it to their personal phones. Andy will assist when he gets back from vacation.

Next Budget meeting will be January 12, 2026 @ 1:00 p.m.

4:49 p.m. a motion for the work session to adjourn was made by Supervisor Teninty; seconded by Vice Chair Ziegler. All ayes. Motion Carried.

Minutes submitted by: ksw