

March 24, 2025 at 8:00 a.m.
Garner, Iowa

The Hancock County, Iowa, Board of Supervisors met in adjourned session on the above captioned date pursuant to adjournment with Supervisors Florence (Sis) Greiman, Osmund (Bud) Jermeland, and Gary Rayhons present. Absent: none.

Be It Remembered that on this, the 24th day of March, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. the Board of Supervisors met for the purpose of hearing upon the Hancock County's Proposed Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2025-2026. There was a quorum present as required by law. The Board did find the notice of the time and place of hearing had, according to law, been published in the official newspapers of the county, the Summit-Tribune and the Leader, and that the affidavits of said publications were on file with the Auditor and also posted on the County's website, www.hancockcountyiowa.gov and on social media sites of county officials with social media sites, Emergency Management, Sheriff, Treasurer, Community Health, and Engineer/Secondary Roads. The proposed property tax levy was taken up and taxpayers could be heard for and against said levies. There was one written comment received. Andy Buffington-EMA/E911/Communications/Zoning Director, Rob Gerdes-Sheriff, and Linda Juhl-Deputy Treasurer were present as department heads and employees. Those present from the public were Earl J. Webner, Linda Webner, Daryl Eiffler, Alex Webner, Ted Hall, Valerie Webner, Dwight Dornbier, Bob Kern, Don Hejlik, Al Hawe, and Robert Ostendorf. Those present via GoToMeeting were department heads/employees: Jake Schreur-Maintenance, Elizabeth Mullenbach-Auditor's office, Tracy Marshall-Recorder and Connor Bailey-Conservation. Supervisor Greiman reviewed the publications and postings of the proposed property tax levy on social media sites and the county website. Don Hejlik asked the Board of Supervisors who was responsible for the income surtax rate. Supervisor Jermeland let those in attendance know that he had a conversation with our legislatures this week regarding the 2% and also using part of the state surplus to offset the schools. Don Hejlik stated the whole system needs an overhaul. Supervisor Jermeland explained that the 2% was not good for the county, Hancock County had been a county that has held the line. Supervisor Jermeland explained the rollback and the new legislation proposed. Supervisor Rayhons stated the state makes us have our budget in before theirs and felt the property tax reform is penalizing rural counties. Alex Webner asked the Board if this was a mandate or dictate, stating voluntary until you participate. Supervisor Jermeland informed the attendees that the letters were mandated and the numbers on the letter weren't exactly correct on how much the county portion would be going up. Supervisor Greiman explained the budget process to those in attendance. Supervisor Rayhons stated the total amount the county went up around \$500,000. Al Hawe asked the Board where we have our insurance through. Supervisor Rayhons informed that insurance is an ongoing expense and the county is responsible for the cost of the mailing. He also stated the cost of public safety is constantly increasing with more jail time, less public defenders, not enough court reporters. Ted Hall stated there are 4 ways to cut a budget: time, employees, benefits and say no. Daryl Eiffler asked about the letters that were mailed out. Auditor Eisenman explained the letters that were mailed as part of the requirement of HF718. There was also discussion on how farm value is determined. Valerie Webner asked the Board what were the top 3 increases for the \$500,000. The Board responded with public safety, insurance, medical examiner fees go up and more cases, software, elections. The Board did remind those in attendance that although you pay your

property taxes at the county, the county is only responsible for these levies. Supervisor Jermeland explained that you budget for the worst case scenario, but that it doesn't mean that it all is spent. Ted Hall asked the question if the storage building was needed. Supervisor Greiman explained the county needs the space, have to keep old records. Valerie Webner asked if DOGE came in, would they find anything that has fallen through the cracks. Supervisor Rayhons responded he didn't think they would find something.

No further business to come before the Board, motion made to adjourn at 8:59 a.m. by Supervisor Jermeland and carried. All Supervisors present voting, "Aye," session to adjourn and will meet again on March 24, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

ATTEST: _____
Michelle K. Eisenman, Auditor

Florence Sis Greiman, Chair