

PEN CITY CURRENT

It's Black & White and Read all over

Friday, February 24, 2023 | 9 pages | Volume 7 • Issue 44



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Refugee effort underway

SPONSORSHIPS: Mayor wants to bring at least 100 Ukrainian refugees to city



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

Bob Bartles, a Ukrainian refugee sponsor from Burlington, talks with a room full of people at the YMCA Test Kitchen STEM Lounge about the process of sponsoring refugees.

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – Fort Madison Mayor Matt Mohrfeld likes to throw targets on the wall.

He calls them goals and he unveiled another one Thursday afternoon at the YMCA Test Kitchen STEM Lounge, as he told a room full of interested parties that he'd like to bring 100 Ukrainian refugees to Fort Madison.

Mohrfeld brought representatives from World Relief of the Quad Cities, along with Burlington Ukrainian refugee sponsor Bob Bartles, and Katya Deyashkin, a Ukrainian refugee living in Burlington.



DEYASHKIN

Deyashkin is a nurse from the Ukraine who left the Russian-ravaged country for the United States and said the safety of her family was her main concern.

She said she doesn't know if her family will return when the Russian aggression in her home country subsides.

"I don't know," she said in broken English. "I have a child and family and that is my main concern. Tomorrow? I don't know."

Bartles was on hand to help the group, which included eco-

See REFUGEES, page 2

PROPERTY TAX BILL

Sen. Dawson clarifies his Lee County amendment

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The sponsor of a bill that could lead to the consolidation of Lee County to one county seat shed light on the bill and why the amendment was proposed.

The amendment would wipe out an 1848 law that required the county to keep two county courthouses. Lee County is the only county in Iowa that still has two recognized county seats, and two judicial districts – North and South Lee County.

An amendment offered on what was Senate Study Bill 1124, which is now Senate File 356, after passing out of the Iowa Senate's Ways and Means Committee, refers to Lee County specifically, and its author State Sen. Dan Dawson (R-Council Bluffs) said the amendment was added after talking with representatives of Lee County last week.



DAWSON

"Property tax relief is a primary focus for us at the Capitol. We have heard from Iowans all over the state that property taxes are too high, and they are looking for a better seat at the table," Dawson wrote in an email to Pen City Current Thursday afternoon.

The bill is the Senate Republicans' property tax reform proposal. Part of the process is gathering public input and Lee County Supervisor Chairman Garry Seyb, Supervisor Tom Schulz, and Sheriff Stacy Weber testified as part of a Ways and Means hearing, and then had a follow-up conversation with Speaker Pat Grassley.

"It was clear from this conversation the Lee County court system was causing issues. After listening to their concerns and taking some time to do some research, it was clear a clarification and state change

See DAWSON, page 9

ART ASSOCIATION

FMAAA/Hy-Vee team up for 2-month fundraiser

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON - The Fort Madison Area Arts Association has been selected to benefit from the Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program in 2023 for the

months of March and April.

The Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program, which launched in October 2019, facilitates community support with the goal to make a difference in the communities where shoppers live and work.

The FMAAA and the Art Center they

operate were selected to benefit from the program for the months of March and April by store leadership at the Hy-Vee located at 2606 Avenue L, Fort Madison. During this benefit period,

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WEATHER

OpenWeatherMap
FRI 24 Feb..... Mostly cloudy and cold, 31° F/ 22° F
SAT 25 Feb..... Partly sunny, 44° F/ 30° F
SUN 26 Feb..... Partly sunny with chance of rain, 54° F/ 46° F

IOWA LOTTERY

LOTTO AMERICA 02/22..... 6 24 25 31 38, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 3
LUCKY FOR LIFE 02/22..... 7 26 37 39 47, Lucky Ball: 6
PICK 3 02/22 MIDDAY..... 5 41
PICK 3 02/22 EVENING..... 5 67
PICK 4 02/22 MIDDAY..... 8 9 3 3
PICK 4 02/22 EVENING..... 0 7 1 8
POWERBALL 02/22..... 11 19 39 44 65, Powerball: 7 Power Play: 2

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From the Front

SCC's English as a Second language helping refugees

REFUGEES - Continued from Page 1

conomic development, education, housing, medical, business and industry, and clergy representatives, understand the sponsorship opportunities.

He said sponsoring refugees is a cumbersome process, but the refugees he's come across have been hard working, proud, and honorable people.

Bartles shared a story about one of the seven families that he knows that are currently looking for sponsors. They were running short of cash and he offered to help. One of the family members had accepted a job at Shearer's in Burlington.

"They wouldn't accept a gift, so I said 'Let me loan you the money.' So, I loaned them the money and they bought shoes for their boy and groceries," Bartles said.

"But before they even had a job, they paid me back the 500 bucks."

Bartles said the government wants to see a couple thousand dollars in a bank account and a tax return that shows you made money the previous year to approve a sponsorship. Then other entities can back up the financial effort.

"It's okay to not have a bunch of money and it may not require a bunch of money,"

he said.

Of the seven families that need sponsors, one will need some help, but the rest are bringing some finances with them from Ukraine.

The family also was part of an English as a Second Language course at SCC.

Dr. Michael Ash, president of SCC, was on hand as well, and said the college is excited to be part of the refugee transitions.

Rev. Leslie Dahl and her husband Dan had an informational refugee meeting on Sunday at their church in Fort Madison. Mohrfeld, who spoke at that meeting, said there were about a dozen people there who were interested in sponsorships.

Mohrfeld said he and his wife Beth are looking to be sponsors for some of the refugees.

Mohrfeld said this is part of his growth pillar for local growth. He has outlined four pillars including housing, jobs, and safety that he is leveraging to see the local population growth come to reality. He has set a target of 1,000 new residents in the next four years.

Bartles said the sponsorship is a two-year commitment but said there isn't accountability or financial commitment in walking away, but said then the families become eligible for support and resources.

"These folks are good people even they don't have an obligation to back up the families," Bartles said of the World Relief group.

Mohrfeld said when the families go to work, they are on employee benefits packages and pay taxes.

Those interested in sponsoring refugees can reach out to the World Relief group in Moline, Illinois at 309-764-2279. More information can be found at <https://worldrelief.org/quad-cities/>.

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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

CURTIS H. FOULKES

Curtis Henry Foulkes, 73, of Keokuk, passed away on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at his home in Keokuk.

Curtis was born on July 24, 1949, in Keokuk, Iowa, the son of Ralph C. and Rebecca R. (Strube) Foulkes. He graduated from Keokuk High School in 1967, and went on to receive his college degree from Missouri Western. On September 4, 1971, he was united in marriage to Diana Swinderman in Keokuk, Iowa. They were later divorced.

Curtis was employed as a traveling representative for book company Houghton-Mifflin before his retirement. He enjoyed tinkering on computers and cars, and was a crafty individual, known for his good tastes and his skill in re-framing pictures. He loved fixing and figuring things out.

Curtis is survived by his son Ryan (Christopher Fleming) Foulkes of Iowa City, Iowa; three siblings: Caitlin (Robert) Allbright of Austin, Texas, Craig (Dedria Arnold) Foulkes of Roseville, Illinois, and Cindy Foulkes of Hamilton, Illinois; and four nieces and nephews: Brett (Leslie) Burich, Brian (Michelle) Foulkes, Nicole (Clint) Wray and Ben Burich.

Curtis is preceded in death by his parents.

A memorial service will be held at a later date, with burial to follow at Sunset Memorial Gardens in Keokuk.

Memorials may be directed to Hope House of Keokuk or Lee County Hospice.

Tributes and condolences may be left at www.dejongsfuneralhome.com.

DeJong-Greaves-Printy Funeral Home of Keokuk is in charge of arrangements.



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OBITUARIES

DORIS J. POPE

Doris J. Pope, 95, of Burnside, Illinois, passed away at 1:40 p.m. Monday, February 20, 2023 at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois.



POPE

Doris Jean Hodous was born January 8, 1928, in Chicago, IL, daughter of Joe and Ann Langer Hodous. She was raised in the Chicago area, where she met her husband, W. Mack Pope, at an Army Detachment Center for soldiers in World War II. They were married September 28, 1946, and moved to the family farm north of Adrian, IL, where they lived and worked the rest of their lives. Mack passed away in 2003.

Doris was proud to be a farm wife. She helped run the family business, managed a household with love and grace, and mastered gardening and preserving produce. She was a devoted mother, grandmother and great grandmother and an excellent cook and seamstress. She was known for the delicious and ample meals she served for family, farmhands and guests. Everyone was welcome at her table.

Doris was involved in many community activities. She was a member of the Colusa United Methodist Church until it closed and then attended Appanoose Faith Presbyterian Church, Niota, IL. She was a 4-H leader and supporter; a member of Eastern Star, and was active in the Hancock County Farm Bureau, serving as chairman of the women's committee.

She was preceded in death by her husband, her parents and her daughter-in-law, Debbie Pope.

She is survived by one son: Terry (Gayle) Pope, Burn-

side, IL; four grandchildren: Hannah (Shawn) Whitaker, Burnside; Lydia (Todd) Ahrens, Hannibal, MO; Rebecca (Mike) Sommer, Bloomington, IL, and Micah (Johanna) Pope, Champaign, IL; two step granddaughters: Amy (Tyler) Olsen-Highness, St. Paul, MN, and Danielle (Dan) Jennings, Columbia, MO; 12 great grandchildren; a sister: Betty (Fred) Lake, Palm Harbor, FL; a niece and two nephews.

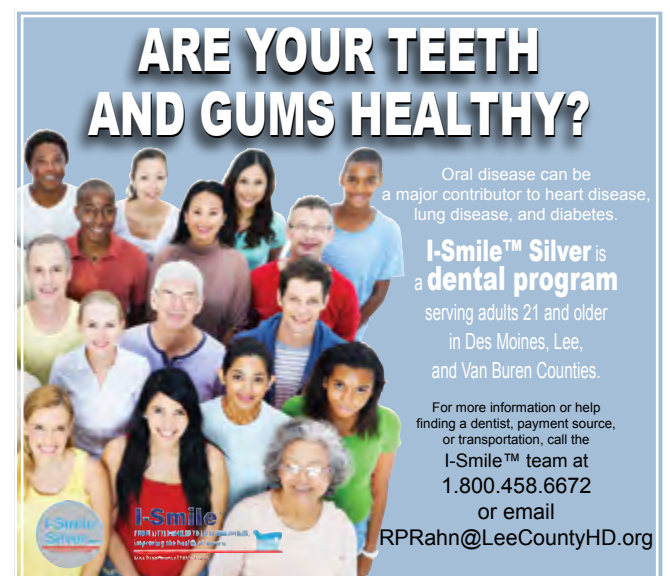
A Celebration of Life will be held at Banks & Beals Funeral Home, Dallas City, at 3:00 p.m. Sunday, March 5, 2023, with Pastor Dave Poland presiding. Visitation will precede the service from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. She will be buried at Byler Cemetery, rural Colusa, in a private family service.

Memorials may be given to Hancock County 4-H Foundation, Memorial Hospital Foundation or the Hancock County Farm Bureau Foundation. To leave a condolence for the family, please visit Mrs. Pope's obituary at bank-sandbeals.com.

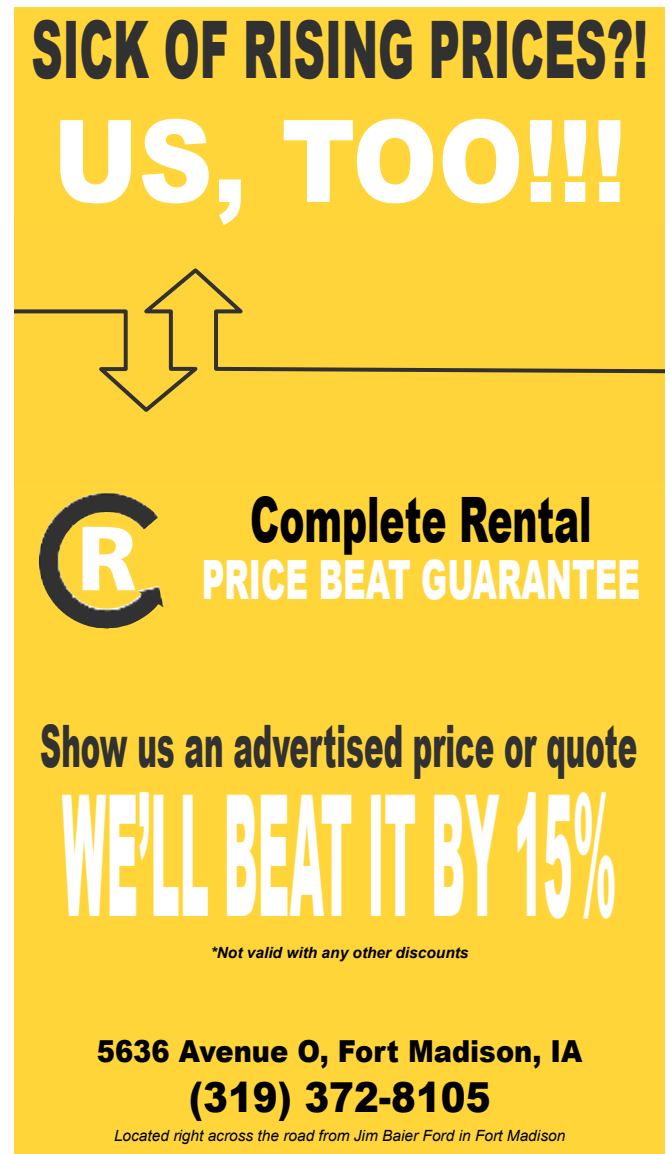


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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**PUBLIC NOTICE
LEE COUNTY BOARD
OF SUPERVISORS
REGULAR MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 3, 2023**

The Lee County Board of Supervisors met at the Lee County Administrative Building in Fort Madison on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.
Present: Garry Seyb,

Ron Fedler, Chuck Holmes, Matt Pflug and Tom Schulz.

The Board opened the meeting by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Seyb, seconded by Fedler, to approve the agenda, striking Number 17 from the agenda, due to it being a duplicate item. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes,

seconded by Fedler, to approve the Monday, December 19, 2022 minutes. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to name Garry Seyb as Chairman for the calendar year 2023. Roll call: Pflug-aye, Schulz-aye, Seyb-aye, Holmes-aye and Fedler-aye.

Resolution #2023-1

RESOLVED this 3rd day of January 2023 that Garry Seyb be and is hereby appointed Chairman of the Lee County Board of Supervisors for the year 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member

and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to name Ron Fedler as Vice-Chairman for the calendar year 2023. Roll call: Holmes-aye, Pflug-aye, Schulz-aye, Fedler-aye and Seyb-aye.

Resolution #2023-2

RESOLVED this 3rd day of January 2023 that Ron Fedler be and is hereby appointed Vice-Chairman of the Lee County Board of Supervisors for the year 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

There was no Public Input.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-3

RESOLVED to authorize the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, to execute and acknowledge for and on behalf of Lee County, Iowa with Board approval, leases and deeds of conveyance of real estate and said authority shall exist for the year 2023, or until revoked or rescinded by action of the Board.

DATED: January 3, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-4

RESOLVED this 3rd day of January 2023 that the Lee County Auditor be and is hereby authorized to draw checks to pay all court certificates, freight bills, express bills and postage as provided by law.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all other claims against Lee County, Iowa shall and must be passed upon by the Board of Supervisors at their regular meeting

before being paid.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-5

RESOLVED this 3rd day of January 2023 that the following holidays will be observed for the calendar year 2023 on the dates indicated:

President's Day, Monday, February 20; Good Friday, Friday, April 7; Memorial Day, Monday, May 29; Independence Day, Tuesday, July 4; Labor Day, Monday, September 4; Veteran's Day, Friday, November 10; Thanksgiving, Thursday, November 23 and Friday, November 24; Christmas Eve, Friday, December 22 and Christmas Day, Monday, December 25; also, New Year's Day, Monday, January 1, 2024.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-6

RESOLVED, this 3rd day of January, 2023, that Sheriff Stacy Weber and his Deputies are hereby appointed as agents of Lee County, Iowa, to make service of notices of expirations of rights to redeem from tax sale and to make affidavit of completed service of such action.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-7

RESOLVED, this 3rd day of January, 2023, that the newspapers hereby designated as official newspapers in and for Lee County, Iowa are the Daily Democrat in Fort Madison and the Daily Gate City in Keokuk and that Bill and Steve Helen-

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICES

that are hereby appointed as agents of Lee County, Iowa, to make publications of all notices required to be published in the Daily Democrat, Fort Madison and the Daily Gate City, Keokuk, which Bill and Steve Helenthal are publishers, and to make affidavits of such publications in all cases where

Lee County, Iowa has purchased real estate at Scavenger Sale and holds certification of such purchases at each sale.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-8

RESOLVED, this 3rd day of January, 2023, that RYANNE WOOD is hereby appointed as Lee County General Relief Director for the period of January 2, 2023 to January 1, 2024.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-9

BE IT RESOLVED this 3rd day of January 2023, to designate the following banks to be Depositories of Lee County, Iowa funds in amounts not to exceed the amounts listed opposite of each said Depository. The Lee County Officers and their Deputies are hereby authorized to deposit the Lee County funds in amounts for said banks as follows:
TREASURER, LOCA-

TION.....MAX DEPOSIT Connection Bank, Fort Madison.. \$20,000,000.00 Lee County Bank, Fort Madison 1,000,000.00 Midwestone, Fort Madison..... 2,000,000.00 Farmers Savings Bank, Wever 5,000,000.00 Connection Bank, Keokuk 5,000,000.00 Two Rivers Bank, Keokuk 5,000,000.00 Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Fort Madison 20,000,000.00

AUDITOR Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Pilot Grove..... 100,000.00 Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Fort Madison 5,000,000.00 SHERIFF Connection Bank, Keokuk 400,000.00 RECORDER Connection Bank, Fort Madison 100,000.00 CONSERVATION Two Rivers Bank, Keokuk 7,500.00

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-10

BE IT RESOLVED that this 3rd day of January, 2023, by the Lee County Board of Supervisors, that the Lee County Engineer or his Assistant are hereby authorized and empowered to execute underground construction permits without further action by the Board of Supervisors.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-11

WHEREAS, the Lee County Board of Supervisors is empowered under authority of Section 321E.1 of the Code of Iowa to issue permits for the movement of machines, vehicles or loads, or combinations thereof which exceed the maximum dimensions and/or weights specified in Sections 321.452 to 321.466, but within the limitations of Chapter 321E upon Secondary Roads under their jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, it is important that such permits be issued by persons familiar with the statutes and regulations relating to such permits and also with the limitations of the county's roadways, road surfaces and structures along the selected or designated routes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lee County Board of Supervisors that the Lee County Engineer or his Assistant are authorized to issue and sign special permits for the movement of vehicles of excessive size and weight upon Lee County Secondary Roads in accordance with said Chapter 321E.

Passed this 3rd day of January 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-12

WHEREAS, Section 306.41 of the Code of Iowa provides that "The agency having jurisdiction and control over any highway in the state, or the chief engineer of said agency when delegated by such agency, may

temporarily close sections of a highway by a formal resolution entered upon the minutes of such agency when reasonable necessary because of construction, reconstruction, maintenance or natural disaster and shall cause to be erected road closed signs and partial or total barricades in the roadway at each end of the closed highway section and on the closed highway where that highway is intersected by other highways if such intersection remains open."

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Lee County Board of Supervisors that the Lee County Engineer or his Assistant are authorized to close Lee County Secondary Roads as necessary with the actual dates of closure to be determined by the County Engineer or his Assistant, as follows:

For Construction – Any project described in the approved Secondary Road Construction Program and any approved supplements thereto.

For Emergency – Closure of any road for maintenance purposes: Any route deemed necessary by the County Engineer or his Assistant.

The Engineer will also notify the local news media when a road has been closed for construction.

Passed and approved this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-13

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors, Lee County, Iowa, that

Benjamin J. Hull, P.E., the County Engineer of Lee County, Iowa, be and is hereby designated, authorized, and empowered on behalf of Board of Supervisors of said County, to execute the certification of completion of work and final acceptance thereof in accordance with plans and specifications in connection with all Farm-to-Market and Federal or State aid construction projects in this county.

Passed and approved this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Resolution #2023-14

WHEREAS, The Board of Supervisors is empowered under authority of Iowa Code Section 321.236 Sub. (8), 321.255, and 321.471 to 321.473 to prohibit the operation of vehicles or impose limitations as to the weight thereof on designated highways or highway structures under their jurisdiction, and

WHEREAS, The Board desires that the County Engineer be empowered to establish and lift, at his discretion, load limits, on specific designated roads. Travel on these roads will be load limited allowing only trucks and other commercial vehicles with a gross weight of less than the limit designated by the posted signs to travel upon them.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, The Lee County Board of Supervisors hereby authorizes the County Engineer to exercise his discretion in posting load limits of ten (10) tons on selected

roads and as necessary to enhance safe travel and/or reduce base failure. These load limits shall become effective whenever the signs are erected and shall remain in effect at all times they remain erected. School busses, emergency vehicles, vehicles hauling home heating fuel to residences, vehicles hauling animal feed to a feeding yard, and commercial garbage haulers are exempt from these limitations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Supervisors, may authorize permits of exception for loads not already exempt under the previous paragraph of this resolution. Any such permit must be specific to the excepted vehicle and its load, and must bear the signature of the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors or County Engineer. Exception requests will be considered and approved

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or denied by the County Engineer.

Dated January 3, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION # 2023-15

A RESOLUTION NAMING CANDIDATE TO SEIRPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

WHEREAS, Lee County is a member County of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission, and

WHEREAS, the SEIRPC Board of Directors has reviewed the Lee County membership status and it is in good standing.

BE IT RESOLVED that Garry Seyb is hereby appointed to a one-year term to the SEIRPC Board of Directors, which term will expire on January 1, 2024.

AND BE IT RESOLVED that Tom Schulz is hereby appointed as alternate

to a one-year term to the SEIRPC Board of Directors, which term will expire on January 1, 2024.

Dated this 3rd day of January 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Resolution #2023-16

RESOLUTION TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE

WHEREAS, the County of Lee, Iowa, by resolution duly passed heretofore, has resolved that it shall participate in the planning and programming of the South Iowa Area Crime Commission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF LEE, that Ron Fedler is hereby designated as said County's official representative to the South Iowa Area Crime Commission. FURTHER, BE IT RESOLVED that Tom Schulz is hereby designated as said County's official alternate representative to the Commission in instances where the official representative is unavailable.

Passed this 3rd day of January 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Resolution #2023-17

RESOLVED, this 3rd day of January, 2023, that Alicia Schiller-Haynes is hereby appointed as Lee County Weed Com-

missioner for the period of January 2, 2023 to January 1, 2024.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to hold Board meetings on Mondays at 10:00 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Administration Building in Fort Madison. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve the following appointments to various committees for 2023. Motion carried.

Supervisor Committees for 2023

Ron Fedler
* South Iowa Crime Commission (Alternate – Tom Schulz)

* 8th Judicial (Alternate – Tom Schulz)

* SE Iowa Juvenile Detention (Alternate – Tom Schulz)

* RUSS (Alternate – Chuck Holmes)

Tom Schulz
* Southeast Iowa Community Action (Alternate – Matt Pflug))

* GRRWA (Alternate – Ron Fedler)

* Emergency Management Commission (Alternate – Garry Seyb)

* Courthouse Security Committee (Alternate-Matt Pflug)

* Fort Madison Economic Development (Alternate-Garry Seyb) Chuck Holmes

* Children First (Alternate – Tom Schulz)

* Lee County Conservation Board (Alternate – Matt Pflug)

* 401K Committee (Alternate Garry Seyb)

* Employee Insurance Committee

* Iowa Workforce Development (Alternate – Matt Pflug)

* Pioneer Cemetery

Commission (Alternate

Garry Seyb) Matt Pflug
* Quad City Decategorization (Alternate – Chuck Holmes)

* 911 Service Board (Alternate – Ron Fedler)

* Board of Health (Alternate – Ron Fedler)

* Great River Progressive Housing Board (Alternate – Garry Seyb)

* Employee Insurance Committee (Alternate Chuck Holmes)

* Employee Safety Committee (Alternate-Ron Fedler)

* SE IA Housing Authority (Alternate – Garry Seyb)

* Hwy 61 Coalition (Alternate – Tom Schulz)

* Best You Coalition (Alternate-Garry Seyb) Garry Seyb

* SEIRPC (Alternate – Tom Schulz)

* Lee County Economic Development (Alternate – Tom Schulz)

* Lee County Port Authority (Alternate – Tom Schulz)

* Keokuk Economic Development (Alternate – Tom Schulz)

* Lee County EMS (Alternate Tom Schulz)

* ARPA (Alternate Ron Fedler)

* Empowering Families (Alternate Chuck Holmes)

Department Liaisons:
Secondary Roads – Garry Seyb/Chuck Holmes

Information Technology – Garry Seyb/Tom Schulz

CPC – Tom Schulz/Ron Fedler

EMS-Garry Seyb/Tom Schulz

Safety-Matt Pflug/Ron Fedler

Grant Writer-Garry Seyb/Chuck Holmes

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to approve eliminating a part-time Clerk position and add two full-time Clerk positions in the Treasurer's Office. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve Resolution #2023-18. Roll call: Pflug-aye,

Schulz-aye, Holmes-aye, Fedler-aye and Seyb-aye.

Resolution #2023-18

AUTHORIZING THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM (STBG) FOR THE RESURFACING OF ARGYLE ROAD (W62)

WHEREAS, funds are available for Federal Fiscal Year 2027 under the STBG program, for improvements to road segments that are eligible under the Federal Functional Classification system; and

WHEREAS, the section of W62 (Argyle Road) between Highway 27 and Highway 61 is classified as a Rural Major collector and is therefore eligible for funding; and

WHEREAS, reimbursement funds are available through the State of Iowa under this program, and in order to avail itself of possible reimbursement of funds pursuant to any grant under said program, an application must be filed by Lee County; and

WHEREAS, the filing of an application is in the best interests of the citizens of the Lee County, Iowa, and should be approved.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

That Lee County fully supports the project to resurface W62 (Argyle Road) between Highway 27 and Highway 61, assures a minimum local funding match of 20%, and agrees to adequately maintain, or cause to be maintained, the completed improvements in a manner acceptable to the Iowa DOT and FHWA throughout their useful life, and hereby authorizes Lee County to submit an application for funding the improvements to the Southeast Iowa Regional

Planning Commission. APPROVED and AD- OPTED this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Pflug, to approve a quote from Baycom of \$28,224.00 for body cameras for Correctional Officers. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve a contract with Axon for body and car cameras for Sheriff's Administrative Staff and Deputies in the amount of \$271,869.08. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Fedler, to approve replacing a Sheriff's Deputy. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Seyb, to approve Resolution #2023-19. Roll call: Holmes-aye, Seyb-aye, Schulz-aye, Fedler-aye and Pflug-aye.

Resolution #2023-19

RESOLUTION DECLARING EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES TO BE AN ESSENTIAL SERVICE A resolution by Lee County to declare emergency medical services (EMS) to be an essential county service as authorized by Iowa Code Section 422D.1.

WHEREAS, Lee County provides Emergency Medical Services to its residents. WHEREAS, ensuring efficient and effective EMS coverage is essential for maintaining the health and welfare of its residents. WHEREAS, in order to be able to efficiently and effectively provide EMS to its residents, the Board of Supervisors will proceed with the process under Iowa Code



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Section 422D.1 to declare emergency medical services as an essential county service in order to allow an ad valorem property tax for EMS and the creation of a county emergency medical services system advisory council to assist in researching and assessing the service needs of the county and guiding implementation of the same. NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, Lee County hereby declares emergency medical services to be an essential county service. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Lee County directs that notice of the first meeting to consider this resolution was made. Any other actions necessary to proceed with the process under Iowa Code Section 422D.1 to declare EMS be an essential county service shall be made. HEREBY RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors for Lee County on this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve the appointment of Mark Long, Jason Dinwiddie, Cindy Renstrom, Denise Fraise, Sara Helenthal, Tom Schulz and Garry Seyb to the EMS Advisory Council. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve a 28E Agreement with multiple counties for purchase of a road widener. Motion carried. Lee County's portion will be \$41,086.

Moved by Fedler, seconded by Holmes, to approve a proposal for Design Services for the West Point Secondary Roads Shop, in the amount of \$5,200.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to replace a Maintenance Worker II position in Secondary Roads. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Fedler, to approve the purchase of two single axle plow trucks from H & L Mack in the amount of \$383,626.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Fedler,

seconded by Holmes, to approve a Program Fee Agreement with Iowa State University Extension for Township Officials' training, in the amount of \$750.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve a ten year lease agreement with Danville Mutual Telephone Company for ground adjacent to the Donnellson Ambulance Base, in the amount of \$1,200.00 annually. Motion carried.

Moved by Holmes, seconded by Pflug, to approve eight tax abatement resolutions. Roll call: Holmes-aye, Pflug-aye, Fedler-aye, Schulz-aye and Seyb-aye.

RESOLUTION #2023-20

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Derek and Courtney Vandenberg 1421 240th Avenue West Point IA 52656

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-21

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee

County, Iowa; and, WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Christopher and Stacey Faulkner 1349 230th Street West Point IA 52656

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-22

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Ryan and Elisha Krebill 1639 Primrose Road Donnellson IA 52625

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member;

/s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-23

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: James and Jennifer Dawson 2649 160th Avenue Argyle IA 52619

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-24

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted

a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Frank and Melanie Leininger 2040 204th Avenue Donnellson IA 52625

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-25

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Michael, Julie, Jason and Janessa Erb 2025 340th Street Argyle IA 52619

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-26

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Jim and Nancy Bash 1838 295th Street Argyle IA 52619

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code

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Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

RESOLUTION #2023-27

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisors of Lee County has by Ordinance Number VI-11 adopted a plan for a County-wide Urban Revitalization Tax Exemption District in Lee County, Iowa; and,

WHEREAS, Iowa Code Section 404.4 provides for prior approval of eligibility for a tax exemption by the governing body of the County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF LEE COUNTY, IOWA, that they hereby approve the application of: Daniel and Lori Steffensmeier 2753 Chalk Ridge Road Fort Madison IA 52627

For exemption from taxation according to the provisions of Iowa Code Section 404.3, §3. Said applications shall be

forwarded to the County Assessor for review pursuant to the provisions of Section 404.5 Code of Iowa.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 3rd day of January, 2023.

Lee County Board of Supervisors /s/ Garry Seyb, Chairman; /s/ Ron Fedler, Vice-Chair; /s/ Chuck Holmes, Member; /s/ Matt Pflug, Member and /s/ Tom Schulz, Member. Attest: /s/ Denise Fraise, Auditor. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Holmes, to approve the payment of claims. Motion carried.

Moved by Pflug, seconded by Schulz, to approve a wage increase for Veteran Affairs Administrator Nikki Sugars, from \$42,000/ annually to \$46,200/annually, effective 1/1/23 and merit increases for two EMTs Catherine Casey and Quentin Schneider, \$17.40/hr., effective 12/27/22. Motion carried.

Received and filed the Veteran Affairs Quarterly Report for October through December 2022 and the Commission of Veteran Affairs Minutes of Meeting for November 29, 2022.

Committee Reports: Pflug reported on calls he received regarding Alliant's Solar Project. Holmes reported on a Workforce Development meeting.

At 11:10 a.m. a motion was made by Pflug,

seconded by Fedler, to adjourn. Motion carried. The next meeting will be held on Monday, January 9, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

Garry Seyb, Chairman
Attest: Denise Fraise,
Lee County Auditor

**Claims paid
January 3, 2023**

Next Degree Comm, svcs 13870.00
Ability Ntwrk, svcs 1039.96
Access Systems, svcs 94.05
Advd Crctrnl Hlth, svcs 7957.12
Agriland FS, fuel 4148.54
Airgas US, splys ... 808.78
AirMedCare, ins.. 2820.00
Alliant Enrgy, svcs 7177.25
Amazon, splys 185.40
Animal House, splys 33.35
Ape & Sons, Rock 505.00
Armstrong Trctr, equip 694.80
B&B Propane, fuel 1281.83
Jim Baier, veh... 41380.87
Bargen, svcs..... 75340.58
Benco Dental, splys 31.13
Blessing Hlth, svcs 130.00
B Bonar, svcs 200.00
N Booten, exps..... 80.00
Bnd Tree Mdcl, splys 4803.89
K Brookhiser, rent 185.00
Brozene Hydrlic, svcs 583.72
Calhoun-Burns, svcs 1155.00
Capital One, veh 199882.07
Cntrl IA Jvnl Dtnnt, svcs 2891.52
Cntrl Svcs, svcs..... 5230.44
CenturyLink, svcs... 169.84
City/Donnellson, water 119.37
CNA Surety, svcs... 100.00
Comm Action, svcs 861.00
G Cordray, svcs..... 1100.64
Democrat Co, publ.. 41.55
Darkside Tint, splys 288.00
Deery Bro, veh.. 47560.00
L DeFord, exps 161.00
DM Co Auditor, svcs

..... 1350.00
DM Stamp Mfg, splys 33.00
Dscnt Tire, tires..... 906.35
RK Dixon Co, equip 1144.46
Dodd Prtg/Stat, splys 721.10
Dnnlsln Lmbr, equip 183.20
Donnellson Tire, svcs 524.95
Douds Stone, mtrl 1478.66
Drake Hdwr, equip 12104.59
Dunkin Garage, svcs 1162.00
Eastern IA Tire, tires 316.95
Electronic Engrg, parts 1336.80
EMSLRC, edu..... 115.00
ESO Sol, svcs 14316.94
Family Res, svcs .. 1399.50
Farm/Home, splys 589.23
Fastenal Co, equip .. 34.70
Federal Engr, svcs 625.00
R Fedler, exps 117.00
Floyds EZ Way, svcs 135.00
FM Hsing Auth, svcs 2287.92
FM Water, svcs..... 4476.68
D Fraise, svcs..... 40.00
Garratt-Callahan, svcs 1135.00
L Gatton, rent..... 300.00
GB Auto, svcs..... 74.15
Fred Gida, exps..... 110.00
Gillund Entrps, svcs 274.00
N Granaman, svcs 2809.36
Grt Prairie AEA, water 46.00
GRRWA, svcs..... 130.00
Green Scene, svcs 1665.00
Hall Excvtng, svcs .. 150.00
S Hansen, exps 312.00
E Harvey Atty, svcs 1059.50
Hellige Lawn, svcs.. 690.00
M Hellige, svcs 615.00
HenryCo Auditor, svcs 75.00
Huffman Wldng, svcs 237.96
HyVee, splys..... 4134.99
ICONNECTYOU, svcs 160.00
ICS Jail Splys, splys 756.74
Ideal Rdy Mix, mtrl 3206.97
IHS Pharmacy, svcs

..... 321.66
Impact7G, svcs..... 2316.50
IMWCA, ins..... 13018.00
IA Dept/Inspc/Appl, splys 335.00
IA Div Labor Svcs, prmts 405.00
IA Law Enfnt, ed .. 150.00
IA Office/St Med, svcs 16793.85
IA Prison Ind, splys 207.90
ISAC, reg 630.00
Jays Auto, svcs..... 322.44
Jet Gas, fuel 11108.29
Jireh Inc, fuel 2106.36
J Johnson, exps..... 50.50
P Kaltefleiter, exps 410.80
Kempkers, splys ... 260.52
Keo Med Equip, splys 66.84
Keo Hsing Auth, svcs 4187.83
Keokuk Water, svcs 995.42
Kieslers Pol Sply, equip 1034.10
Klingner Assoc, svcs 5124.00
G Knisley, exps..... 196.00
Kohlmorgan Hlg, svcs 245.00
R Kuntz, svcs 200.00
LN Curtis/sons, unif 489.69
Lee Co Health, svcs 9574.94
LeeCo Treas, costs 31704.31
D Leibfried, edu 75.00
Liberty Util, gas..... 653.14
Lincare Inc, splys.. 265.83
Mail Svcs, pstg 1200.03
Martin Equip, equip 1778.56
McKesson Med, splys 289.87
Mediacom, svcs..... 459.00
Menards, splys 708.13
Mesa Labs, svcs..... 216.52
Mid Cntry Mchnry, equip 1577.02
MidAmer Enrgy, gas 3074.12
R Millmier, exps 46.00
Mohrfeld Elect, svcs 84.00
Motorola Sol, equip 124132.60
L Mullins, exps..... 379.00
Murphy Fnrl Home, svcs 350.00
Mutual Whl Co, parts 180.61
Mystic Images, mtrls 1211.76
NAPA Auto, parts.. 399.28
AT Conf, svcs 255.02

OMG Midwest, svcs 4660.96
Optum Rx, splys 2023.30
M Park, exps..... 142.98
Penn City Assoc, dues 600.00
M Pflug, exps..... 128.00
Pilot Grove Bnk, splys 416.00
Pitney Bowes, pstg 100.00
Prairie Farms, splys 790.00
Purchase Pwr, pstg 100.00
R&J Qlty Decal, svcs 112.50
Rathbun Wtr, svcs .. 155.40
Red Lion Rnwbls, svcs 1345.83
RicohUSA, splys... 210.68
B Roberts, svcs 170.00
RSM US LLP, svcs 333.00
Safeguard US, equip 3596.22
J Schneider, svcs 110.00
SIACC, svcs 403.37
SIADSA, svcs 4876.33
SIEDA, cntrb..... 2571.19
SmileMakers, splys 103.90
P Spiekermeier, exps 19.00
Staples, svcs 879.98
Stop Stick, equip ... 970.00
Stryker Sales, svcs 682.76
M Terhune, exps ... 456.50
A Timpe, svcs 130.00
US Cell, svcs 2222.18
VB Co Hosp, svcs 10682.17
Vanguard Appr, svcs 7912.50
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From the Front

New amendment could close a courthouse

DAWSON - Continued from Page 1

would provide Lee County and local government officials the tools necessary to help with their budget and potentially reduce expenditures and ease the burden on property taxpayers in Lee County,” Dawson wrote.

He said an email from Lee County Auditor Denise Fraise advocating for change in the county added to the action.

“The need to proceed with the amendment was further bolstered by an email all the Senate Republicans on the Ways and Means committee received from Denise Fraise. The email expressed similar points as earlier conversations with the other local officials. To help with property tax reform and budget constraints in Lee County, there needed to be a change in Iowa law to allow the county to consolidate the two court systems in Lee County.”

Former State Senator Rich Taylor had requested an opinion from the Iowa Attorney General regarding the 175-year-old law. The opinion stated that the AG believed Lee County could consolidate to one county seat by ordinance, but the action could not result in the closure of the two court houses.

The amendment in 375 would also now repeal the 1848 act which “in part required Lee County to maintain a district court at Fort Madison and the city of Keokuk, required the clerk of district court to keep an office at Fort Madison and the city of Keokuk, and required the sheriff of Lee County to keep an office at Fort Madison and the city of Keokuk.”

Dawson said the elimination the act of 1848 would pave the way for consolidation.

“It appears a law enacted in 1848 was standing in the way of consolidating the courts in Lee County. From this AG Opinion, it would appear Lee County can designate a single county seat by ordinance under Home Rule. Also, the AG Opinion seemed to say it would be the elimination of the 1848 law change that would allow for the consolidation of the courts.”

Seyb said earlier this week that he was surprised by the amendment and that an amendment wasn’t mentioned during discussions in Des Moines.

Dawson said the amendment was a direct result of the conversations with county officials.

“The amendment put forward in the Ways and Means Committee on Monday was a direct result of the conversations I had with the officials from Lee County and from those who work at the local level directly with the local budget,” he wrote.

“In the subcommittee for this bill, I had stated I was looking to start a conversation on how we can provide property tax relief for Iowans and I would be happy to take input on how to improve the bill from interested parties. Lee County officials told me their two court systems increased their cost of government, so I decided to do something about it.”

Dawson said the Senate’s bill is focused on prooperty tax rate limits.

“The bill works to regroup or consolidate general levies back under one levy and then bring down the levy rate over time, if needed. Property taxes need to be clearer, simpler, and easier for the property taxpayer to understand. We need to go back to basics and begin to diversify the system to help both taxpayers and local governments,” Dawson wrote.

Hy-Vee to donate \$1 for every reusable bag to FMAAA

FMAAA - Continued from Page 1

the FMAAA will receive a \$1 donation every time the \$2.50 reusable Red “My Heart” Bag is purchased at this location, unless otherwise directed by the customer through the Giving Tag attached to the bag.

“Hy-Vee is the sponsor for our April High School Art Exhibit in April.” said Lori Illner Greene, Executive Director of FMAAA, “We are very surprised and delighted to also be chosen as the recipients of this fundraising campaign. The money raised helps us to advance Arts and Cultural initiatives for the Community like developing creative programming for youth and adults.

The Fort Madison Area Arts Association is a nonprofit based in Fort Madison, Iowa. Founded in 1980, the FMAAA has provided a locus for area Artists and has steadily developed and supported Arts and Cultural initiatives for the region like STE(A)M Days youth classes to be held again in April and the upcoming Southeastern Iowa Spoonfest in June along with a full slate of adult and youth classes being offered this spring and summer. Very soon, participants will be able to register for classes via the FMAAA website. Learn more about the FMAAA by visiting fortmadi-sonart.com or find them on Facebook.

For more information on the Hy-Vee Reusable Bag Program, visit hy-vee.2givelo-cal.com.

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- Stay home if you are feeling sick.
- Get a vaccination/booster for any viruses circulating. In our region this includes flu and COVID-19.
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- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth whenever possible.
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- Disinfect any surfaces you frequently use, such as doorknobs, faucet handles, children’s toys and remote controls.

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