

Herren hands FD to Hannum



Photo by Chuck Vandenberg/PCC

New current Fire Chief Chad Hannum congratulates outgoing Fire Chief Joey Herren Wednesday at Herren's retirement ceremony at the Fort Madison firehouse.

LEGACY: Herren says mandate for new building is his stamp of approval

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON – If Joey Herren had his way Wednesday, he would have gone out the back door of the Fort Madison fire station, got into a personal vehicle with his wife, and went home.

Any other day, that would seem like a relatively normal occurrence, but on Wednesday it was after Herren received a ceremonial call out from LeeComm signifying the end of

his final shift after 27 years fighting fires in Lee County, the last 18 as fire chief in Fort Madison.

As Herren envisioned going out the back door to head home, newly sworn-in fire chief Chad Hannum would exit the front door and climb into the city's fire command vehicle.

Herren was celebrated Wednesday at the fire station with photos, cards, handshakes, and warm wishes for a peaceful

See LEGACY, page 6

Wolter hired as next FMCS D Superintendent

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

FORT MADISON, IA — The Fort Madison Community School District School Board has named Mike Wolter as the next district superintendent, pending board approval.

As secondary principal in Columbus CSD, Wolter has provided instructional leadership to support teaching effectiveness and student achievement, while managing the recruitment and



WOLTER

hiring for hard-to-fill teaching positions. He has also leveraged Professional Learning Communities to drive teacher collaboration and instructional improvement.

Additionally, Wolter has collaborated with students, staff, families, and the community to strengthen the school culture.

"On behalf of the School Board, I

am thrilled to announce the hiring of Mike Wolter," said Board President Josh Wykert. "After a thorough and thoughtful search process gaining valuable input from all stakeholders and community members, we are confident that Mike brings the shared vision, experience, and passion needed to lead our district into an exciting future. We look forward to working together with him to support our students, staff, and

See WOLTER, page 2

COUNTY SUPERVISORS

County gives 2nd OK to energy project ordinance

Regs for solar, wind, and battery energy still need one more OK on reading

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG
PCC EDITOR

LEE COUNTY – The Lee County Board of Supervisors approved the second reading of an ordinance that will govern the installation, maintenance, and decommissioning of energy projects in the county.

The ordinance has been in the works for more than six months and has been posted on the county's website for residents to view and comment on, but still needs one more final vote before it can be published into the county code. The ordinance would also regulate MET or Meteorological Evaluation Towers, that study wind conditions prior to construction of a wind farm.

The board also discussed resolutions that would establish fees associated with the regulations.

Several residents, including Ted Stein and Andrew Johnson of rural Lee County, spoke to supervisors at their regular meeting Tuesday afternoon about the setbacks on the ordinance.

Both men have been regular attendees of multiple meetings the county had to discuss the ordinance with voters with several project companies in attendance.

Stein said he would like the county to consider an additional debris setback of four times the height of wind turbines placed in the county.

Several companies, including Tenaska Energy, have started to look at Lee County for large scale wind projects. That project has lost some energy as of late. Supervisor Garry Seyb said he's heard the company has put the project on hold due to lack of interest by Lee County property owners.

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WEATHER

FRI 02 May.....	Partly sunny, then chance of showers, 67° F/ 46° F	
SAT 03 May.....	Showers, 61° F/ 44° F	
SUN 04 May.....	Partly sunny, 65° F/ 47° F	
IOWA LOTTERY		
DOUBLE PLAY 04/30.....	1 34 38 60 65, Powerball: 9	
LOTTO AMERICA 04/30.....	5 22 23 24 36, Star Ball: 7 All Star Bonus: 4	
LUCKY FOR LIFE 04/30.....	3 5 22 23 44, Lucky Ball: 4	
PICK 3 MIDDAY 04/30.....	2 17	
PICK 3 EVENING 04/30.....	2 8 0	
PICK 4 MIDDAY 04/30.....	8 3 3 9	
PICK 4 EVENING 04/30.....	8 7 9 8	
POWERBALL 04/30.....	12 3 57 59, Powerball: 9 Power Play: 2	

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Obituaries/From the Front

New superintendent will begin duties with district July 1

WOLTER - Continued from Page 1

community.”

Wolter previously served as assistant principal and activities director in Mediapolis CSD. He began his career in education as a math teacher and instructional coach in Fort Madison, and was named at-large state coach of the year in 2013.

Wolter is expected to receive his Ed.S. degree in the superintendency from Northwest Missouri State University in June. He also holds a master’s degree in educational leadership from Viterbo University and a bachelor’s degree in elementary education from the University of Northern Iowa.

“I’m incredibly honored and excited to be named the next superintendent of the Fort Madison Community School District,” Wolter said. “This district and community have played such an important role in my life and career, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to return and serve in this new capacity. I look forward to working alongside our dedicated staff, students, families, and community partners to continue building on the district’s strong foundation and help every student reach their full potential.”

Board members worked with Grundmeyer Leader Services to conduct the search. Final interviews were conducted on April 30.

Wolter will officially begin leading Fort Madison CSD as superintendent effective July 1, 2025.

Wykert said details of the contract would be made available as soon as all required signatures were obtained.

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OBITUARIES

WARNER E. KELSO

Warner Eugene Kelso, 84 of Keokuk, IA passed away Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at Mercy Hospital in Des Moines, IA.

He was born March 30, 1941 in Gouverneur, New York the son of Warner DeWayne and Carolyn Pickert Kelso. In 1963 Warner was united in marriage to Marlene Erickson. She survives.



KELSO

Other survivors include two sons, Warner Kelso and Eric Kelso both of Keokuk, one daughter, Anne Pilkington of Keokuk, five grandchildren, Kristine Forsythe, Nickie Peck (Aric), Harley Damico, Derek (Cassie)Kelso, Quentin Kelso (Anna Hemann) and Nicholas Bender (Hannah Phillips) and five great-grandchildren, Kegan Damico, Sawyer Kelso, Lyra Kelso and Gabriel Forsythe Nathaniel Skelton. He is also survived by two brothers, Bruce Kelso of Idaho Falls, ID, John Kelso and one sister, Carolyn Bigley.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife’s parents Warner and Eleanor Erickson, Brother-in-law, Gary Erickson

Warner and Marlene moved to Keokuk in September of 1977 from Silver Peak, Nevada.

Warner proudly served his country in the United State Navy.

He had been employed by Ferro Sil in Keokuk until its closure. He then became a contract truck driver in Iraq.

Warner was a jack of all trades, master of none. He dabbled in carpentry, tinkered with machines, fixed electrical items and always had some project going. Warner loved the outdoors and especially enjoyed fishing.

A graveside service with military rites will be held 10 a.m. Wednesday, May 7 at Keokuk National Cemetery.

Visitation will be held Tuesday, May 6 at the Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk with the family meeting with friends from 5 – 7 p.m.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.



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Obituaries

OBITUARIES

GREGORY R. MILLER

Gregory Richard Miller, 76 of Keokuk, Iowa passed away peacefully in his home, on April 29, 2025, surrounded by family.

Born on September 29, 1948 in Emmetsburg, Iowa, Greg was the son of Richard and Martha Miller. He grew up in a jailhouse, the son of a 25-year sheriff of Palo Alto County. Gregory was united in marriage to Ardella Brumm on September 2, 1967, in Curlew, Iowa. They were happily married for 57 years.

He graduated from Emmetsburg High School, later earning a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Iowa. He also earned a master's degree in Hospital Administration from the University of Minnesota. He was a CPA, held a real estate broker license and all insurance licenses. He was the CEO of Keokuk Area Hospital and First Community Bank. He ran a CPA business. He was also an entrepreneur. He served on too many community boards to mention, was a member of First Lutheran Church, Rotary, Lions Club and Elks. He was the second ever recipient of the Spirit of Keokuk Award. He was a founder and long-time supporter of the Keokuk Little League.



MILLER

He enjoyed golfing with his friends and cherished the Family Father's Day Classic with his boys and grandsons. He was an avid card collector, but more than anything he loved his family and the love of his life, Ardella.

He is survived by his wife Ardella, his daughter Tracy (Neil) Kokemuller of Johnston, IA, his sons Judson (Angela) Miller of Keokuk, IA, Michael (Katie) Miller of Geneva, IL. His grandchildren Trenton Kokemuller, Nolan Kokemuller, Noah Kokemuller, Katelyn (Devin) Diveney, Dayton (Taylor) Gibson, Blake (Mattea) Miller, Allyson (Andrew) Harris, Bryce (Mila) Miller, Emily (Corey Skinner) Gibson, Aiden Miller, Colin Miller, Owen Miller, Finley Miller, Everley Miller and Zane Miller. His great grandchildren Ella Diveney, Luke Diveney, Emma Diveney, Ada Gibson, and Loretta Harris. He is also survived by his sisters Lorraine (David) Naig and Sandi Chapman. His brother Rick (Shiela) Miller, Dr. Robert Hutchison, sisters-in-law Lou Schooley and Linda Brumm.

He was proceeded in death by his mother and father, his brother Ronald Miller, his brother- in-laws, Ronald Chapman, Gary Schooley, and Charles Brumm.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, from 9:00-11:00 am at Vigen Memorial Home in Keokuk, Iowa.

A memorial service will immediately follow at 11 am, with a private family burial.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Gregory Miller Youth Fund.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.vigenmemorialhome.com.

Pen City Current obituary policy

Pen City Current runs obituaries one time at no charge to funeral homes and they run the day they are submitted in most cases. They are also run as submitted by the funeral homes. Reposting of obituaries due to changes can only be requested by the submitting funeral home and will be assessed a \$15 reposting fee.

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OBITUARIES

D. DAVID BOYER

D. David Boyer, 71, of Ottumwa, formerly of Franklin, passed away at 4:20 p.m. Thursday, April 24, 2025 at the Southeast Iowa Regional Home Health and Hospice in West Burlington, Iowa.

Born on September 13, 1953 in Fort Madison, Iowa, the son of Delbert W. and Lorene Lillian (Wilson) Boyer. On February 24, 1973 he married Christina Luna at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Fort Madison. She preceded him in death on August 22, 2024.

Survivors include his daughter Michelle Leazer of Nashville, Tennessee; grandson Tyler David Boyer of Des Moines; and four brothers: Jerry (Tina) Boyer of Donnellson, Brad (Tammy) Boyer of Farmington, Allen Boyer of Northwest, Indiana, and Bruce (Katie) Boyer of Peoria, Illinois. Also surviving are several nieces and nephews.



BOYER

He was preceded in death by his parents; wife Christina; and son Joshua Boyer.

David was a tool and die worker at John Deere for 45 years. He served as a board member for the Community First Credit Union. He enjoyed fishing, gardening, working in his yard, traveling, telling jokes, and John Deere tractors.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sunday, May 4, 2025 at Schmitz Funeral Home in Donnellson.

Burial will be at a later date in the Evangelical Cemetery.

A memorial has been established in his memory.

Schmitz Funeral Home of Donnellson is assisting the family with arrangements.

Online condolences may be made to the family at www.schmitzfuneralhomes.com.

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Sports/Education News

Hound boys win Keokuk Relays

LADY HOUNDS 2ND: Central Lee runners post more personal records

BY PCC STAFF

KEOKUK – The Fort Madison boys’ track team captured 1st Place at the Keokuk Chiefs’ Relays Tuesday night behind seven titles. The Lady Hounds finished in second behind Mt. Pleasant as the season begins to wind down.

Nolan Guzman ran a season best in the 800 to take the title with a 1:58.52. That’s a top 40 time in the state per Varsity Bound. Guzman was also part of the 4x800 Bloodhound squad that came in first with an 8:49.59 with Peyton Lambert, Mason McLey, and Riley Tripp.

Fort Madison also got titles from Brayton Schneider 145’11” in the discus, Urijah Brooks in the shot at 54’1”. Brandon Klein took three titles in 101, 201, and 401 wheelchair events.

The Lady Hounds got first-place finishes from Avery Rump in the 1500, who just missed breaking the 5’ mark with a 5:00.57. Jordyn Marshall was 2nd with a 5:10.33, both season-best times. Addison Rump won the 3000 at 11:21.00, which was her best time of the year.

The girls also won the 4x800 with Marshall, Mara Smith, McKayla Schinstock, and Avery Rump at 10:00.29, which is a top 40 time in the state. The Lady Hounds also won the distance medley with Lillian Gelsthorpe, Dayonna Davis, Schinstock, and Mara Smith running a 4:32.40. Other titles for Fort Madison were Brylie Lorence in the discuss at 118’8”. She was second in the shotput with a toss of 43’3.5”.

Central Lee’s boys got 1st-place finishes from Kegan Damico with a 58.14 in the 400 hurdles. That time is his best on the season. The Hawks had personal bests in the 4x400, which finished runner up with Brayden Wyrick, Brett Cook, Riley Salter-Rickman, and Damico at 3:39.15.

For the Lady Hawks, Allison Gruntmeir was 3rd in the high jump at 4’10” and Aubrey Weber was

third in the discus at 105’1”.

Fort Madison girls finished 109 points behind Mt. Pleasant’s 156. Central Lee had 23.5 for 8th place. Keokuk finished with 89.5 in 3rd place. For the boys, Fort Madison finished with 126, ahead of Keokuk’s 122. Central Lee had 43 points for 6th place overall.

Keokuk Relay results (top 5 finishes)
Fort Madison Girls
400 meters: Ellie Huebner 1:08.07 (5th)
800 meters: McKayla Schinstock 2:32.11 (2nd), Addison Rump 2:33.81 (5th)
1500 meters: Avery Rump 5:00.57 (1st), Jordyn Marshall 5:10.33 (2nd)
3000 meters: Addison Rump 11:21 (1st)
400 hurdles: Lyla Smith 1:14.50 (3rd)
4x200: Mia Mason, Hailey Kemper, Olivia Buckner, Emma Snaadt 1:55.61 (5th)
4x400: Esther Gnann, Addison Rump, Mason, Marshall 4:37.41 (3rd)
4x800: Marshall, Mara Smith, Schinstock, Avery Rump 10:00.53 (1st)
Sprint Med.: Lillian Gelsthorpe, Buckner, Dayonna Davis, Smith 1:58.06 (2nd)
Distance Med.: Gelsthorpe, Davis, Schinstock, M. Smith 4:32.40 (1st)
Shuttle hurdle: Jordyn Grisham, L. Smith, Malee-na Bentley, Alexa Walz 1:17.67 (4th)
Shot put: Brylie Lorence 43’3.5” (2nd)
Discus: Lorence 118’8”.

Central Lee
3000 meters: Macy Anderson 12:44.87 (4th)
400 hurdles: Kamryn Cox 1:17.52 (4th), Ava Washburn 1:18.93 (5th)
Shuttle hurdle: Julia Fraise, Washburn, Cox, Allison Gruntmeir 1:19.94 (5th)
High jump: Gruntmeir 4’10” (3rd)
Discus: Aubrey Weber 105’1” (3rd)

Boys results (top 5)
Fort Madison
101 wheel chair: Brandon Klein 25.59 (1st)
200 meters: Dayton Lamar 23.68 (4th)
201 wheel chair: Klein 52.88 (1st)
400 meters: Peyton Lambert 52.15 (1st), Mason McLey 52.61 (3rd)
401 wheel chair: Klein 1:47.71 (1st)
800 meters: Nolan Guzman 1:58.52 (1st)
1600 meters: Riley Tripp 4:42.89 (2nd), Calvin Johnson 5:12.96
3200: Johnson 11:27.00 (3rd)
110 hurdles: Galvin Callahan 15.66 (2nd)
400 hurdles: Lambert 1:01.85 (4th)
4x800: Lambert, McLey, Tripp, Guzman 8:49.59 (1st)
Shuttle hurdle: Callahan, Rainer Johnson, Hunter McGinity-McKasson, Lucius Zimmerman 1:11.62 (4th)
High Jump: Kenden Bowie 6’0” (1st), Hunter Smrt 6’0” (2nd)
Long Jump: Lamar 21’4” (2nd)
Shot put: Urijah Brooks 54’1” (1st), Brayton Schneider 39’11.5” (4th)
Discus: Schneider 145’11” (1st)

Central Lee
400 meters: Brayden Wyrick 54.83 (4th)
800 meters: Brett Cook 2:08.04 (4th)
400 hurdles: Kegan Damico 58.24 (1st) PR
4x100: Evan Fogarty, Will Ferris, Blake Davis, Luke Kruse 46.97 (5th)
4x400: Wyrick, Cook, Riley Salter-Rickman, Damico 3:39.15 (2nd) PR
Sprint Med: Kruse, Damico, Wyrick, Cook 1:41.15 (2nd) PR
Distance Med: Blake Davis, Evan Fogarty, Salter-Rickman, Austin Fogarty 4:17.05 (5th)

SCC sets graduation dates, times

WEST BURLINGTON - Below is a list of Southeastern Community College’s graduation dates, times, and locations.

Ceremonies will take place in-person at the following locations and livestreamed at facebook.com/scciowa.

Respiratory Care Program Pinning Ceremony
Monday, May 12
6 p.m.
SCC Health Professions Center - Main Floor
West Burlington Campus
High School Equivalency Diploma
Tuesday, May 13
7 p.m.
Smith Activity Hall
West Burlington Campus
Keokuk Nurse Pinning Ceremony
Wednesday, May 14
3 p.m.
New Testament Christian Church
Keokuk Graduation
Wednesday, May 14
7 p.m.
SCC Keokuk Campus - outdoors
In the event of inclement weather, the Keokuk ceremony will be moved to the Grand Theatre.

West Burlington Nurse Pinning Ceremony
Thursday, May 15
3 p.m.
Loren Walker Arena
West Burlington Campus
West Burlington Graduation
Thursday, May 15
7 p.m.
Burlington Memorial Auditorium

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FRIDAY	
TRACTOR/GAS ENGINE REGISTRATION	8 AM
TOWN WIDE YARD SALES	8 AM
FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS	8 AM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AT BANK	9AM-3PM
LIVE MUSIC IN SHELTER HOUSE	6 PM- 9 PM
BY JIVE RADIO	
SATURDAY	
BISCUITS & GRAVY IN FIRE STATION	7 AM
BY FIRE DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY	
TOWN WIDE YARD SALES	8 AM
FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS	8 AM
FLAG RAISING BY BOY SCOUTS	8:30 AM
STATE HISTORICAL BUS	8:30 AM
HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM AT BANK	9AM-12PM
PEDAL TRACTOR PULLS	9 AM
SIDEWALK CHALK DRAWING CONTEST	10 AM-12 PM
K9 DEMONSTRATIONS(SMALL DIAMOND)	10:30 AM
CUSTOM CARS & PICKUPS	10 AM - 3 PM
TRACTOR PARADE	1 PM
SILVER STEPPERS	1:30 PM
LIVE AUCTION IN SHELTER HOUSE	2:30 PM
LIVE MUSIC IN SHELTER HOUSE	6 PM - 9 PM
BY JEFFERSON CONNECTION	
SUNDAY	
BREAKFAST AT CHURCH	7:30 AM
FLEA MARKET/CRAFTS	8 AM
CHURCH IN THE PARK	10 AM
HAM BALL DINNER AT CHURCH	11 AM
TRACTOR PARADE	1 PM

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Classifieds/Public Notices

PEN CITY CURRENT CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
West Burlington
Special City Council
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday,
April 2, 2025

The West Burlington City Council met in Special Session on Wednesday, April 2, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. at West Burlington City Hall, 122 Broadway Street, West Burlington, Iowa, with Mayor Ron Teater presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Andy Crowner, John Johnson, Melanie Young, Therese Lees, and Ringo Covert

MEMBERS ABSENT:
ALSO PRESENT:
Mayor Ron Teater, Police Chief Jesse Logan, City Clerk Kelly Fry, and City Administrator Gregg Mandsager

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL
PERFECTING & APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Lees, seconded by Young, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried by the following votes:
Ayes: Crowner, John-

son, Young, Lees, and Covert

PUBLIC HEARING
West Burlington - Proposed Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Mayor Teater opened the Public Hearing on the Proposed Property Tax Levy for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 at 5:31 p.m.

When the Public Hearing date was set on February 26th, the Council intended for the maximum levy rate to be set at \$10.25, which would allow the Council to approve an increase in the levy from the current \$10.10 up to \$10.25.

Due to changes in the Iowa Department of Management's software, the maximum levy rate was inadvertently published at \$10.10. In a memo to the City Council, Finance Manager Moore explained that in the previous version of the software, the maximum levy amount could be entered directly on the "Max Levy" page, which would then lock the figure. The updated system now requires the property tax levy amount

to be entered on the Property Tax page, which also determines revenue projections for the General Fund and Special Revenue Fund. While working to finalize numbers in preparation for adopting the budget, various levy amounts were modeled to evaluate potential scenarios. At the time of submission, the Property Tax page reflected a levy of \$10.10 rather than the intended \$10.25. As a result, the proposed levy was submitted at \$10.10.

The proposed budget has been calculated using the \$10.10 levy rate. The \$10.25 rate would have increased the proposed property tax levy and corresponding revenue, contingent on Council direction and support. Since the proposed maximum levy rate was submitted at \$10.10, the Council is not able to increase the rate beyond that figure.

To address the shortfall, the council can consider the use of Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and adjust the levy in the following fiscal year as needed.

There were no verbal or written comments received during the Public Hearing. Mayor Teater closed the Public Hearing at 5:33 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

CITIZEN INQUIRIES
ADJOURN

Moved by Lees, seconded by Crowner, to adjourn at 5:35 p.m. Motion carried by the following votes:

Ayes: Crowner, Johnson, Young, Lees, and Covert Approved
Ron Teater, Mayor
Kelly D. Fry, City Clerk

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From the Front

Herren has a bug in retirement

LEGACY - Continued from Page 1

retirement...and cake. Although he said the pomp and circumstance were overblown, the retirement is coming at the right time.

“It’s time,” he said. “I’m good.”

His legacy was solidified by not only the 15 full-time firefighters who stood behind in him in multiple photographs Wednesday, but also by the mandate from Fort Madison voters to build a new fire station. A project that’s been in the works for more than 20 years.

“That’s the legacy. That tells me they respect the work we do and the fire department we are,” Herren said. “We got 70% approval on that and you just don’t get that. It tells me we’ve done a good job. It’s a stamp of sorts.”

The outgoing chief started his career with the Wever Fire Department as a volunteer and then came to Fort Madison as a firefighter where he worked his way up through the ranks. He said battling budget issues and property tax issues, while trying to provide top-level service to the people of Fort Madison and surrounding areas has been his priority the last decade and a half as chief.

But he said at 62, he’s not close to being done.

“I’m going to do something else,” he said. “I’m only 62. I covered for my son coaching a t-ball team while he was away a couple weeks ago and, boy, I really got the bug.”

Herren has been visible on sidelines and in dug-outs for decades and said coaching, or possibly even officiating, may be in his future.

With Herren stepping aside, as quietly as he could, Hannum comes into the position with a new fire station on the horizon and some fairly large shoes to fill.

Hannum was sworn in earlier Wednesday with a crowded house, including his family, at Fort Madison’s City Hall. The entire FMFD staff was in attendance as well as representatives from the Fort Madison Police Department, city officials, and friends.

Hannum said he has about 14 years left per mandated retirement formulas and he envisions at least 10 as the city’s fire chief.

He said leadership roles have been part of just about every organization he’s been a part of and the fire department he joined in 2003 is no different.

“I went into an interview with a panel for the lieutenant’s position and I had a cover sheet with Joey’s month and year of retirement. I told them my goal was to be lieutenant and then to replace Joey as fire chief when he retired,” Hannum said.

“I think that took them back a little, but I’ve always gravitated toward leadership positions.”

One of his top priorities will be to identify resources the department needs and to make sure firefighters have everything they need on a daily basis. He also wants to maintain the level of character already in place.

“That’s a credit to the guys that are working the line every day. And obviously for the last 18 years, that’s a big part of Chief Herren’s legacy,” Hannum said.

“With that being said, you know the old saying if it’s not broke, don’t fix it.”

Hannum said he’s off and running with staff meetings and looking at different areas of fire operations.

“We’re going to do a review and, if things are going well, we aren’t going to change it and we’ll keep going. The question I will ask of each area is what are we doing well and what, if anything, can we do better,” he said.

Redundance in leadership is also something he wants to continue to build on so there are always people in the wings who can do the job if someone has to step away from whatever reason.

The new fire station will create a more modern sense of firefighting preparedness and Hannum is looking forward to walking into that new facility when it’s complete. He said the facility has been built multiple times on the tabletop over the past 25 years, but is finally coming to fruition.

“I absolutely love the fire service. I am a Fort Madison guy through and through, and I view Fort Madison as my town to protect. No different than the other 15 guys that are down at the firehouse. I think they all can echo that same sentiment.”

Opioid funds to pay for jail counselors

COUNTY - Continued from Page 1

The county is looking at a possible additional solar field that will help power a nitrogen facility proposed by GoSolar. The project would help provide energy in the form of nitrogen to the Iowa Fertilizer Co. Rumors are also circulating about a possible data center from the same company. Both projects would be in the Green Bay bottoms area.

Stein said he’s read the complete draft ordinance. He said research on debris field from wind towers that have fallen are as much as four times the height of the towers.

He also said the ordinance doesn’t address shadow flicker, which is the visual effect of rapidly changing light and dark patterns caused by the rotating blades of a wind turbine casting shadows on nearby buildings or structures.

“They should be able to consider shadow flicker in their design and make sure it’s not going to land on occupied structures,” Stein said.

In a workshop following the board meeting, Southeast Regional Planning’s Jarred Lassiter said regulating shadow flicker is extremely difficult and comes down to enforcement. He said general language that guides project developers to consider the effects could lead to better management of the problem, rather than specific language.

Supervisor Chuck Holmes asked if Stein is wanting a larger setback for wind towers.

“I’m suggesting if we have evidence that debris is landing farther than one and a half or 110% away from the tower, that it should be considered,” he said.

Holmes said that could be prohibitive on the project.

“I suppose it would be, but it’s not your job to make it easier for them,” Stein said.

Holmes also pressed Stein on the legitimacy of four times the height of the tower for a debris field and said no other county in the state has that kind of a setback. Stein said he could produce evidence that shows debris has flown that far.

“If we’re the only ones that are right, then we’re right,” Stein said.

The board will issue the final reading on the ordinance at its next meeting.

In other action, the board:

- approved the 2025-26 fiscal year budget.
- approved an application for opioid funds to be used to hire a counselor at the Lee County Jail. The board is now required to advertise the position that will likely be an employee of the Lee County Sheriff’s Department.
- approved a \$44,000 change order for low voltage cabling at the Meller Family Health Center currently under construction in Fort Madison.

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