

April 1, 2025

The Des Moines County Board of Supervisors met in special session at the Court House in Burlington at 9:00 AM on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, with Vice-Chair Shane McCampbell and Member Tom Broeker present. Chairman Jim Cary was absent. This meeting was also held electronically via Webex and YouTube live streaming. Public input was available through board email or call in.

The pledge of allegiance was conducted.

A public hearing was held on the proposed property tax levy. Broeker motioned to open the public hearing and was seconded by McCampbell.

McCampbell explained the levy rates remain the same as the previous tax year. Tom Upton, Mediapolis, stated that he opposes any property tax increase. Linda Davis, 2555 Diamond Ridge Road, had questions regarding the County's position on the City of Burlington's proposed franchise fee. Broeker explained the franchise fee and how it effects the County's local option sales tax. Greg Mangold, 2216 Seneca, handed out a chart that showed urban tax dollars levied going down. He explained that there is an increase for residential property owners, but not as much as the letter reflected. He showed concern over the proposed revenues being less than the proposed expenditures and asked if we had a fund balance policy. Broeker explained to him the impact that the hospital value had on the budget and explained that we show a relatively low fund balance, but it will come in better than budgeted. Martha Wolf, 206 N. 4th, showed concern over the Board's budgeting policy and the treatment of the library. Broeker explained that the county is comfortable with a 15% ending fund balance and explained the requirements of each fund. McCampbell explained that the county was using forward thinking when they didn't budget to spend Great River dollars before we received the funds. He feels that the county has set high standards to protect the county from developers blowing through the county putting up anything they wanted to. He feels like the board is doing the best that they can. Chad Bird, 2716 Clearview Dr, thanked the County Board of Supervisors for keeping the levy rate the same. He explained that the letter assumed a 10% increase in value, which did not happen. His combined taxes went down this year. Cevin Cox, 2101 Agency St., explained that any tax increase is theft. They have five children and teach them about taxes and budgeting. They are getting taxed out of their home. McCampbell explained that the lion's share of taxes go to the school. He explained that the county has been steady on the tax levy. He said that the board tells the Department Heads in the budget kick-off meeting to only budget what they really need. Broeker explained that over the years, the county departments have downsized due to attrition. The levy was 8.75 when he got here, and now it's 6.81. He explained that they are not afraid to say no to budget requests. McCampbell and Broeker explained the counties budgeting process. Niki Cox, 2101 Agency St., asked if the public has a chance to have a voice in the budget. McCampbell explained that all the budget hearings are open to the public and anyone is welcome to attend. John Billups, 800 N. Front, explained that the mailers were well intended, but poorly executed. The proposed increase in the notice did not happen. He thanked the board. Tom Upton, Mediapolis, appreciates what the board is doing and would like to see a mailer that says the taxes are lowering.

McCampbell asked if anyone else wanted to say anything. He asked if the Auditor's office had received any comments. There were none.

Broeker made a motion to close the public hearing and McCampbell seconded.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

This Board meeting is recorded. The meeting minutes and audio are posted on the county's website www.dmcountry.com.

April 8, 2025
Date Approved

Cheryl McVey
Attest: Deputy Auditor

Shane A. McCasbelle
Vice-Chairman