

Des Moines County Conference Board

Courthouse – 513 N Main Burlington, Iowa 52601
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Meeting of Wednesday, February 25, 2026

On Wednesday, February 25, 2026, the members of the Des Moines County Conference Board assembled in the County Supervisor meeting room, Second Floor of the Courthouse in Burlington, Iowa. Chairperson, Supervisor Shane McCampbell attending the meeting via telephone, Supervisor Broeker was selected to run the meeting and called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Those Board members present were:

Mayors:

Burlington	Jon Billups
Danville	Jerry Strause
Mediapolis	Charles Massner
West Burlington	Therese Lees – Mayor Pro-Tem

School Board Representatives:

Burlington	Will Vance
Danville	Tanner Thomann
West Burlington	Cale Heitmeier

Supervisors:

Des Moines County	Tom Broeker
	Jim Cary
	Shane McCampbell – (via telephone)

Others:

County Assessor	Matt Warner
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No public or press was present.

Supervisor Broeker declared a quorum.

Motion by Strause, second by Heitmeier, to approve the agenda. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Vance, second by Strause to approve the minutes of the last meeting held March 18, 2025. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Strause, second by Heitmeier to approve the Board of Review hiring counsel outside of the County Attorney's Office with the approval of the County Attorney's Office if the need occurs. The

individual votes were as follows: Supervisors – All aye; Mayors – All aye; School Board – All aye. The units of the Board voted as follows: Supervisors – All aye; Mayors – All aye; School Board Representatives – Aye. Motion carried.

Next agenda item concerned the Board of Review members. Warner explained the role of the Board of Review as an advocate for the taxpayer in appeals of property value and classification. Warner stated that board member Barbara Kelley had resigned from her position. Warner explained that he had placed the job opening on the county website. Board members are appointed to a six-year term. Warner stated that at this time he did not have a recommendation for the Conference Board. He encouraged the board to provide him with names of potential candidates. Warner said he would like to have a name before the next Conference Board meeting for consideration and appointment to the Board of Review.

Motion by Billups, second by Heitmeier to accept the resignation of Barbara Kelley from the Des Moines County Board of Review. The individual votes were as follows: Supervisors – All aye; Mayors – All aye; School Board – All aye. The units of the Board voted as follows: Supervisors – All aye; Mayors – All aye; School Board Representatives – Aye. Motion carried.

Next item for discussion was the 2026–2027 proposed budget. Warner began by referencing the overview page of the proposed budget. Warner stated the proposed expenditure of \$713,756 included a \$30,000 allocation for the purchase of a new vehicle. Warner stated that the \$30,000 would show as an expense and would come from existing fund balance and would not be levied. Warner explained the money had been budgeted over the last 10 years for this expenditure. Warner highlighted the proposed tax asking of \$933,756, which reflected \$250,000 reserved for the 2031 residential and 2033 commercial review contract signed in 2025. Warner stated that this would result in a levy of .48529.

Next, Warner presented the board with an analysis of the market value for the position of Assessor for Des Moines County. Warner stated that he was appreciative of past boards' commitment to keeping compensation for the assessor position equitable with peers. Warner stated he used the recent ISAA FYE2026 salary survey and comparable counties of similar size and valuation. He stated the summary outlined current market position, office budget comparisons, and efficiency metrics using taxable value for consistency. He stated the recommendation aligns with comparable counties while maintaining the office's fiscally responsible budget position. Discussion followed.

Heitmeier pointed out that the proposed salary would align with the median range of salaries of comparable counties. He also questioned whether unknown increases in other counties for this budget cycle would result in the Des Moines County position falling below the median again next year. Warner stated that he felt the proposed salary would be adequate to maintain a position near the median of comparable counties moving forward. Broeker commented about the state equalization of values process and how the Assessor's Office had done a good job of avoiding equalization in the past. He stated that this might not be the easiest path but resulted in the most fair and equitable assessments of property.

Warner stated that compensation for the Chief Deputy had been set at 75% of the assessor's salary and the second deputy at 70% of the assessor's salary. Warner proposed moving the second deputy position to 72.5% for the next budget. Warner then highlighted changes to other line items. The expenditure for assessor vehicles would be used to replace the 2014 vehicle. Warner stated that he would likely post the vehicle for sale on GovDeals.com, as he felt it would bring more money than trading it into the dealership. He stated that he would like to spend under the allocated amount.

Vance questioned what the use of the expert appraisal line item was. Warner stated that during appeal cases it is often prudent to hire a third-party appraisal for assistance in defending the assessed value in PAAB and district court appeals.

Warner then discussed the legal and court-related services line item. Warner stated that the Assessor's Office and the County Attorney's Office had an agreement to allocate \$15,000 annually for the County Attorney to assist the Board of Review with legal services. Warner stated that he had spoken with County Attorney Lisa Schaefer about the need to make changes to this agreement. Warner stated that the need to hire outside counsel for assistance in representing the Board of Review had become necessary. For this reason, the allocation that the County Attorney's Office previously received would be used for representation outside the County Attorney's Office. Warner stated that Schaefer verbally agreed and would be providing a letter acknowledging this and allowing the Board of Review to hire outside counsel. Warner stated that this line item would need to be increased to \$30,000 as a result.

Following discussion on the budget and salary recommendation, Motion by Strause, second by Heitmeier, to approve the proposed budget with an additional \$250,000 reserved for future reappraisal projects: budget expenditure amount of \$713,756 with a tax asking of \$933,756 (\$904,479 to be raised by taxation and \$29,277 in utility tax replacement excise taxes), with a levy of .48529. The individual votes were as follows: Supervisors – All aye; Mayors – All aye; School Board – All aye. The units of the Board voted as follows: Supervisors – All aye; Mayors – All aye; School Board Representatives – Aye. Motion carried.

The budget was unanimously approved for publication. It was noted by Supervisor Broeker that the budget could be lowered at the public hearing but could not be raised.

Motion by Broeker, second by Strause to set the date for public hearing on the 2026–2027 budget for March 18 at 5:15 p.m. for the next Conference Board meeting. All aye, motion carried.

Motion by Broeker, second by Thoman to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 p.m. All aye, motion carried.

, Chairman

Matthew J Warner, Clerk

Date