

Minutes of the Bremer County Conference Board
February 5, 2025, 4:30 p.m.
1st Floor Meeting Room - Bremer County Courthouse

The Bremer County Conference Board met on the 5th day of February, 2025 in the multi-purpose room of the Bremer County Courthouse in Waverly, IA.

Chairman Dewey Hildebrandt called the meeting to order @ 4:30pm.

Roll Call of members present:

Board of Education

Janesville CSD, Tracy Meyer

Wapsie Valley CSD, Steve Aiello

Tripoli CSD, Kelby Bergmann

Board of Supervisors

District 1, Bob Brunkhorst

District 2, Corey Cerwinski

District 3, Dewey Hildebrandt

Mayors

Denver, Rodney Diercks

Plainfield, Tom Geise

Readlyn, Dan Wedemeier

Sumner, Brian Bockhaus

Waverly, Tim Kangas (Mayor Pro Tem)

Also present: - Bremer County Assessor Staff: Aaron Betts, Jill Eckenrod, Heather Moe and Thomas Bovy.

It is determined a quorum was established.

Hildebrandt reviewed with members voting action. Any action taken by the conference board, the mayors are one voting unit, the school boards are one voting unit and the board of supervisors are one voting unit, each unit having a single vote. No action is valid except by the vote of not less than two out of the three units. Two members of a unit must be present for unit to vote. Hildebrandt also explained voice vote items versus roll call items. Roll call vote clearly indicates and makes public the vote of each individual member with votes shown in minutes. No questions asked. Betts commented Kangas is able to vote being Mayor Pro Tem per Iowa Code and Administrative rules.

Hildebrandt asked Betts if any changes to the agenda. Betts had none. Hildebrandt asked for motion to approve the agenda.

Motion By: Giese to approve agenda.

Second: Aiello

All ayes, Motion carried.

Hildebrandt asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 20th, 2024 Conference Board meeting.

Motion By: Wedemeier to approve minutes.

Second: Meyer

No further discussion.

All ayes, Motion carried.

Hildebrandt asked if there was any old business. None presented.

Hildebrandt asked if there was any public comment. None presented.

Betts thanked the Conference Board members attending for their time. Staff was introduced. Betts gave an overview of 2024 reappraisal and 2025 revaluation by classification. Geise inquired about valuation of agricultural buildings by classification. Residential classified property's buildings and based on market, agricultural classified buildings are based on productivity Betts commented. Hildebrandt pointed out this is by Iowa Code.

Motion By: Geise to approve annual report as mailed out.

Second: Cerwinske

Further discussion. Geise asked if any word on property tax reform, budgets are tight for small towns. Betts stated should talk with legislators on concerns. Cerwinske stated legislation is looking to have a major overhaul. Assessment limitations, construction versus revaluation growth were discussed.

All ayes, Motion carried.

Hildebrandt proceeded to discuss FYE 2026 proposed budget. Betts discussed the overall budget and expenditures as presented. Salary and benefits primary changes. Majority of health insurance increase is from an employee moving from single to family plan. Expenditures remaining relatively the same as prior year. Betts is working on decreasing fund balance gradually and projecting to do this over the next five years. Betts hopes to gradually increase levied dollars while spending down fund balance and keep property tax dollars relatively stable if possible. Brunkhorst asked on future large expenditures such as another reappraisal project that would occur. Betts stated looking to proceed with this more in-house with a possible commercial / industrial reappraisal in the future but not in the near future. No further questions.

Motion By: Geise to approve FYE 2026 budget expenditures and salaries as presented.
Second: Cerwinske

Discussion among units.

Board of Education members present voted unanimously.	
Board of Education vote	Aye
Board of Supervisors members present voted unanimously.	
Board of Supervisors vote	Aye
Mayors present voted unanimously.	
Mayors vote	Aye

Hildebrandt asked for approval of budget for publication.

Motion By: Brunkhorst to approve publication

Second: Wedemeier

Discussion among units.

Board of Education members present voted unanimously.	
Board of Education vote	Aye
Board of Supervisors members present voted unanimously.	
Board of Supervisors vote	Aye
Mayors present voted unanimously.	
Mayors vote	Aye

Hildebrandt asked for discussion on public hearing date for FYE 2026 budget. Betts suggested Wednesday, February 26th, at 4:30.

Motion by: Brunkhorst to set public hearing date Wednesday, February 26th, at 4:30 same location.

Second: Kangas

Discussion among units.

Board of Education members present voted unanimously.	
Board of Education vote	Aye
Board of Supervisors members present voted unanimously.	
Board of Supervisors vote	Aye
Mayors present voted unanimously.	
Mayors vote	Aye

Other business discussed.

Betts informed the board that no Board of Review or Examining Board appointments are needed for this year.

Betts informed the board that Roger Shaffer's appointment for Examining Board will expire 12-31-2025, this is Board of Supervisor's appointee.

Betts informed the board that Pete Lampe's appointment for Board of Review will expire 12-31-2025, this is School Board's appointee.

Betts discussed use of outside counsel by Board of Review. Any use of outside counsel needs to be approved by Bremer County Attorney. Outside counsel is being used for current district court case with Walmart. Smaller cases usually handled by the Bremer County Attorney and Bremer County Assessor's Office.

Motion By: Aiello to approve use of outside counsel for the Board of Review as recommended by the Bremer County Attorney's Office.

Second: Bockhaus

Discussion among units.

Board of Education members present voted unanimously.

Board of Education vote

Aye

Board of Supervisors members present voted unanimously.

Board of Supervisors vote

Aye

Mayors present voted unanimously.

Mayors vote

Aye

Hildebrandt asked if there was any other business or questions.

Hildebrandt asked for motion to adjourn.

Motion By: Wedemeier to adjourn

Second: Meier

All ayes, Motion carried to adjourn at 5:06 p.m.

Dewey L. Hildebrandt Date: 2/26/2025
Dewey Hildebrandt, Chairman
Bremer County Conference Board

Aaron V. Betts Date: 2-26-25
Aaron V. Betts, Clerk
Bremer County Assessor