

**Minutes of the Bremer County Conference Board  
February 4, 2026, 4:30 p.m.  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor Meeting Room - Bremer County Courthouse**

The Bremer County Conference Board met on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2026 in the multi-purpose room of the Bremer County Courthouse in Waverly, IA.

Chairman Bob Brunkhorst called the meeting to order @ 4:30pm.

Brunkhorst Roll Call of members present:

Board of Education

Denver CSD, Ryan Wirtjes

Janesville CSD, Tracy Meyer

Wapsie Valley CSD, Steve Aiello

Waverly Shell Rock Community Schools, Eric Eckerman

Board of Supervisors

District 1, Bob Brunkhorst

District 2, Corey Cerwinski

Mayors

Denver, Rodney Diercks

Janesville, David Beenblossom

Readlyn, Dan Wedemeier

Sumner, Brian Bockhaus

Tripoli, Daniel Kalkbrenner

Waverly, Brent Jones (Mayor Pro Tem)

It is determined a quorum was established.

Brunkhorst asked Betts for staff introductions. Bremer County Assessor Staff present: Aaron Betts - Assessor, Jill Eckenrod – Chief Deputy Assessor, Thomas Bovy – Deputy Assessor and Elizabeth Linden – Office Clerk. Heather Moe – Assessor Assistant / Credits and Exemptions Coordinator not present.

Brunkhorst asked Betts to explain the Conference Board make up and voting procedures. The Conference Board consists of three voting units: The Board of Supervisors, the Mayors, and a School Board member. A quorum exists when at least two of the three voting units are represented by at least two members. Each unit has one vote, and no action is valid unless at least two units vote. Votes are determined by the majority within each unit; if a unit's members are tied, that unit does not cast a vote on the matter.

Betts further 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 the minutes. No questions asked.

Brunkhorst asked for motion to approve the agenda.

Motion By: Aiello to approve agenda.

Second: Wedemeier

All ayes, Motion carried.

Brunkhorst asked for a motion to approve the minutes of February 26th, 2025 Conference Board meeting.

Motion By: Beenblossom to approve minutes.

Second: Meyer

No further discussion.

All ayes, Motion carried.

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

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

Brunkhorst asked Betts to give overview of the Conference Board Report mailed out. Betts began by thanking the Conference Board members for attending. Betts handed out an omitted page of the Conference Board report and then proceeded with the highlights. Betts gave an overview of 2025 and 2026 valuations and office updates. Wedemeier inquired about ag land productivity and rollback effects.

Motion By: Cerwinske to approve annual report.

Second: Eckerman

All ayes, Motion carried.

Brunkhorst proceeded to discuss FYE 2027 proposed budget. Betts discussed the overall budget, salary and expenditures as presented in line-item report. In the past four years, line items have been adjusted to reflect actual and projected cost, budget review is a continually process. Salary, benefits, software, and data processing are the primary changes. The property tax asking of \$595,000 which equates to a levy rate of \$.36736.

Brunkhorst asked on ending balance. Betts explained current year expenditures and tax askings are budgeted off actual estimated expenses. Expenses and tax askings are not inflated but realistic. This puts future budgets in good standing for potential budget cap restrictions. Brunkhorst further asked on future costs. Betts stated he is looking to proceed with this more in-house property reviews with aerial imagery, street level imagery, change finder tool and other methods with lower cost than a reappraisal project. A portion of the ending balance can cover these costs and may be considered for transfer to unreserved / designated budget line.

Wedemeier inquired about Beacon website, who pays and do all counties have Beacon website. Betts stated many jurisdictions have Beacon site; others have another vendor host. Assessment expense fund pays majority of the cost with a portion paid by the GIS department. Other jurisdictions could handle funding differently. No further questions.

Motion By: Aiello to approve FYE 2027 budget expenditures and salaries as presented.  
Second: Jones

Further discussion on salaries. Brunkhorst asked Betts to give an overview of request for each position. Betts stated salaries by position were looked at by ISAA salary survey and recent salary study done by Bremer County. Assessor (\$108,750) 3.75% base salary increase plus additional salary step, Chief Deputy (\$78,900) moving to 76% assessor base salary, Deputy (\$65,400) 63% assessor base salary (gradually moving to 65% level), Assessor Assistant (\$63,300) 61% assessor base salary.

Cerwinski discussed the Assessor position percent growth compared to other departments over the last 10 plus years. Cerwinski also brought up if sharing of assessors been discussed. Betts stated in the past this was not a possibility but with recent legislative changes, a 28E agreements could now be entered in between jurisdictions. To date this has not happened. Aiello and Eckerman inquired about salary scale and percentages, Aiello did not recall approval in 2022. Further discussion. Betts will follow up showing original scale approved versus current.

Discussion among units on FYE 2027 proposed budget.

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

All ayes, Motion carried.

Brunkhorst 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

All ayes, Motion carried.

Brunkhorst asked to set public hearing date for FYE 2027 budget, a date suggested by

Betts, Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 4:30, same location.  
Motion by: Wedemeier to set public hearing date Wednesday, February 25, 2026, at 4:30, same location.  
Second: Meyer

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  
All ayes, Motion carried.

Other business discussed.

Board of Review term for Pete Lampe expired December 31, 2025. Betts reached out to Lampe, Lampe is willing to continue to serve. Betts informed the Board this is a Conference Board appointment as a whole. In the past each Board of Review member was appointed by a unit.

Motion by: Wedemeier to have Pete Lampe serve Board of Review six-year term.  
Second: Eckerman

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  
All ayes, Motion carried.

Examining Board term for Roger Shaffer expired December 31, 2025. Betts reached out to Shaffer, Shaffer is willing to continue to serve. Betts informed the Board this is a Conference Board appointment by unit and Shaffer represents Board of Supervisors. Brunkhorst motion to approve Roger Shaffer as Examining Board representative for Supervisors.

Second: Cerwinske  
Motion carried for Supervisors.

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 for large, more specialized appeals, for example district court case with Walmart. Smaller cases usually handled by the Bremer County Attorney and Bremer County Assessor's Office. The use of outside counsel and legal expenses each year also must be reported to the IDR.

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

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

All ayes, Motion carried.

Brunkhorst asked if there was any other business or questions.

Hearing none, Brunkhorst asked for motion to adjourn.

Motion By: Wedemeier to adjourn

Second: Jones

All ayes, Motion carried to adjourn at 5:25 p.m.

Bob Brunkhorst Date: 2-25-26

Bob Brunkhorst, Chairman  
Bremer County Conference Board

Aaron V. Betts Date: 2-25-26

Aaron V. Betts, Clerk  
Bremer County Assessor

