

–CONFERENCE BOARD MINUTES –

The Kossuth County Conference Board met on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 4:00 P.M. in the Supervisor’s meeting room in the Kossuth County Court House.

Those members present were:

Board of Supervisors: Carter Nath – 1st District, Howard Haas – 2nd District, Josh Waechter – 3rd District and Amber Garman – 5th District.

Mayors: Rick Murphy – Algona; Tom Johnson – Bancroft; Randy Wood – Burt (via Microsoft Teams); Kevin McPeak - LuVerne.

School Board: Phil Albers – North Kossuth; Art Pixler – North Union; Chris Montag – West Bend.

Also in attendance were – Brandon Ostwald, Nancy Dixon-Knecht, Carissa Sisson & Luke Snyder.

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:01 p.m.
2. Assessor Brandon Ostwald introduced new Mayors & School Board Members.
3. Motion by Mayor Tom Johnson to approve the agenda. School Arthur Pixler seconded the motion. All Mayors vote aye, all School Board vote aye, all Supervisors vote aye. Motion carried.
4. Motion by Supervisor Kyle Stecker to approve the minutes from July 22, 2025. School Phil Albers seconded the motion. All Mayors vote aye, all School Board vote aye, all Supervisors vote aye. Motion carried.
5. Discussion was held about new 2025 County Handbook. Board agreed to have Assessor’s Office follow the new County Handbook.
6. Motion by Mayor Rick Murphy to approve Longevity Pay. Supervisor Kyle Stecker seconded the motion. All Mayors vote aye, all School Board vote aye, all Supervisors vote aye. Motion carried.
7. Motion by Supervisor Josh Waechter to approve Claims Policy. School Arthur Pixler seconded the motion. All Mayors vote aye, all School Board vote aye, all Supervisors vote aye. Motion carried.
8. Motion by Supervisor Kyle Stecker to approve the Assessor to obtain a credit card for the Assessors Office. Mayor Tom Johnson seconded the motion. All Mayors vote aye, all School Board vote aye, all Supervisors vote aye. Motion carried.
9. Discussion was held about Credit Card Policy presented. Board agreed to follow Credit Card Policy in County Handbook. No action taken.

10. Motion by Mayor Kevin McPeak to approve the use of Outside Counsel. School Arthur Pixler seconded the motion. All Mayors vote aye, all School Board vote aye, all Supervisors vote aye. Motion carried.
11. Motion by Supervisor Kyle Stecker to approve the Assessor to sign the Pictometry Contract for Aerial Flights for flight years 2027 & 2030. Mayor Rick Murphy seconded the motion. All Mayors vote aye, all School Board vote aye, all Supervisors vote aye. Motion carried.
12. Annual Report was given by Assessor. Assessor noted that Annual Report is available on their website under Department Downloads, labeled "Assessment Insights."
13. Assessor presented budget worksheet. Discussion was held. Motion by Mayor Tom Johnson to approve the proposed budget for Assessment Expense fund. Supervisor Josh Waechter seconded the motion. All Mayors vote aye, all School Board vote aye, all Supervisors vote aye. Motion carried.
14. Discussion was held to transfer some of the fund balance to designated reserve fund balance. Item was tabled until the next meeting when more information could be made available. Motion by School Arthur Pixler to table decision of moving funds into the designated reserve fund balance. Mayor Rick Murphy seconded the motion. All Mayors vote aye, all School Board vote aye, all Supervisors vote aye. Motion carried.
15. Set public hearing date, no action taken. Motion by Mayor Tom Johnson to set next meeting for Tuesday, March 17 at 4:00 P.M. Supervisor Kyle Stecker seconded the motion. All Mayors vote aye, all School Board vote aye, all Supervisors vote aye. Motion carried.
16. Unfinished business – None
17. New business - None
18. Motion by Supervisor Kyle Stecker to Adjourn. Mayor Rick Murphy seconded the motion. All Mayors vote aye, all School Board vote aye, all Supervisors vote aye. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5:50 P.M.

Carter Nath, Conference Board Chairman

Brandon Ostwald, Clerk