

# 2012

May 8, 2012

## Final Report and Recommendations of the Story County Government Restructuring Committee



### Government Restructuring Committee Members:

Ted Tedesco – Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt – Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

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# Executive Summary

Story County was established by the Iowa Legislature in 1846. Over the past two plus centuries, the roles and responsibilities of the County -- and all counties in Iowa -- have been evolving from providing services to a mostly agrarian population in the 1800s to a technology-driven society in the 21st century. County governments, like all local jurisdictions, face budget challenges while trying to respond to increased demands for services, whether State-mandated or requested by citizens.

Leadership of Story County's elected officials, department heads, and employees can be measured in part through the success of many programs, some of which have been replicated by other jurisdictions. Story County truly operates as a 21st century county limited by a 19th century organizational structure legislated by the State of Iowa.

This report was developed by the Government Restructuring Committee (GRC) appointed by the Story County Board of Supervisors. Members of the GRC met over a period of ten months to review existing governmental structures and programs, to discuss ideas and concerns with Story County citizens, and to formulate recommendations to improve the responsiveness and efficiency of Story County government. The Government Restructuring Committee members present this report to the Story County Board of Supervisors and the residents of Story County for consideration.

The recommendations set forth in this report look towards the future to efficiently provide services with today's challenges in mind.

*We realize that some of our recommendations may take legislative approval but we feel that the time for planning on modernization is now. No longer is Story County a rural area. We are becoming more and more urban all the time and our county procedures are going to have to adjust to handle the greater business and volume load caused by the urbanization of Story County.*

*-excerpt from 1968 study*

## ***Some things going well...***

- ◆ **Community Life**
- ◆ **Human Services**
- ◆ **Strong county economy**
- ◆ **Website re-design and implementation**
- ◆ **Salary surveys and job descriptions underway**
- ◆ **Hiring of the Human Resources Director**
- ◆ **County staff dedication and leadership**
- ◆ **Expenditures and Revenues coming closer together**
- ◆ **CPAT Study**
- ◆ **Energy-efficient practices**
- ◆ **Mental health services**
- ◆ **Dakin's Lake improvements**
- ◆ **Economic development initiatives and Tax Increment Financing (TIF)**

# Committee Authorization

In March 2011, the Story County Board of Supervisors created the Story County Government Restructuring Committee (herein called the “Committee”), with a defined purpose, structure, and timeline. The Board designated that a staff member from the Story County Planning and Development would serve as staff for the Committee. The Committee operated subject to the State of Iowa open meetings law, and, as such, public notice of meetings was managed by staff. Staff’s role further required recording Committee meetings, in both audio and written formats, as available, assisting with minutes, gathering information as requested by the Committee, and posting Committee materials on the Story County website. Committee expenses, subject to Board approval, were allocated to the Board of Supervisors’ budget.

## **Purpose**

The Board’s charge to the Committee was to explore the structure and function of Story County government as allowed by State of Iowa Code: Section 331. The work of the Committee was to be thorough, fair, and not politically motivated. Ideally, most citizens would view any Committee recommendation as an unbiased proposal to improve the function and representation of Story County.

## **Structure**

The Board specified that the Committee would have two co-chairs and five members, for a total of seven (7) voting members. At least three members were to be non-Ames residents and only one of the co-chairs could be an Ames resident. In addition, the two co-chairs were to be from different political parties. Another stipulation was that the Committee have three members who are registered Democrats, three who are registered Republicans, and one who is a registered Independent. All votes of the Committee would be a simple majority.

The Story County Board of Supervisors selected applications from individuals interested in serving on the Committee. The selection of the Committee was to be determined by the Board of Supervisors selecting the two co-chairs and following such action the

remaining Committee members would be selected by the Supervisors and the co-chairs. On June 14, 2011, Committee co-chairs Ted Tedesco and Sandy Opstvedt were appointed by the Board of Supervisors. After the appointment of the co-chairs, the co-chairs were invited to meet with the Board of Supervisors and together they selected the remaining five members of the Committee from the written applicants.

### **Timeline**

On March 1, 2011, the Board of Supervisors approved the structure and timeline proposed by Supervisor Rick Sanders. The approved timeline set June 5, 2012, as the date for the Committee to submit its report and recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

# Committee Proceedings

In accordance with the Board of Supervisors' stipulations, the Committee was duly constituted from a pool of applicants. Members of the public at large had been encouraged to self-nominate or to suggest names of others. The Board gave the Committee the liberty to chart its own course in exploring the possibilities for restructuring Story County government and in suggesting efficiencies and ways to improve services/responsiveness to county residents.

## **Creating a Plan of Work**

The Committee first convened on August 1, 2011. Before gathering public input and considering possible changes to the county structure, the Committee decided it needed to first meet with a legal expert to review Section 331 of the *Code of Iowa* and follow-up with a complete understanding of the current County operations and facilities.

## **Understanding Section 331 of the *Code of Iowa***

On August 1, 2011, Mr. Bill Peterson and Ms. Kristie Hershberger from Iowa State Association of Counties (ISAC) provided an overview of the history of county government in Iowa and home rule authority as set forth in the *Code of Iowa*. ISAC representatives reviewed areas in the state wherein changes in county government structure had occurred or been proposed. Mr. Peterson further shared with committee members a county mandate report outlining duties required of counties as set forth by the State, and reviewed training opportunities and materials that ISAC makes available to newly elected county officials. A copy of the written minutes from the August 1, 2011, meeting are attached to this report in Appendix A - Meeting Minutes and Materials.

## **Getting to Know the County**

Over the course of the next six months, the Committee actually visited with all elected officials and department heads, toured most facilities, and met with County employees. Those employees who were unable to attend the meeting were invited to correspond with the Committee electronically or in writing. Copies of the written minutes from the various meetings (as available) are attached to this report in Appendix A - Meeting Minutes and Materials.

## Seeking Public Comment

### *Public Input Sessions*

In order to gather public input, the Committee set up a schedule to host public sessions throughout Story County in early 2012. The public sessions were intended to provide an opportunity for the public to provide input and comments related to the charge given by the Board of Supervisors. The Committee put forth the following points and questions:

- ◆ Are changes needed in Story County government and in all Iowa county structure?
- ◆ In what areas is change needed in Story County? Is that change needed statewide or is it local to Story County's government structure?
- ◆ How can these changes be accomplished?

Meetings were held from January – March 2012, as noted below. Respective meeting notes are included in Appendix A.

Tuesday, January 10, 2012 – Collins

Thursday, January 12, 2012 – Story City

Thursday, January 19, 2012 – Huxley

Tuesday, January 24, 2012 – Nevada

Thursday, February 2, 2012 –Zearing

Monday, March 5, 2012 – Ames (This session was televised live on local cable access Channel 12 and opportunities for “call-in” to the session were provided.)

Throughout the meetings, Committee members heard concerns and comments from residents in Story County. Some general themes included:

- ◆ Road and bridge conditions and ongoing maintenance.
- ◆ Possibility of eliminating the Ames City Assessor and combining office with the Story County Assessor.
- ◆ Improvements (being undertaken by the Story County Conservation Board) at Dakin's Lake (near Zearing).
- ◆ Increasing the size of the Board of Supervisors from three to five members with districts established.

- ◆ Representation of the smaller communities and need for assistance.
- ◆ Costs to small communities, scheduling, and responses of County Sheriff's Office.
- ◆ Role of townships.
- ◆ Increased economic development opportunities.

### *Questionnaire*

To further gather public input, the Committee developed and distributed a questionnaire via the County's website, Survey Monkey, hard-copy distribution to city libraries and city halls, and in-person distribution to various community group meetings. The survey and findings comprise Appendix B - Government Restructuring Committee Questionnaire. A total of 98 questionnaires were completed via digital or other means and tabulated.

### *Meeting with Former County Supervisors*

Committee members extended invitations to those individuals who had previously served Story County as County Supervisor, asking for ideas on how to be more client-friendly and streamline government. On February 10, 2012, former Board of Supervisors Ms. Jane Halliburton, Ms. Johnnie Hammond, Mr. Larry Larson, Mr. Jack Whitmer (via conference call), Mr. James Strohman and former County Attorney Ms. Mary Richards met with Committee members. A copy of the minutes from this meeting is included in this report as Appendix C - Meeting Minutes with Current and Former Board of Supervisors.

# Findings and Deliberations

## *Findings*

Through meetings with former County Board of Supervisors, elected officials and department heads, as well as current County staff, we reached the following findings, which, in summary, lead us to note that the current county structure seems to be disjointed and antiquated in today's current ever changing world.

### **From Tours and Dialog with County Employees**

- ◆ Elected officials and department heads are committed to serving Story County residents to the best of their abilities. Services and programs generally reflect this commitment.
- ◆ Iowa's current county structure creates inherent barriers that constrain cooperation and collaboration among elected officials (e.g., development of a cohesive vision for the county, comprehensive strategic planning, uniform employee hiring practices and performance standards, uniform business operations/practices). Consequently, departments under their respective elected officials seem to work independently, without common goals and directions.
- ◆ The safety of employees, the public, and County resources is at risk due to lack of security measures throughout County buildings. (This was the priority need raised most frequently by County staff.)
- ◆ Better communications are needed internally across all County offices/departments and externally with municipalities and the general public to increase dialog, sharing of information, and improve overall understanding of proposed actions and decisions.
- ◆ There is redundancy, and therefore confusion and inefficiency for the public, in some services, most notably: 1) instead of "one-stop shopping," residents must go to specific offices to purchase passports and various types of licenses and permits; 2) having both a County Assessor and an Ames City Assessor is costly and recently has led to operational inefficiencies as well as duplication; 3) decentralized, fragmented emergency service delivery and disaster planning leaves employees as well as the general public feeling vulnerable.
- ◆ Diminished funding is severely impacting Story County's ability to maintain its roads and bridges.
- ◆ Story County reaps budget savings from 1) its geothermal installations, 2) its in-house maintenance and repair work performed by the Facilities Management staff.
- ◆ Story County Community Life Program affords residents with mental health challenges developmental disabilities a spectrum of appropriate, attractive facilities and programs.

- ◆ Story County's Conservation facilities and programs generate considerable revenue and potential for economic development opportunities.
- ◆ Procedures for handling of mail within County offices needs to be reviewed and safeguards instituted.
- ◆ Some offices (currently the County Attorney, Auditor, and Facilities Management Department) are encountering space and storage needs.

### **From Public Comment and Questionnaire Results**

- ◆ Among residents in outlying communities and unincorporated areas, there is some feeling that their voices are not heard and that Ames and Nevada interests determine what happens across Story County. Creating districts and electing Supervisors by district could help.
- ◆ Having five Supervisors with staggered terms could provide for better representation and more continuity over time. It would also help avoid quorum issues and help ensure that the Board of Supervisors is complying with the open meetings law.
- ◆ Communications between the County offices and residents, particularly in the less populous areas, need to improve. For example, elected officials in small cities typically have daytime jobs that prohibit them from meeting with County officials during usual business hours. In addition, annual meetings among County officials and township clerks and municipal employees need to include more time for dialog and exchange of ideas.
- ◆ The County should "do services smarter" so administrative costs can be contained/reduced. Combining offices should be considered to increase efficiency and/or reduce costs.
- ◆ County roads are degrading quickly, causing inconvenience and threatening public safety.
- ◆ Merging the offices of the County Assessor and the Ames City Assessor should be considered.
- ◆ Economic development initiatives should extend beyond Ames and Nevada. The whole county needs to benefit from such efforts.
- ◆ Police services provided by the Sheriff's Department through 28E agreements with smaller municipalities are becoming too costly, using an ever-increasing percentage of shrinking budgets. Related concerns: deputy schedules/routines for patrolling are too predictable; response time is often too long; and there is no opportunity for dialog prior to renewal of 28E agreements.
- ◆ Maintaining and enhancing bicycle trails should continue. Connecting trails to County parks should occur and could become an

economic development thrust for more of the County.

- ◆ The Board of Supervisors should reach out to other counties to explore sharing services across county lines.

### *Deliberations*

To formulate recommendations and develop this report, the Committee began meeting weekly on March 22, 2012. Committee members reviewed concerns and suggestions from the “big-picture” level to begin with and working downward to the smaller areas in order to create a list of items to discuss. The following sets of recommendations were formulated based on deliberations and consensus of the Committee.

# Recommendations

## Alternative Form of Government – BOARD-MANAGER

**The majority of the Committee recommends the Board-Manager alternative forms of government as provided in the *Code of Iowa*, Section 331.**

(NOTE: While the majority of the Committee agreed to this recommendation, you will find that there are two Minority Reports to this specific recommendation. One Committee member offered a minority report to the Board-Manager alternative form of government in support of a Board-Executive alternative form of government outlined on the following page under the *Minority Report – Tom Corrieri* heading. A second Committee member did not support the Alternative Form of Government – Board-Manager recommendation in total and concerns are outlined in the second minority found on page 13 under the heading *Minority Report – Sandy Opstvedt*.)

### **Concurrently, the Committee recommends:**

- ◆ Makeup of Board of Supervisors: Under the recommendation of BOARD-MANAGER form we are proposing the Board must consist of five (5) members (Section 331.241 of the *Code of Iowa*)
  - ◆ Number of Members: Five (as opposed to current three) - a sample five (5) Supervisor map is attached as Appendix D;
  - ◆ Elected by districts, such districts to be established by the Legislative Services Agency.
  - ◆ Serve as policy makers (compensation to be determined) with administration and executive duties transitioned to the County Manager position, whom the Board of Supervisors appoints through a hiring process. In their role as policymakers, Supervisors would no longer be full time officials but rather their commitment of time would be devoted to regular Board meetings and related public outreach.
  - ◆ Staggered terms as outlined in the *Code of Iowa*, subject to a three term maximum.
  - ◆ When serving on other Boards and Commissions, such as the Board of Health or the Story County Conservation Board, the Board of Supervisors member is an ex-officio, non-voting member.
- ◆ Elected Officials: Treasurer, Auditor, Recorder, Attorney and Sheriff
  - ◆ All appointed rather than elected in the Board-Manager form of government.

- ◆ County Manager
  - ◆ Appointed by the Board of Supervisors through an open search/hiring process, with qualifications focused on requisite education, professional experience and expertise, and interpersonal and management skills needed to administer effective, efficient county government programs and services.
  - ◆ Reports to the Board of Supervisors.
  - ◆ Appoints all department heads through a hiring process and oversees entire County operations.
  - ◆ Implements policies adopted by the Board of Supervisors.
  
- ◆ Retain Human Resources Department

***Minority Report – Tom Corrieri***

*The County Executive would be directly elected by the eligible voters of the county and therefore would be accountable and responsible to the electorate.*

*Executive authority would then be centralized and streamlined to allow for greater ease in formulating a single cohesive policy of growth and modernization. Complex government issues need a full time CEO (County Elected Official) who can respond quickly and efficiently to the ever increasing challenges of the modern world. A Board appointed county administrator still leaves us with a system of diffuse and confused authority lacking coordination and accountability.*

*It is also recommended that the offices of the Auditor, Recorder and Treasurer be consolidated into a Department of Finance and Real Estate. Such a department could easily implement one stop permitting and licensing and achieve other efficiencies and cost savings in government. There will be a need for a part time Commissioner of Elections. An avenue to create this as a truly nonpartisan office would have to be explored and implemented.*

*The Director of Finance and Real Estate together with the County Attorney and Sheriff would be appointed by the elected County Executive subject to confirmation by the Board of Supervisors.*

**In order to accomplish such, the Committee recommends steps be undertaken as outlined in *Code of Iowa, Chapter 331*, to establish a Commission established as set forth in Section 331.232.**

Section 331.232 *Plan for an alternative form of government* states:

1. A charter to change a form of county government may be submitted to the electors of a county only by a commission established by resolution of the board upon petition of the number of eligible electors of the county equal to at least twenty-five percent of the votes cast in the county for the office of president of the United States or governor at the preceding general election or the signatures of at least ten thousand eligible electors of the county, whichever number is fewer. The board shall within ten days of the filing of a valid petition adopt such a resolution...
3. An alternative form of county government shall be submitted to the electorate by the commission in the form of a charter.

***Minority Report – Sandy Opstvedt***

*I believe the statement by the committee majority that “the current county structure seems to be disjointed and antiquated in today’s current ever changing world” is a misleading representation of a generally healthy government entity. There are no doubt changes which could take place, as in any employment venue, that would better improve services, stability, and communication. To evoke a sweeping change of a well administered structure without realistic merit and simply for the sake of doing so, however, would be a reckless disregard of a proven process.*

*The committee visits to departments within the county and its conversations with departmental employees revealed a sense of loyalty and responsibility to the citizens of Story County. Services are provided with exceptional knowledge, expertise, and consideration to the public interests. A multitude of cost containment procedures have been implemented which clearly enhanced the County’s financial status. One example, is the fact that many of the county construction projects are done in-house. In addition, a model geothermal system was installed saving thousands in utilities expenses. This exemplifies the vision, skill level, and commitment of those employed internally. Each of the individual departments have taken on an exceptional role in recognizing the burdens of the present day economy by striving to achieve financial cutbacks where possible. In addition, the County receives economic benefit from the partnering priorities inclusive of community, regional, state, and national levels. Participation in both internal and external activities, economic development ventures, law enforcement procedures, conservation growth, board of supervisors leadership, and 28E agreements have all been vital to Story County.*

*I concur with the committee that several areas could be improved within the county structure which would enable better, more expedient public service. The “one-stop” licensing would avoid a great deal of confusion in addition to decreasing the necessary labor that may be more effectively utilized performing other activities. The security issue is crucial. Steps are currently underway to improve the safety aspect in an effort to more adequately protect employees and public alike. Technology is yet another area that could be improved upon particularly in updated computer*

*systems with uniform programming. Also, increased communication between employees, department heads, and city officials within the county as discussed in the majority recommendation would provide a clearer means of understanding and commonality in decision making.*

*A total structural overhaul, however, is unnecessary and potentially harmful. Improving government activities to fit the needs of a modern day society does not mean casting aside successful operations for an unproven trial and error strategy. Rather, progress entails understanding the value of an effective structure and improving upon its demonstrated foundation.*

*Story County operations have historically been quite successful under the oversight provided by an elected three person Board of Supervisors. Adding another level of government in the role of County Executive or County Manager is an unnecessary measure and would result in undue expense to the taxpayers. Supplementing the related economic burden by expanding the number of Supervisors while decreasing their authority and reducing them to part-time recipients (of stipend or lowered compensation) is simply not logical. Doing so would involve expanding government for the purpose of doing a job already positively performed by a body which has exhibited professionalism, knowledge, and dedication in their responsibilities to the public.*

*It should be noted that the three supervisors do not simply work within the confines of the county offices. They are all actively engaged in activities, forums, meetings, discussion groups, and organizational speaking opportunities county-wide. This affords participants the advantage of hearing first-hand the issues being addressed by the county as well as being able to provide input including suggestions and criticisms regarding subjects important to them.*

*Further, democracy enables all citizens together to determine public policy. That democracy is effected through the vote of the people. The citizens of Story County should not be stripped of their rights to elect chosen officials responsible for carrying out administrative tasks related to individual departments. The county auditor, treasurer, recorder, attorney, and sheriff all provide necessary public services. The public should be allowed to determine who best represents them in those positions. Depriving that voice regarding county government by taking away their voting rights would be an injustice to all.*

## **Combining Elected Offices**

It is the Committee's recommendation that if an alternative Board-Manager form of government not be sought, at the minimum the offices of elected officials be abolished and the positions appointed and duties combined, if feasible, to enhance efficiencies and improve effectiveness. For example, the offices of the Auditor and Recorder could be combined. Another possibility would be to create a Finance Department by consolidating the duties of the Treasurer, Recorder and the financial aspects of the Auditor; the Auditor's election duties would be separate, handled by an Elections Commissioner.

## **Facilities**

### **Security**

Throughout all meetings the Committee conducted, Committee members became acutely aware that building security is a grave concern and the matter must be addressed in the very near future. Committee members were informed that the adopted Fiscal Year 2013 budget approved by the Story County Board of Supervisors includes funds in the amount of \$50,000 for the implementation of security measures. The Committee expresses appreciation to the Board of Supervisors for budgeting for such purposes and further encourages the Board to expedite steps, including locating an individual at the main desk in the Administration building and installation of passive measures such as panic buttons to notify the Nevada Police Department. Committee members encourage the Board of Supervisors to continue to expand on the efforts to address security for all County buildings and facilities. We believe that an immediate study should be undertaken to understand both in the short and long-term and know exactly what has to be done and estimated costs. The study should include a review of procedures for handling incoming and outgoing mail, with the goal of ensuring safe and secure handling of any and all letters, packages, and related items. The Supervisors should look for creative ways to finance solutions to resolve this important issue with-out delay!

### **Storage Needs**

It was brought out during our meeting with the Director of the Facilities Management Department that there is great need for additional secure storage space for equipment, vehicles and materials. We recommend that the Board undertake a study to find suitable location and secure estimates on cost of such a facility.

## **Communications**

Committee members recommend that several strategies be undertaken, led by the Story County Board of Supervisors, to improve communications among various jurisdictions, within Story County (government) itself, and for the benefit of the residents of Story County. These strategies may include, but are not limited to:

- ◆ Electronic newsletter for County employees
- ◆ Monthly Elected Official/Department Head meetings
- ◆ Inclusion of employee voices: Review effectiveness of Employee Advisory Committee; create ways/opportunities to improve communications between elected officials and employees so that all employees can have a voice within fear of repercussions; enable employees to provide/share ideas about ways to improve efficiency and responsiveness in delivery of services
- ◆ Annual Strategic Planning/Goal Setting Sessions each January, with invitations extended to all city, school district, and township officials to provide input

- ◆ Creation of a speaker's bureau to be available to address community groups as requested
- ◆ Revision of the format of the annual meeting with the Township Trustees to a twice per year training and dialog session
- ◆ Monthly press releases distributed by Board of Supervisors to local media on "What's Happening in Story County"
- ◆ Development of a plan to transition files and records to digital
- ◆ Placement of public information kiosks at the entrance to the Administration building, Justice Center, and Human Services Center
- ◆ Monthly appearances on local radio stations, building on the "What's Happening in Story County"
- ◆ Continue the Board of Supervisors liaison to each of the communities; at least once, annually, host a joint City-County public input meeting (in each community) with citizens to hear concerns and determine needs and priorities
- ◆ Create an "intranet" site to enable township officials, city clerks and other jurisdictions to be informed and to assist with dissemination of information

## One-Stop Permitting and Licensing

We encourage the Board to investigate the creation of one location where Story County residents could acquire or purchase passports and all permits and licenses. We understand this will take some effort to coordinate with other governmental agencies. As an initial step, the Board should consider consolidating, in one office, the currently dispersed responsibilities for these county-designated sales.

## Role in Economic Development

We are encouraged by the efforts of the current Board of Supervisors to support economic development in the county. The Community Planning Assistance Team visit conducted in the fall of 2011 and the report issued in 2012 put forth many strategies that will continue to enhance the role of economic development in Story County. The Committee recommends that the Board consider the report carefully and go forward with additional planning and implementation. The Board can play a leadership role in fostering collaboration across the county and creating a county-wide vision for economic development. Such items that could be discussed are regional transportation, affordable housing through a county wide partnership, extension and connectivity of bicycle trails; and home efficiency updating assistance.

We encourage that, when funds are available, an individual be hired full time as economic director to aid all entities, including smaller communities, in the county. We further encourage the Board to build on the name change of the Planning and Development Department in January 2012 and continue to increase the role of that particular department in regards to economic development.

## **Assistance to Other Jurisdictions**

Evolution of Story County's cities often brings about their geographic expansion, which, in turn, reduces the jurisdiction of county government. As change occurs, tensions between jurisdictions can arise due to a variety of situations and regulations. We recommend that all County departments be encouraged to assist and counsel the various entities during times of change and whenever municipalities struggle to comply with Federal and State requirements. In this context, we encourage the Board of Supervisors to ask the question "How do we bring the cities together to resolve infrastructure issues and services?" We recommend that the Board, with assistance from the Planning and Development Department, develop a "services questionnaire" focused on this topic and reach out to each community in Story County in the fall of 2012. The responses should then be referenced in the Fiscal Year 2014 budgeting discussions and help set the goals for the County.

## **Combined City of Ames - Story County Assessor**

The Committee recommends that the Board of Supervisors request to meet with the Mayor, City Council, and City Manager of Ames as soon as possible to explore having one assessor for the entire county. This would not only save funds but would put in place one common program for all to access. The Committee believes that substantial cost savings could be realized through such action. The current term appointments of the two positions are as follows: City of Ames Assessor - December 31, 2014, and Story County Assessor - December 31, 2015. The Committee suggests that it would be feasible to coordinate any merger with the expiration dates of the appointments, however the Committee encourages all entities to review the potential to "buy-out" any appointment if that would ultimately result in additional cost savings.

## **Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

We recommend that the Board of Supervisors work with and support the effort to reorganize existing Soil and Water Conservation Districts in Iowa according to watershed boundaries. Such action could greatly reduce the number of districts and provide for a more efficient operation. The Committee encourages the Board to voice support for the resolution submitted by the Story and Boone County Soil and Water Conservation Districts (attached to this report as Appendix E.)

## **Transportation Safety**

To address the maintenance of County roads and bridges and the convenience and safety issues that arise due to the current practices, the Committee recommends the development of a deliberative, comprehensive plan along with centered discussions as to how to best manage the deteriorated conditions of the roads and whether the County needs to begin to reclassify some of the roads. Such a process would begin a dialog rather than a pre-emptive decision-making process. The Committee encourages the Board of Supervisors consider the CPAT recommendations to create a combined, multi-year strategy for capital investments in infrastructure (a Capital Improvement Program or CIP), that reaches beyond the existing 5-year road plan required to be submitted to the Iowa Department of Transportation.

# Next Steps

## How to Proceed

The Committee proposes a time-frame for the Board's consideration below regarding specific action steps we have identified to address the recommendations outlined in this report.

Action Step	Timeframe	Lead*	Financial^
Acknowledge receipt of report and hold public meeting between the Government Restructuring Committee and Board.	June 2012	Story County Board of Supervisors	None.
Post report on Story County website	June 2012 on	Story County Planning and Development	Staff-Time
Compile master plan for security and identify budgeting priorities and timeframes.	August 2012 on	Story County Board of Supervisors	Staff-Time; Potential bonding; grant sources.
Staff front desk at the Administration building	July 2012 on permanently	Story County Board of Supervisors	Staff-Time
Develop County Newsletter	Fall 2012	Story County Human Resources	Staff-Time
Develop a public information campaign	Fall 2012	Story County Board of Supervisors	Staff-Time
Identify all permits and license and applicable <i>Code</i> requirements and strategically plan to create one-stop permitting/licensing	Fall 2012-March 2013 - Implemented July 2013	Story County Board of Supervisors	Staff-Time
Plan and conduct a county-wide community needs survey	August - November 2012	Story County Planning and Development	Staff-Time

\*Additional Elected Officials and Department Heads and/or outside agencies may be involved in the process.

^In all applicable situations, the Committee recommends Story County actively seek grant and foundation opportunities.

<b>Action Step</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Lead *</b>	<b>Financial^</b>
Begin dialogue with City of Ames regarding Assessor's positions	August 2012	Story County Board of Supervisors	Staff-Time
Revise Township Trustees meeting format and establish meeting schedule for two meetings annually.	September 2012	Story County Board of Supervisors	Staff-Time
Installation of public kiosks at County buildings – design and budget.	November 2012	Story County Board of Supervisors	To be budgeted – General Funds
Create Intranet Site.	August 2012 – December 2012	Story County Board of Supervisors	Staff-Time
Action to express support of Soil and Water Conservation District resolution to form along watershed lines.	July 2012	Story County Board of Supervisors	None.
Conduct space needs study for storage needs and potential areas.	September 2012 November 2012	Story County Board of Supervisors	Staff-Time
Initiate dialog to develop a Master Transportation Plan and Capital Improvements Program	November 2012 on	Story County Board of Supervisors	Staff-Time
Prioritize CPAT-recommended strategies and allocate staff resources	September 2012	Story County Board of Supervisors	Staff-Time May be budgeted items.

\*Additional Elected Officials and Department Heads and/or outside agencies may be involved in the process.

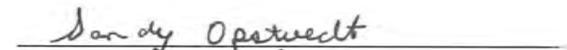
^In all applicable situations, the Committee recommends Story County actively seek grant and foundation opportunities.

# Acknowledgements

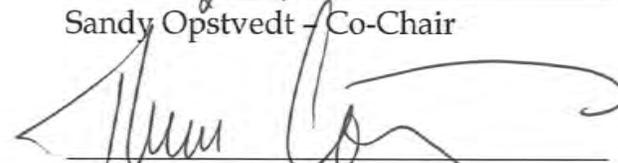
The Committee simply considered, in its majority opinion, what structure and changes in operations would best serve the citizens of Story County now and into the future. The Committee recognizes the past and present service of all office holders and employees and is not critical of the performance of any individual.

*Report respectfully submitted on Tuesday, May 8, 2012.*

  
Ted Tedesco - Co-Chair

  
Sandy Opstvedt - Co-Chair

  
Marty Chitty

  
Tom Corrieri

  
Steve McGill

  
Sandra McJimsey

  
Patrick Sheets

# Appendices

# **Appendix A**

Meeting Minutes and Materials



## Government Restructuring Commission

c/o Story County Planning and Zoning Department  
Administration Building  
900 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201  
Phone: (515) 382-7245 Fax: (515) 382-7294  
[www.storycounty.com](http://www.storycounty.com)

### **Commission Members**

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

## **GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMISSION**

Tentative Agenda  
Monday, August 1, 2011  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

***Public Meeting Room\* - Story County Administration – Nevada, Iowa***

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21  
IOWA CODE.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review and discuss Section 331 of *Iowa Code*
- IV. Questions from committee
- V. Questions from public
- VI. Discussion and consideration of meeting dates and calendar
- VII. Adjourn

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# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** Monday, August 1, 2011

**Roll Call:**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
\*Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Location:** Story County Administration Building

**Public Present:** Jim Hutter, Walt McDonald, Stephen Holmes

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**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

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**Call to Order:** 6:03 pm

Mr. Ted Tedesco referenced the minutes of the Board of Supervisors (from 1861) handed out at the meeting.

Mr. Tedesco noted that action on the draft memo to be sent to the Elected Officials and Department Heads would be considered later on the agenda.

**Review and discuss Section 331 of Iowa Code**

Mr. Tedesco introduced Mr. Bill Peterson and Ms. Kristie Hershberger from ISAC and Mr. Stephen Holmes, Story County Attorney.

Mr. Peterson provided an overview of the information intended to be covered. He further noted that any written information the Committee desired would be forwarded on to members. Mr. Tedesco requested the information be sent digitally to Ms. Leanne Harter.

Mr. Peterson commented that ISAC may be able to help locate the charter and original documentation.

Ms. Hershberger reviewed the history of county government for the Committee. She provided an overview of the home rule authority as set forth in the in the *Code of Iowa*.

Ms. Sandy Opstvedt questioned the timing in the general election.

Ms. Lucy Martin noted that a special election has to be held the first Tuesday in August. Mr. Tedesco stated the information would be sent to Ms. Harter.

Ms. Sandra McJimsey asked which of the six, if any, counties in Iowa have adopted such.

## Government Restructuring Committee

c/o Story County Planning and Development Department  
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Mr. Bill Peterson. stated there have been none. What has developed over time in Scott County is as such: Scott County operates with a supervisor county administrator, which was an adopted process without going through any of the procedures. A county administrator was appointed by the BOS and over time, developed a cooperative relationship which would replace the Board to Manager system but not through an official process.

Polk County has also done a similar thing regarding a County Administrator where authority for those departments that the BOS would traditionally have responsibility over and some of those were given up by the elected officials.

Lots of counties have hired some form of administrative help working directly for the Board of Supervisors from a secretary position to a more enhanced position. In some instances, regarding budget and finance; a budget/finance director was appointed.

Polk County went through the charter process one time with an attempt at a commonwealth process, but when it got to the vote it was rejected in both processes. There needs to be cooperative effort between Polk County and other communities, specifically Des Moines, to transfer some of the responsibilities traditionally done by the communities to the county, primarily because of their financial capacity related to the revenue generated by Prairie Meadows.

Other counties such as Jackson and Lee Counties in mid-1980s considered a combination of elected offices. Even though there was some interest, none of the issues went to ballot. Woodbury County petition put forward and consolidated the Recorder's duties into the Auditor's office as well as personnel from the Recorder's office moved into the Auditor's office with no incumbent interested in running. In the mid-1980's, Legislature amended Code Chapter 331 to add the alternative forms of government and both the Iowa League of Cities and ISAC supported the alternative forms put in the Code. It became citizen driven rather than state mandated. In 1988 there was a first attempt by the City of Des Moines and Polk County.

In Marshall County last year the Recorder's office was combined into the Treasurer and Auditor's office. This has been on the ballot in a number of counties and has for the most part has been voted down.

Cedar Rapids restructuring which had a true commission form of government went to election in 2005 and has transitioned now completed to a mayor, council and city manager.

If using one of the six identifying options; recommendations should be made in June 2012 so that the process can begin to put one of the full charter commissions in place. It was stated that lots of things could be recommended in terms of restructuring such as to challenge the Committee to be creative.

Mr. Peterson mentioned the county mandate report regarding public safety, jails, county attorney, emergency management, etc. While thinking of restructuring the Committee should account for all these various things and make sure they fit into some functional area.

Each of the elected offices has a manual that details each of the specific functions of the responsibilities. Each manual should state resources that define the day-to-day functions and where it they tie into the code. A new county officer's manual is on the ISAC website

Regarding a document from outside the state, there is a group of associations in Wisconsin that created the local government institute. A Roadmap for Government Transformation report was



**PLEASE RECYCLE**

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written by Baker Tilley consulting firm. Said report had suggested 6 things: 1) some realization that the end result will be improved services for the citizens; clear set of fiscal benefits for all engaged in the process; proactive collaborative government leadership - strong champion to lead the charge; needs to be trust between all entities involved; strong community support for initiatives; underlying sense of shared perception for the need to do this.

Benchmarks should be created to get into the process early on.

Mr. Tedesco stated everything is on the table with this Committee.

Mr. Tedesco questioned if the Committee got to the point in the report and a process was going to be followed could this Committee go forward and encourage people to vote for or against something.

Stephen Holmes commented that he appreciated the ISAC presentation.

A clear definition of the Committee was asked to be explained. A description was as such: that the Committee is more of an exploratory committee than as a commission and that the Committee has no force or effect, just an opinion.

It was asked whether the Committee wanted to go out afterwards or even now to promote the idea. It was stated that this had been done based on comments made last fall.

It was asked why the Committee was organized and was it financial, to save money or deliver more services.

Mr. Tedesco shared the "charge" to the Committee by the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Sandy Opstvedt commented that the comments by the BOS were pretty general.

Mr. Peterson voiced his non legal answer stating there is no problem with the Committee doing the exploratory but if you do want to go forward a with formal process they would have to have the official commission appointed.

Ms. Opstvedt questioned whether all the branches of county government are a civil service. It was stated that 340A is the civil service for deputy sheriffs, which is the only group subject to civil service in county government.

### **Questions from public**

Mr. Jim Hutter questioned, speaking on the assumption that the BOS asked for the Committee's advice, thought that one of the premises behind such committee was that some people wanted to have a Board of Supervisors that was larger and divided into districts for representation. It was reviewed that based on population figures, the district boundaries would include a majority from Ames again, which wouldn't broaden the base and include people from outside areas. Districts would compound the problem. Some alternative to suggest would be to create a citizens commission to give advice to the board, where there wouldn't be elections, but have the mayors from these areas appoint people and recommend items to the BOS.

Mr. Walt McDonald commented on the fact that current Supervisors in several cases serve as voting members of board and commissions, such as the County Conservation Board. A group created prior to home rule 331.216 allows the BOS to serve on boards and commissions. Given the right set of circumstances and right person, a member of the BOS may have two votes, so



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would interests be better served by having citizens serving on the boards and commissions rather than elected officials.

Mr. Stephen Holmes questioned what the impetus was behind the Legislature making the statutory construction of home rule in general. Mr. Peterson stated that the trend across the country and cities became a non-Dillon rule and counties begin to envy the right of self-direction. Give the ability of local government officials to effectively direct their operations based on their ideas within their local community without having to go to the state legislature each and every time they wanted to provide a service and to respond to citizens demands without having to go to the state legislature.

Mr. Holmes questioned regarding growth of municipalities whose growth was preeminent.

Mr. Hutter commented that it partisan politics has not always been present on the Board of Supervisors, referencing former Board members.

### **Consideration of memo to Elected Officials and Department Heads**

Ms. Harter noted she'd electronically forwarded to the Committee copies of the proposed letter and Ms. Opstvedt and Mr. Tedesco signed said letter.

Sheets/McGill - MCU (Chitty absent)

### **Discussion and consideration of meeting dates and calendar**

Committee members agreed to hold meetings on an ad-hoc basis.

Adjourn

McJimsey/McGill 7:35.



PLEASE RECYCLE



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### **Committee Members**

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

## **GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE**

Tentative Agenda  
Thursday, September 1, 2011  
7:00 pm

***Public Meeting Room\* - Story County Administration – Nevada, Iowa***

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21  
IOWA CODE.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Discussion of timeframe and visits with County Elected Officials and Departments and tour with Facilities Management
- IV. Committee Discussion
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjourn

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## MINUTES GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** September 1, 2011

**Roll Call:**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Location:** Story County Administration Building

**Public Present:** None

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

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**Public Comment**

None

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**Committee discussion**

Ms. Leanne Harter was asked to get dates and times for a combined county tour and meetings with elected officials and department heads. Ms. Sandy Opstvedt stated she would be gone the following week. Mr. Tom Corrieri stated he would also be gone, but to proceed without him. Mr. Tedesco stated they may consider a longer timeframe to complete such tours and meetings.

Mr. Ted Tedesco stated that the Committee should look at setting a goal to draft a Committee report between February and the end of May 2012.

Ms. Opstvedt stated she is concerned about holding public meetings before the meetings with department heads are completed. Ms. Sandra McJimsey agreed. Mr. Marty Chitty commented he thinks the timeline makes sense. Mr. Chitty also commented that the Committee could maybe use the school district facilities if needed.

Ms. Harter was asked to notify local publications, city councils and district websites regarding upcoming public input sessions. Ms. Harter was asked to add a disclaimer to all notifications stating this is not the school district.

Mr. Tedesco discussed Mr. Chitty's research regarding work expenses. A committee member asked why Woodbury County has no recorder history on salary as well as how many counties are combined.

It was stated that two afternoons need to be reserved for the county tour.



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Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

Tentative Agenda

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

1:30 PM

***Board of Supervisor's Conference Room\* - Story County Administration –  
Nevada, Iowa***

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21  
IOWA CODE.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Meeting with Elected Officials and Department Heads
  - 1:30 – 2:30 Sue Vande Kamp – Story County Recorder
  - 2:30 – 3:15 Michael Cox – Story County Conservation
  - 3:15 – 4:00 Darren Moon – Story County Engineer
- IV. Committee Discussion
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjourn

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# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** December 14, 2011  
**Meeting with Elected Officials/Department Heads**

**Call to Order:** 1:30 p.m.

**Roll Call:**  
Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
\*Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** Angela Davidson, Lauris Olson, Leanne Harter, Walt McDonald

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

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### **Elected Official/Department Head: Sue VandeKamp, Story County Recorder's Office**

Ms. Sue VandeKamp, County Recorder for 33 years, reviewed the current status of the department scanning project. Ms. VandeKamp stated the department has scanned records from years 1976 to 1994 thus far. Ms. VandeKamp stated the Recorder's Office employs two deputies and three clerks. Ms. VandeKamp reviewed some federal law changes which has affected the Recorder's Office and some of the processes.

Ms. VandeKamp stated her department issues about 25-30 passports monthly, registers titles boats, snowmobiles and ATV's, but no longer issues hunting and fishing licenses. Ms. VandeKamp stated that hunting and fishing licenses are an optional duty and are not cost effective. Ms. VandeKamp also stated about 550 marriage licenses are issued annually.

Ms. VandeKamp reviewed the Iowa Land Records online recording usage.

Ms. VandeKamp stated she has a concern regarding a lack of security in the building.

### **Elected Official/Department Head: Michael Cox, Story County Conservation Board and Joe Koiker, IRVM**

Mr. Michael Cox reviewed the structure of the Conservation Board, that being: facilities and parks, operations, management plans and environmental education of naturalists.

Mr. Cox stated the Conservation Board currently has a park ranger position vacant. Mr. Cox also stated the Board relies on volunteers whose total time equals a little over one full-time employee annually when the hours are configured.

The Committee discussed with the historical and future funding of the IRVM program and staffing. In addition, the physical location of the IRVM offices was discussed. It was discussed that 85% of IRVM work is done for the engineer's roadside maintenance and 15% of work is done for Conservation.

Mr. Cox stated there is a possibility of gaining another employee for drainage maintenance.

Mr. Cox reviewed the Dakin's Lake project.

Mr. Cox would like to see the acceptance of credit cards, online registrations and payments along with making systems user-friendly for the public. Mr. Cox stated that he is pleased with partnerships in the County, but would like to see improved communications between elected

officials and department heads.

**Elected Official/Department Head: Darren Moon, Story County Engineer Office**

Mr. Darren Moon gave an overview of the Engineer Office. He discussed staff, roads and bridges.

Mr. Moon stated the engineering office has noticed an increase of efficiency and client friendliness. He discussed possible changes that may be required as a result of lack of funding at the State and Federal levels.



**PLEASE RECYCLE**



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### Committee Members

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Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

Tentative Agenda  
Wednesday, December 21, 2011  
12:30 PM

**LOCATIONS NOTED ON THE AGENDA BELOW. COMMITTEE MEMBERS WILL BEGIN THEIR MEETING AT THE STORY COUNTY ANIMAL SHELTER AND CONTINUE THE MEETING AT THE JUSTICE CENTER.**

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21 IOWA CODE.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Meeting with Elected Officials and Department Heads listed below at noted times and locations:
  - 12:30 – 1:15 Sue McCaskey – Story County Animal Control
    - Meeting to be held at the Story County Animal Shelter, 975 Lincolnway, Nevada, Iowa.
  - 1:30 – 2:30 Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald
    - Meeting to be held in the Sheriff's Squad Room at the Story County Justice Center, 1315 B Avenue, Nevada, Iowa.
  - 2:30 – 3:30 Stephen Holmes, Story County Attorney
    - Meeting to be held in the Sheriff's Squad Room at the Story County Justice Center, 1315 B Avenue, Nevada, Iowa.
- IV. Committee Discussion
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjourn



## MINUTES GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** December 21, 2011  
**Meeting with Elected Officials/Department Heads**

**Call to Order:** 12:32 p.m.

**Roll Call:**  
Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
\*Marty Chitty  
\*Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

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**Elected Official/Department Head: Sue McCaskey, Story County Animal Control Director**

Ms. Sue McCaskey reviewed the areas covered by Animal Control as including all the unincorporated areas and cities with the exceptions being Nevada, Story City, Huxley, and Ames.

Ms. McCaskey stated the Department has a 95% adoption rate.

Ms. McCaskey stated the Department will handle wildlife only if it is deemed a detriment to the public. Ms. McCaskey also stated the department will work with animal owners that can't afford to keep dogs and cats by buying the needed food. Ms. McCaskey reviewed the Department's handling of bite cases and rabies in the county. Ms. McCaskey also reviewed the Department building concerns, inspections and stated that all remodeling is paid from the donation account.

Ms. McCaskey stated the Department has an on-call system via pagers.

Ms. McCaskey reviewed the use of the Story County Animal Shelter's Facebook page and noted that the Department does not use Craig's List to advertise.

Ms. McCaskey stated the department has two veterinarians and refers to Iowa State Veterinary School when the need arises.

The Committee and Ms. McCaskey tour the facility.

After the tour, the Committee adjourned in order to travel to the Story County Justice Center, where they reconvened.

**Elected Official/Department Head: Mr. Paul Fitzgerald, Story County Sheriff**

Mr. Paul Fitzgerald reviewed the Sheriff's Office staff as being 82 full-time employees and one part-time employee. Mr. Fitzgerald also stated the Department has four stand-alone divisions being stated as such: field services, communicator, jail, support services and administrations being the 5<sup>th</sup> unofficial division.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated he is the President of National Sheriff's Association. Mr. Fitzgerald also gave a review of his time on staff beginning in 1993 with 36 sworn deputies with there now being 31 with the transition to a civilian jail with two still sworn in at the jail. Mr. Fitzgerald stated that patrol has fifteen deputies on staff with five deputies and one sergeant assigned to each shift, two

deputies in investigations, and two deputies on the drug task force, which is combined with Story, Boone and Greene Counties. Mr. Fitzgerald also reviewed support services stating there are two deputies, a sergeant, and a division commander to handle the civil process for what comes from the courts.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated that communications are overseen by the E911 Commission. Mr. Fitzgerald also stated that Ames, ISU and Story County have redundancy in communications systems.

Mr. Fitzgerald stated he oversees the budget and empowers those under him to do what needs to be done efficiently. Mr. Fitzgerald reviewed the Departments' staff meeting, command staff meeting and command staff retreat-off-site schedule.

The Committee asked Mr. Fitzgerald if he sees a need for a drug or bomb dog. Mr. Fitzgerald stated he does not as there are many things to consider when handling dogs with such training such as scheduling time for training and not having the resources available to continue to support the dog.

Committee members asked Mr. Fitzgerald's opinion regarding security and whether or not he has received guidelines from the Board of Supervisors and a budget for such. Mr. Fitzgerald identified different levels of security such as video cameras in the master control which is monitored by himself or a deputy. Budget and staffing was discussed. Mr. Paul Toot also commented that any decision regarding such needs to be approved by the BOS.

**Elected Official/Department Head: Stephen Holmes, Story County Attorney**

Mr. Stephen Holmes stated he feels he is the top law enforcement officer in Story County and stated he has 29 employees, with split office duties between Ames and Nevada. Said employees maintain and service, in effect, four courtrooms.

Mr. Holmes stated that Story County has eleven county attorneys. Mr. Holmes compared that to Woodbury County, which has 17 county attorneys. Mr. Holmes stated nine people work in Ames and the remainder in Nevada.

Mr. Holmes stated Story County is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Judicial District and has six resident district judges. Mr. Holmes also stated that his office is the civil council for the County and all County elected officials.

Mr. Holmes stated the county has had sixty cases prosecuted to a jury trial. Mr. Holmes also stated there is \$60,000 allocated as a line item for jury trials in the budget.

Mr. Holmes stated he began working for Story County in 1989. Mr. Holmes reviewed that since such time, the Legislature has made matters more complicated by implementing the EDMS, Electronic Data Management System, and as a result has lost three employees. Mr. Holmes stated that Story County staff made the system more usable since implementation.

Mr. Holmes commented that the assistants do a marvelous job. Mr. Holmes also stated that statutory duties are limited; he enjoys the job and there is never a dull moment. Mr. Holmes also stated that he enjoys working with all the other departments.

Mr. Holmes was asked his opinion regarding security. Mr. Holmes commented with cautionary remarks regarding concealed weapons permits. Mr. Holmes stated that thousands of laws are on the books regarding such. It is Mr. Holmes' opinion that law-abiding citizens deserve the respect of all. Mr. Holmes stated that statistically it is more likely one would be harmed by a co-worker as an argument or dissolution.

Mr. Holmes commented that the county is a unique structure and referenced settlement patterns of the original states and such that county has partisan elected officers. Mr. Holmes was asked



his opinion regarding a manger style system for the County. Mr. Holmes asked what would the manager manage and would said manager act in the interest of the electorate such as a non-partisan elected office or an appointed office deputy of the BOS.

Mr. Holmes was asked his opinion regarding the structure of a 3 vs. 5 member of the BOS structure. Mr. Holmes reviewed his findings with other counties that have a five member BOS and he found the counties were more partisan as a result. Mr. Holmes asked how voting would be structured.

Mr. Holmes stated he could see legal aid fitting into the County structure, but funding would need to come from a variety of different sources.

Mr. Holmes also reviewed that CCJ handles 75% of all probations and the state handles the remaining 25%. Mr. Holmes stated CCJ has an 88% compliance rates.

Committee members asked Mr. Holmes in what areas he would like to see improvement. Mr. Holmes stated he feels a need for new, young officers that have an emphasis on certain, different, kinds of training particular to new areas that require specialized training such as investigatory, evidence gathering, conversing with public including public speaking skills, and acquiring and explaining evidence.

Mr. Holmes stated that all criminal filings, for the most part, are filed by law enforcement.





## Government Restructuring Committee

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### **Committee Members**

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

## **GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE**

Tentative Agenda  
Tuesday, January 10, 2012  
7:00 pm

*Collins Community Center - Collins, Iowa*

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21  
IOWA CODE.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Discussion of timeframe and visits with County Elected Officials and Departments and tour with Facilities Management
- IV. Committee Discussion
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjourn



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** January 10, 2012

**Call to Order:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Collins Community Center  
Collins, Iowa

**Adjournment:** 8:00 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
\*Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** Kristy Armentrout, Rick Sanders, David Zeisneiss

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

Mr. Ted Tedesco explained the roll of the committee to all individuals present.

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**Public Comment**

A community member stated they appreciate yearly meetings with the Auditor's Office and the Story County Board of Supervisors. Such person also asked what process needed to be taken to request rock to be placed on roads. Collins Township feels like they get put off and it all comes down to budget. Township Trustees would like an opportunity to meet with the elected officials and departmental heads to discuss such issues.

Ms. Sandra McJimsey questioned whether a once per year meeting would be sufficient. A community member also stated this may be an opportunity for networking with other townships.

Mr. Tedesco questioned whether it would be easier to have some of the departments combine. A community member also stated that Story County Conservation has so much to review at times there may not be sufficient meeting time to cover it all.

Ms. McJimsey asked who attends such meetings. A community member stated the meetings are attended by the township trustees.

Ms. Sandy Opstvedt inquired as to whether the Story County Conservation Board goes out to the communities to visit. Mr. Tedesco explained how school programs are set up and in what communities they are present.

A council member asked what is occurring at Dakins Lake. Mr. Tedesco explained the scope of the project.

Mr. Tedesco questioned council members whether Collins has discussed the possibility of becoming a Blue Zone Community. A community member stated it was unsure if Collins had considered this.

A Township Trustee stated Collins is looking into a fitness center. Mr. Tedesco informed such Trustee that Wellmark is a good resource in such venture.

A Township Trustee addressed the lack of attendance at the meeting may be due to an overall feeling that this process is just another chance for Ames to shine. Mr. Rick Sanders explained the framework and structure of the Government Restructuring Committee. Mr. Tedesco voiced a main concern of everyone is questioning how to ensure representation on the Board of Supervisors for someone outside of Ames. Mr. Marty Chitty explained the potential districting options as allowed by the *Iowa Code* and how it represents what it takes based on census. Ms. Kristy Armentrout stated the community had a better turnout for the last two elections.

Mr. Chitty asked Ms. Armentrout to explain further her question regarding the. Ms. Armentrout explained that most roads have sand and very little rock. Mr. Chitty asked whether Ms. Armentrout felt they were poorly served. Ms. Armentrout replied they do not feel poorly served and understand budget concerns, but when the County stopped going to snow plow school and reduced grader training the quality of the roads has diminished. Mr. Sanders provided comments on the secondary roads system and stated that GPS systems have been put in place for better accountability. Mr. Steve McGill questioned whether there are a number of secondary roads that should be closed. A committee member has been asked to speak with Mr. Darren Moon to gather information about secondary roads and area population. Mr. Tedesco asked if a class for operators to learn how to deal with people may be necessary. Mr. McGill asked what types of training motor graders receive. Ms. Opstvedt proposed a review process where the Story County Board of Supervisors reaches out to cities to discuss job quality of County employees and receive feedback.

A council member stated that rock used to be placed on the County roads during times of high farming activity and traffic. Such member also asked that Mr. Moon be questioned about the timing and placement of rock on the roads.

Ms. Opstvedt asked if there are any viewpoints on licensing requirements and having to visit various places to apply and receive all the needed licenses and permits at the administration building. A city council member stated they go to Walmart for licensing of ATVs and snowmobiles. Ms. Armentrout stated it's not possible to get official plates unless you go through Polk County. Mr. Sanders stated the Board of Supervisors is focusing on shifting positions to put out and staff a one-time permitting application and location.

Ms. Opstvedt stated there are many volunteer opportunities for Story County that are not being tapped into.

Mr. Sanders stated the courthouse security (by code) is being administered by the Sheriff. Ms. Armentrout stated the last two deputies assigned have been good and attended council meetings.

Ms. McJimsey asked if annual meetings with township trustees could be structured differently. Such as offering upfront facts as to what the budget allows vs. what we can accomplish.

Mr. Tedesco stated the IRVM in Story County is unique and possibly putting him solely with the Engineer rather than Conservation.

Ms. Opstvedt asked if a county-wide conference with all elected officials, appointed officials, etc. would be beneficial. Mr. Tedesco asked if ISAC is ever contacted.

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### **Committee discussion**

Ms. Opstvedt asked if there is a way to talk to department heads on February 10<sup>th</sup> and invite employees as well.

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### **Meeting Adjourned**





## Government Restructuring Committee

c/o Story County Planning and Development Department  
Administration Building  
900 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201  
Phone: (515) 382-7245 Fax: (515) 382-7294  
[www.storycounty.com](http://www.storycounty.com)

### **Committee Members**

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

## **GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE**

Tentative Agenda  
Thursday, January 12, 2012  
7:00 pm

*Story City, City Hall – Story City, Iowa*

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21  
IOWA CODE.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Discussion of timeframe and visits with County Elected Officials and Departments and tour with Facilities Management
- IV. Committee Discussion
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjourn



## MINUTES GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** January 12, 2012

**Call to Order:** 7:05 p.m.  
**Location:** Story City, City Hall  
Story City, Iowa

**Adjournment:** 9:04 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
\*Tom Corrieri  
\*Steve McGill  
\*Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** Rich Olive, Renee Twedt, Paul Toot, Dave Morris

Mr. Ted Tedesco explained the roll of the committee to all individuals present.

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**Public Comment**

Mr. Rich Olive questioned the committee if they would recommend the Story County Board of Supervisors increasing from a three person board to a five person board. Mr. Marty Chitty explained such change has been under serious discussion. Mr. Chitty provided county maps to show district sizes and gave an overview of guidelines and restrictions. Mr. Olive stated he would like to see partisanship play less of a part in county government. Ms. Leanne Harter stated that ISAC would be a good sounding board regarding this matter. Mr. Paul Toot stated he feels that Story County has a good group of politicians. Mr. Tedesco stated an odd number of members is best in decision making.

Mr. Olive asked whether overlapping of departments or departmental combining has been considered. Mr. Tedesco stated they have looked into this and reviewed surrounding counties departmental structure as well. Ms. Sandy Opstvedt stated that Marshall County is one county that has combined departments. Mr. Olive stated he is aware of some counties sharing department employees and locations. Mr. Olive stated the Story County Recorder's Office is run efficiently, and he has been pleased with the service he has received.

Mr. Tedesco asked if Mr. Olive would like to see a central location to apply for permits. Mr. Toot stated such considerations are currently being taken under consideration. Mr. Tedesco stated such office location and restructuring may be one of the Committee's recommendations.

Mr. Dave Morris questioned why the online payments for property taxes have such a high fee. Mr. Tedesco stated the fee is based on third party administrative credit card fees. Ms. Twedt stated she has been working towards reducing such contracted fees. Mr. Olive asked if the employee process and time needed is different depending on type of payment. Ms. Twedt stated the employee process is the same with a check payment vs. an online credit card payment. Ms. Twedt stated she is working towards having local banks accept property tax payments and having the information transferred to the County. Mr. Olive stated his experience is such that county services are much more efficient than state services.

Ms. Twedt asked the committee what challenges have been discovered among the County and which of those will be included in the committee's report. Mr. Tedesco stated he is concerned there are too many small kingdoms in the County and those walls need to be broken down so that

all departments can work cohesively towards a common goal. Ms. Opstvedt stated a common theme of concern is security amongst the County buildings. Mr. Chitty stated that the budget is the biggest issue when it comes to security. Mr. Chitty gave an overview of some of the concerns. Ms. Opstvedt stated there have been incidences of County employees being inappropriately approached outside County offices. Ms Opstvedt also stated another concern is the number of deputies working at night. Mr. Chitty asked Mr. Toot how many deputies were on duty when he was working in that department. Mr. Toot explained they used a staggered scheduling technique. Mr. Toot explained that many factors play a part when a call comes in.

Ms. Opstvedt stated that the Collins Township Trustees would like to have regular meetings with each County department. Mr. Toot stated a yearly meeting with the township trustees is currently held. Mr. Tedesco stated the concern was more of a time constraint regarding the meeting timeframe and having enough time to cover all concerns.

Ms. Opstvedt also approached the subject of the Dakins Lake project. Mr. Tedesco gave an overview of Conservation and their roles. Mr. Toot stated the County is at the tail end of the Milford drainage project. Mr. Chitty stated the project looks great and is a large improvement.

Ms. Opstvedt asked Mr. Toot what is being spent to maintain the County law library. Mr. Toot stated zero dollars are being spent on the library. Mr. Toot reviewed the current and future use of the library. Mr. Toot also stated the location is used very minimally due to the abundance of information that can be accessed online. Mr. Chitty asked what the County would do with the library if it were to be closed down. Mr. Toot stated he would be reluctant to make any quick and or large changes on such a new building.

Mr. Tedesco asked Mr. Morris if he has any concerns or questions regarding county government. Mr. Morris asked for an updated status of connecting the Story City current recreation trails to Ames. Mr. Tedesco stated he is unaware of the status. Mr. Chitty reviewed how the trails in Nevada are highly used and feels they are beneficial to the community.

Mr. Tesco further reviewed the Dakins Lake project and the Wellmark Blue Zone Project. Mr. Tedesco asked if the Story City Council had applied for Blue Zone. Mr. Morris stated he was unsure.

Ms. Twedt stated she would like to start taking passport photos in the Treasurer's Office. Ms. Twedt reviewed the passport timeline and photo process.

Mr. Chitty stated he would like to see the pass though on the lower level south east side of the Administration building enclosed for facilities equipment storage. Mr. Toot agreed but stated the current budget went towards roof repairs.

Mr. Toot reviewed the revenue shortage in the E911 department. Mr. Morris asked why that revenue is decreasing. Mr. Toot explained it is due to more and more people discontinuing use of landline phones and the taxes collected from such.

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### **Committee discussion**

Mr. Tedesco spoke to Mr. Toot regarding having one combined security force. Mr. Toot stated this may happen, but is unaware of the process needed to achieve such a task. Mr. Chitty stated that school districts met with the city and the city of Nevada would like to see more visual appearance of security officials.

Ms. Opstvedt stated consolidated licensing services could be a good idea. Ms. Opstvedt asked if the Committee recommended added responsibility to the Treasurer's Office would this cause longer lines and more frustration for the customer. Ms. Twedt reviewed the office hours and which times are busier.



Mr. Tedesco asked if electronic signature and accepting online payments will move forward into other areas or departments. Ms. Twedt stated she does not see the electronic signature moving forward. Ms. Twedt stated the Treasurer's Office is down one employee and two more employees are currently out for medical reasons. Ms. Twedt also stated the Treasurer's Office has taken on more responsibility. Ms. Twedt stated they do the best they can with the help they have to provide a positive customer experience.

Mr. Chitty asked if restructuring the Recorder's and Treasurer's Office and having a county manager rather than elected officials would be beneficial to the budget. Mr. Toot stated he felt it could be. The elected official process and requirements were discussed. Mr. Tedesco stated if a county manager is hired then elected officials need to be done away with and a county manager needs to be given full authority of the department.

Mr. Chitty asked if the County would be run better as a business. Mr. Toot stated the major difference between the two is that county offices have elected officials and the Board of Supervisors does not have authority over elected officials. Ms. Opstvedt stated the County is cutting jobs in multiple departments so she feels adding a position wouldn't make sense.

Mr. Toot reviewed the Urban Renewal goals.

Mr. Toot reviewed the Assessor status and difference between County and City Assessor roles. Mr. Tedesco and Mr. Toot concurred that the Assessor is their own entity and taxing authority. Ms. Leanne Harter stated Wayne Schwickerath has spent time compiling facts and figures regarding this.

Mr. Toot inquired about the Committee report as to whether they planned to submit individual reports or one cohesive report. Mr. Tedesco stated he has recommended the Committee members be taking notes and then will come together to discuss such notes and decide from there as to what structure the report will take. Mr. Chitty stated he sees a cohesive manner to the Committee and feels they have agreed on most subjects.

Ms. Opstvedt stated she has witnessed department heads taking great pride in their employees, departmental activities and successes.

Mr. Chitty reviewed elected officials annual pay from an ISAC report dating through 2011. The county comparison was discussed.

Mr. Tedesco stated the majority of the people going to the administration offices are elderly people and the younger generation is doing most of these functions online. Mr. Tedesco asked how we cater to this up and coming generation. Ms. Twedt stated the County is going to be having a new website soon which should be more user friendly. Ms. Opstvedt asked how the County will continue to provide the face to face customer service. Ms. Twedt stated they will provide the best service with the means they are given.

Ms. Opstvedt asked the Board of Supervisors' roles in each department. Mr. Toot reviewed such responsibilities. Ms. Opstvedt asked for a review of the Boards' responsibility in the collective bargaining process. Mr. Toot reviewed such process. Mr. Tedesco asked if the County Attorney hires all his employees. Mr. Toot concurred. Mr. Tedesco asked how payroll is conducted by department. Mr. Toot and Ms. Twedt reviewed the different processes such as employee vs. elected officials and their deputies.

Ms. Leanne Harter asked if the outdoor drop off box could be used for other departments. Ms. Twedt stated the drop box could be beneficial to all departments. Ms. Twedt also stated that if there is a time constraint on the item being dropped off it may not be best choice of delivery.



Ms. Harter asked if the committee would like her to provide an online survey that could be provided to the general public for response regarding county concerns or topics. Mr. Tedesco stated he felt this would be a good idea. Ms. Opstvedt asked Ms. Harter to publish such form with the local newspapers. Mr. Chitty stated it would be good for citizens to have an easy way to submit comments or concerns.

Media coverage of committee meetings was discussed.

Ms. Harter stated she has contacted Mr. Darren Moon regarding the Collins meeting and is waiting to hear back from Mr. Moon.

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**Meeting Adjourned: 9:04**



PLEASE RECYCLE



## Government Restructuring Committee

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### **Committee Members**

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

## **GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE**

Tentative Agenda  
Thursday, January 19, 2012  
7:00 pm

*Huxley City Hall - Huxley, Iowa*

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21  
IOWA CODE.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Discussion of timeframe and visits with County Elected Officials and Departments and tour with Facilities Management
- IV. Committee Discussion
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjourn



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE (GRC)

**Date of Meeting:** January 19, 2012

**Call to Order:** 7:01 p.m.  
**Location:** Huxley City Hall  
Huxley, Iowa

**Adjournment:** 8:36 p.m.

**Roll Call:**  
Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
\*Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** Angela Davidson, Howard Hammond, Stephen Holmes, Paul Toot

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

Mr. Ted Tedesco explained the roll of the Committee to all individuals present.

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### Public Comment

Mr. Howard Hammond expressed that some folks may get their feathers ruffled with any possible changes, but is glad the County is still driving to make Story County and its cities the best they can be.

Mr. Marty Chitty commented what has been expressed in previous community meetings: security in county buildings, secondary road concerns, public safety and Conservation.

Ms. Sandy Opstvedt commented that it has been interesting to get into the departments and see how well they are being run, but improvements can always be made.

Mr. Ted Tedesco commented on the City and County Assessor's Offices. Mr. Tedesco stated there had been some discussion as to possibly only needing only one assessor which would service the County and City. Mr. Tedesco discussed some potential cost savings such as working together to unify computer systems.

Mr. Tedesco asked Ms. Angela Davidson if the Chamber will be sending out a questionnaire regarding government affairs committee. Ms. Davidson commented she was thrilled to know the County set-up the Committee, but nothing in particular was in the works to be sent out.

Ms. Opstvedt commented that the meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January should be rescheduled. All agreed. Ms. Leanne Harter was directed to do so. Ms. Harter will check to see if February 9<sup>th</sup> could be a possible reschedule date.

Mr. Hammond asked if we are attempting to reach out to other counties regarding sharing services and has ISAC been able to give any direction on these models. Committee members mentioned Marshall County and Linn County.

Mr. Marty Chitty handed out possible districts. Mr. Tedesco pointed out that any plan would mean three supervisors in Ames. Mr. Paul Toot explained the process on the ballots to accomplish 3-5 supervisors. Committee members discussed the numbers of counties in Iowa with 3 or 5 supervisors and the dynamics of having a county manger and elected officials. Mr. Chitty shared

of the 10 most populated, 7 of 10 have 5 supervisors. Mr. Chitty shared the breakout developed by ISAC. Mr. Tedesco commented that county government is very antiquated and unchanged in Iowa.

Mr. Tom Corrieri asked when all the facts will be taken and formulation of the recommendations will begin.

Ms. Opstvedt shared the comments made in Collins to the GRC regarding the concern of Ames. Mr. Tedesco commented that he's been suggesting all along that members get ideas down as they go along regarding what needs to be changed and how to implement such changes.

Mr. Steve Holmes asked out of 7 that have 5 members' boards how many are part-time vs. full-time. Mr. Holmes took some time to talk to Linn County and asked if anyone has spoken with Board of Supervisors members in larger counties to see how the 5 member board is going. Mr. Holmes shared the discussion he had with Linn County such county stated the board size did not pan out. The committee discussed the steps in which expanding the Board of Supervisors from 3 to 5 members would need to be taken.

Mr. Holmes shared that the Linn County vote had to come to a special election and was quite expensive dealing with an antiquated state code.

Mr. Holmes asked for an overview of a county manager what said manager would actually have control over. Mr. Holmes also stated that the growing or budget pains associated with the state court system are a concern. Mr. Holmes stated the influence of county seats in history with the courthouse as a center of identity and affairs and that this may be changing as courts consider consolidating, but the Iowa law will need to change to allow this to occur. Mr. Holmes discussed EDMS and Story County's position as a pilot county. Mr. Holmes stated that in the last year or so it's been very interesting and trying program in which to participate.

The Committee discussed the impacts of casinos. A Committee member stated change is happening, but let's see the economic impact of this change before making changes.

Mr. Holmes stated that EDMS works well if you don't actually need to have people serviced and that's where the system wasn't thoughtfully carried out. Mr. Toot stated it's the same issue as the new computers set out for Iowa Workforce development in lieu of the centers.

Mr. Chitty asked where we are with the County library. Mr. Toot stated that other than heat and lights, the County isn't spending any money on it. Mr. Toot stated that everyone has access to on-line data so the library isn't used as much as it used to be. Ms. Sandra McJimsey asked if the County is not investing in physical updates to the library then could it be space that could be used for other purposes. Ms. McJimsey also asked whether there is any net worth or value on the market for the books and can it be cleaned out now because we are not funding it.

Mr. Howard asked how many people had attended the other meetings. Committee members responded and stated there is an apathetic attitude prevalent, apathetic because they don't trust government. A Committee member stated education and communication should be part of the process in creating a better system so that people understand what we should be doing.

Mr. Tedesco stated there have been some discussions regarding the non-partisan nature of county elections.

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### **Committee discussion**

Ms. Harter was asked to inquire with Gary Taylor, from ISU, to see if he could assist with the survey development.



CPAT report and recommendations were discussed.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:36 p.m.



**PLEASE RECYCLE**



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### **Committee Members**

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

## **GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE**

Tentative Agenda  
Tuesday, January 24, 2012  
7:00 pm

*Nevada City Hall - Nevada, Iowa*

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21  
IOWA CODE.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Discussion of timeframe and visits with County Elected Officials and Departments and tour with Facilities Management
- IV. Committee Discussion
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjourn



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE (GRC)

**Date of Meeting:** January 24, 2012

**Call to Order:** 7:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Nevada City Hall  
Nevada, Iowa

**Adjournment:** 8:12 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
\*Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
\*Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** Nathan Cook; Jerry Gull; Nancy Miller; Stacie Herridge; Paul Toot; Sue VandeKamp

**Staff Present:** Kristin Cook; Leanne Harter

Mr. Ted Tedesco explained the roll of the committee to all individuals present.

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### Public Comment

Ms. Nancy Miller asked what kinds of input the Committee has already received. Mr. Ted Tedesco reviewed previous meeting and topics such as districts, costs, one location for licenses and permits, security, and roads. Mr. Jerry Gull stated that when building Nevada City Hall security was the largest concern.

Mr. Tedesco explained the three avenues that will possibly need to be taken to implement the Committee's suggestions. That is approaching the State of Iowa, the Story County Board of Supervisors, or simply an administrative change. Ms. Sue VandeKamp stated that the Administration building had panic buttons for security purposes when the jail and Sheriff's Office were located in the building. When the building was remodeled the buttons were removed.

Ms. Miller asked whether any of the Committee members attended the DOT meeting last week. The Committee members stated they had not attended as they had a GRC meeting in Huxley the same evening. Ms. Miller asked the DOT what the expected timeline of implementation would be for any changes. According to Ms. Miller, DOT committee members responded stating that deadlines had not yet been set. Ms. Miller would like to know a timeline of answering concerns regarding roads from the GRC. Mr. Tedesco stated that most of the road concerns are a dust issue and the Committee will be looking into this and hope to reference it in their report. Ms. Miller asked how many districts we currently have for road maintenance.

Ms. Miller stated she is in favor of going from a three to five member Board of Supervisors, but the three we currently have work well together and why change something that's working. Ms. Miller referenced the CPAT report asking how every part of the county will be reviewed. Mr. Tedesco stated that the population plays a large role in districts and two thirds of the population is in Ames and that would make it hard to split the districts properly. Mr. Tedesco stated that this would also cause there to be a need for staggered terms. Mr. Gull stated there would also be concerns regarding voting, planning and turnover, but there could possibly be more continuity if there would be a five person board. Mr. Gull also noted that it would be easier to have a quorum with a five person board. Mr. Tedesco stated there would also be more representation throughout

the county if there larger size board. Mr. Tedesco reviewed how a five person board did not work within Linn County. Mr. Gull stated it's hard to predict if this would work well in Story County until we try it.

Mr. Tedesco reviewed how Marshall County has combined county offices recently. Mr. Ted Tedesco commented on the City and County Assessor's Offices. Mr. Tedesco stated there had been some discussion as to possibly only needing only one Assessor which would service the County and City. Mr. Tedesco discussed some potential cost savings such as working together to unify computer systems. Mr. Gull stated he feels this would be a good decision and it would help with budget concerns.

Mr. Tedesco stated that Story County's unemployment level is so low he is concerned with having qualified workers, looking for work, to fulfill the needed jobs with incoming corporations. Mr. Gull stated the City of Nevada and the City of Ames have been in discussions regarding the infrastructure and industrial corridor.

Ms. Miller asked if quality of life within Story County has been discussed. Mr. Tedesco stated he is on the Conservation Board. Mr. Tedesco reviewed the Dakin Lake Project. Mr. Tedesco also stated that County Conservation is scheduled out planning for the next 5,10, and 15 years with projects/budget and the County will need to raise more money out of private sectors due to public money dwindling. Mr. Patrick sheets stated he has experienced people visiting Story County and commenting how the trails and pools are a great asset. Mr. Tedesco also stated how greatly the Ada Hayden area is used for recreational use and is very close to being connected to the Skunk River trail.

Ms. Miller asked if flooding has come up in discussions. Mr. McJimsey stated the subject has come up with in departmental meetings more than public meetings. Mr. Tedesco stated the subject of adding culverts to US Highway 30 has been broached.

Mr. Tedesco stated if attendees think of any questions or concerns after the meeting to please contact Ms. Harter, and the message with be passed on to the Committee.

Ms. Miller asked if the Committee has started to prioritize their suggestions. Mr. Tedesco commented that he has been suggesting all along that members get ideas written down as they go along regarding what needs to be changed and how to implement such changes. Mr. Steve McGill stated the frustrating issue is that the funding is being cut, but to make some of the necessary changes funding is needed.

Mr. Gull asked what kind of burden it is to supply police services to the smaller communities and could these smaller communities have a municipal police staff. Mr. Toot stated it is not a burden and reviewed the County Sheriff's requirements, by Code, to supply certain duties. Mr. Toot stated the largest item on the Sherriff's plate is the jail staff. Mr. Gull asked if the process of operating the jail could be contracted out. Mr. Toot stated he was unsure. Mr. Tedesco asked if hiring more deputies to cover the smaller populated areas of the County would be beneficial. The revenue shortage in the E911 department was discussed stating the shortage is due to more and more people discontinuing the use of landline phones and the taxes collected from such. Mr. Toot reviewed the current process for redundant dispatch services, stating that the City of Ames covers for the County Sheriff's Office if the County office goes down and vice versa. Mr. Tom Corrieri stated privatization is sometimes not the best choice for government entities.

Ms. Miller stated she feels there should be a happy medium and balance between high revenue times and low revenue times. Mr. Tedesco stated the more money the government made, the more services the citizens wanted. Mr. Gull stated that citizens have a whole different set of expectations. Ms. Miller commented that just because the money is coming in doesn't mean it needs to be spent. Mr. Tedesco reviewed the ASSET process and its goals to achieve a budget reserve. Mr. McGill stated that Story County is the county of "milk and honey" and our services



draw more citizens to reside in our area. Mr. McGill concurred with Ms. Miller stating he agrees that the County doesn't always need to say yes to all citizen wants. Mr. McGill reviewed the ASSET group's struggle with having surplus monies, but yet seeing that dwindle quickly with cut backs and finding the right balance between the two. Ms. McJimsey concurred stating Human Services are being cut back just as the needs are rising for such services. Mr. Toot stated the City of Gilbert will be building a new high school adjacent to a gravel road and three entities have requested the County to pave the road by the time the high school is complete and to have a bike path built between Ames and Gilbert. Mr. Toot also reviewed the costs for such development.

Mr. Nathan Cook asked if there has been discussion regarding the reduction of the number of roads or reducing some roads to a level B status. Mr. McGill stated the County Engineer has been approached and he has stated that it is a hard subject to broach. Mr. McGill stated no official discussions have been made.

Ms. Miller asked if a frontage road to US Highway 30 is planned to be built. Mr. Toot stated that such development would create a large maintenance issue and is unsure if such development is in the plans.

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#### **Committee discussion**

Ms. Leanne Harter reviewed possible dates for the Ames GRC meeting. Committee discussion revealed that March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 7:00pm would be the new date and time. Mr. Tedesco asked if an intern would be present at such meeting. Ms. Harter stated she would ask for such. Ms. Harter confirmation that Jack Whitmer will attend via phone and Jayne Halliburton will attend in person. Ms. Harter reviewed the meeting time, date and location scheduled between the GRC and current staff and that staff has been informed that they can submit anonymous suggestions to the planning and development office via inner-office mail.

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**Meeting Adjourned:** 8:12 p.m.





## Government Restructuring Committee

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### **Committee Members**

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

## **GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE**

Tentative Agenda  
Thursday, February 2, 2012  
7:00 pm

*Dakins Community Center - Zearing, Iowa*

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21  
IOWA CODE.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
- IV. Committee Discussion
  - a. Survey
- V. Staff Updates
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Adjourn



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** February 2, 2012

**Call to Order:** 7:06 p.m.

**Location:** Dakins Community Center  
Zearing, Iowa

**Adjournment:** 8:17 p.m.

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
\*Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
\*Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
\*Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

### Public Present

Leanne Harter, Paul Toot, Eric Brown, Shelley Zoe, Jim Chance, Bill Lytle, Jeff Johnston, Rick Good

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### Public Comment

Mr. Ted Tedesco explained the roll of the committee to all individuals present.

Mr. Tedesco gave a review of his history with city and county government.

A community member asked why the committee was formed. Mr. Tedesco reiterated the committee's role.

A community member questioned whether the Story County Board of Supervisors, BOS, would increase from a three person board to five person board. Mr. Tedesco reviewed *Iowa State Code Section 331* and its guidelines, regulations and restrictions. Mr. Tedesco gave an overview of the districting process. Mr. Paul Toot also explained the process in which districts are structured as regulated by the current *Iowa Code 331*. A community member asked if the student body of ISU were counted as citizens of Ames. Mr. Tedesco stated ISU students are considered citizens of Ames as citizenship is based upon current residence. Mr. Toot gave an overview of BOS member history.

Mr. Tedesco reviewed Marshall County's recent combining of some of the county offices.

Ms. Sandra McJimsey reviewed past meetings and concerns that had been brought to the committee's attention such as districting, budgets, and roads.

A community member gave an overview of the City of McCallsburg and its population, budget, and needs from the County Sheriff's Department.

Committee members and community members discussed in length the Story County Sheriff's Department. Community members feel they are being over taxed, per capita fee, by County Sheriff's Department and this is a large detriment to a declining economy for small towns such as Zearing and McCallsburg. Mr. Tedesco stated the BOS has control of the Sheriff's budget. Committee members and community members compared Story County Sheriff Department staff to that of Marshall County.

A community member asked if the County Sheriff's Department responds to ISU calls. Mr. Tedesco stated the City of Ames is the first to respond to such calls.

Mr. Toot gave an overview of County funding. Mr. Toot reviewed the number of Sheriff's office staff and detention staff. A community member stated concerns regarding the amount of money being spent at the County Sheriff's office. Mr. Toot reviewed the contract between the Sheriff's office and outlying cities. A community member reiterated concerns regarding the per capita fees and feelings that said fees are too high at \$49.29 per person. Mr. Tedesco asked if said cities are at their property tax levy limit. Community members concurred.

A community member stated he felt the County roads have been maintained well.

Mr. Tedesco gave overview of possibly sharing one Assessor between the County and the City of Ames. Mr. Tedesco stated all citizens need the services, but if we can do it smarter and use resources more cost effectively the better.

The contract between the Sheriff's office and the cities was reviewed again. It was stated that the contracted hours between the County Sheriff's office and outlying cities is contracted at 30 to 35 hours per week. Mr. Tom Corrieri asked if anyone had discussions with the County Sheriff regarding concerns. It was stated that community members had not done such as they felt it would not do any good.

It was stated that the Sheriff's office did a nice job cleaning up some high drug areas in the county.

Mr. Tedesco questioned who had the authority to set the number of personnel within the Sheriff's office. Mr. Toot stated it is the BOS decision. Ms. McJimsey asked if employee hours were set via contract. Community members stated that a contract is mailed from the County Sheriff and it is then mailed back with no meetings being held for discussions. A community member stated they would like to see better communication between the County and City such as receiving meeting notices more than one day prior. Mr. Tedesco stated that the small cities should consider banning together and speaking with the Sheriff and BOS.

A community member asked what other cities are saying about districting and possibly changing from a three to five person BOS. Mr. Tedesco stated other cities asked how districts would be split. The Board of Supervisor's roles, districting, part-time vs. full-time, wages, and what constitutes a quorum were discussed. Mr. Tedesco stated that Story County has always had a three person BOS. Mr. Toot reviewed other Iowa counties and the number of members on each BOS. Ms. Leanne Harter gave an overview of the first Story County BOS meeting and membership.

Mr. Corrieri stated all discussions lead back to economics and what can we do to develop outlying areas to create more viable communities and increase the needed economic development.

Mr. Tedesco reviewed the expected completion date of the Dakin's Lake project and trail-way improvements. Mr. Tedesco stated the public is demanding a high "quality of life" type of recreation and the county is doing what they can to accommodate such demand. Mr. Tedesco suggested the cities put exercise equipment into a downtown building. It was stated that insurance costs are too high to do such.

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### **Committee discussion**

Mr. Tedesco asked for discussion regarding a public questionnaire put together by Ms. Harter and how said questionnaire should be dispersed. Ms. Harter gave an overview of the questionnaire and stated that a link could go onto the County website as well as an emailing out to county leaders, a press release to newspapers and Ames News Online. Ms. Harter stated that the questionnaire is informational only and has no statistical validity due to the County not having any control as to how many times an individual could submit said questionnaire. Mr. Sheets



questioned whether internet disbursement would is enough. A community member asked whether the public libraries could distribute the questionnaires. Mr. Tedesco asked Ms. Harter to send hard copies to outlying cities to accommodate such requests. Ms. Harter asked for a timeframe for disbursement and collection of said questionnaires. Ms. Harter stated the questionnaires could be ready to distribute by Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. After discussion, it was decided to distribute said questionnaire on February 5<sup>th</sup>, 2012 and collection to be completed by March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Mr. Tedesco asked if the GRC could meet with members of the Compensation Board. Mr. Toot stated he thought it would be possible. Mr. Tedesco asked Ms. Harter to schedule such meeting for Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Harter reviewed the upcoming meetings and stated that the Committee will have prior meeting minutes to approve and asked permission to post draft minutes to the County website. Said request was approved. Ms. Harter reviewed information received from Mr. Darren Moon regarding roads and maintenance. Mr. Tedesco informed everyone present that all GRC information is public and available on the County website.

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**Meeting Adjourned: 8:17**





## Government Restructuring Committee

c/o Story County Planning and Development Department  
Administration Building  
900 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201  
Phone: (515) 382-7245 Fax: (515) 382-7294  
[www.storycounty.com](http://www.storycounty.com)



"Commitment, Vision, Balance"

# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** February 10, 2012

**Call to Order:** 10:00 a.m.

**Location:** Administration Building  
Nevada, Iowa

**Adjournment:** 10:00 a.m.

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
\*Steve McGill  
\*Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

### Public Present

None

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### Approval of Minutes

Motion: Chitty

Second: Opstvedt

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### Employee Comment

Mr. Ted Tedesco explained the roll of the committee to all individuals present.

Mr. Tedesco gave an overview of Code 331.

A county employee asked what kind of feedback the committee has received thus far. The committee reviewed previous discussions regarding security, combining of offices, Board of Supervisors membership size, having a county administrator, law enforcement, and county road maintenance.

Building security was discussed further with a review of past and current security measures including cameras, monitors, and potential threats. Employee interactions with disgruntled customers were discussed. County and City police jurisdictions regarding county buildings and security were discussed. Mr. Tedesco discussed the possibility of having a 28E agreement between the City of Nevada and Story County.

The splitting of one office assistant between environmental health and planning and development was discussed. A county employee expressed concern questioning why the Board of Supervisors didn't wait for the GRC recommendations before making such an overly quick decision. It was stated that the Board of Health, which Mr. Paul Toot is chair, recommended to the Board of Supervisors to increase the current half-time environmental health office assistant position to full-time. The Board of Supervisors instead decided to leave the position as half-time and to achieve that half time position with current budget restrictions, the current employee holding such position was cut and the position became a split position between the health and planning and development departments. It was stated that the County Board of Health, except the Chair, was unaware of such changes until after the fact at their regularly scheduled February meeting after the decision had already been made and the actions had been set into motion. Mr. Tedesco stated that there is a lot of disjoint or disconnect in county government and there should be a better way of communicating. Control of the environmental health department was discussed and it was stated that the Supreme Court had previously determined that the Board of Health controls

the environmental health department. It was also stated that there was a strong feeling that Mr. Toot, Board of Health chair and Board of Supervisors member, should have been representing the Board of Health on this issue and not the Board of Supervisors. A county employee explained that the environmental health department will now be sharing office space with the planning and development office and shared concerns such as enough space for office supplies, files and the inconvenience of having multiple locations to find a file when a customer is waiting. The budget was discussed and questioned whether this change will actually save money after having to reconfigure things such as phone lines, computers, furniture, etc.

Job descriptions and employee turnover was discussed. It was stated that the lower paid positions are the ones that tend to have a higher turnover rate. It was also stated that many of the job descriptions are not up to date and the county expects to have such descriptions up to date by the end of the current fiscal year.

Technology was discussed in the regards that it is not something that is embraced as a county. Multiple employees stated the county does not keep up with technology and employees don't seem to get a lot of support from the I.T. department. A county employee stated there is no uniform database where everyone is keeping information.

It was stated that creating an administrator position would not help at all unless of course there is a change in structure including getting rid of elected officials. It was discussed that this type of action would require a code change and would cause a great stir.

Mr. Tom Corrieri stated he would like to see some bold changes such as having a popularly elected county executive and to do away with some elected positions like the Treasurer. It was stated that about every four years that person changes so the suggestion would be to make that person reportable to the county supervisors. Mr. Corrieri stated he is unsure as to what the BOS job actually is and it is getting more unclear. Mr. Corrieri suggested the county executive would prepare the budget and present to the BOS. Mr. Tedesco stated it takes people ½ of the four year term to get up to speed so such person would need to re-run for office to be effective in the position.

Job reviews were discussed. It was stated that every department and employee is to have a review at scheduled times, but not all departments comply. It was also stated that any type of monetary raise issued is considered a cost of living raise and not based on merit.

The county insurance plan was discussed. It was stated that most employees do not participate in the county insurance plan as they can get a better plan on their own or via their spouse. A county employee reviewed how the county currently pays the monies out to employees if said employee decided to not take the county insurance plan. These monies are considered salary by most employees and if such monies were to be taken away, a lot of people could be upset as it would affect their annual income and IPERS. It was stated that some may question whether the compensation is adequate if such monies are taken away.

It was stated that the current Board of Supervisors is more inclined to listen to employee concerns than previous boards.

The role of the EAC, Employee Advisory Committee, was discussed. It was stated that each department is to have one employee represent their department on the EAC, but not all departments place someone in that role. A county employee stated the group does not have much impact. It was stated that the EAC did get Wellness Days (2) for people who max out on sick leave. It was stated that many employees are afraid to speak out with suggestions because of repercussions from elected officials. It was also stated that the county does not have a county newsletter. Ms. Sandy Opstvedt asked if workshops or open discussion groups would help open the lines of communication. It was stated that yes employees could see where that could be beneficial. Mr. Tedesco reviewed a program called ETP that he has seen work successfully. Mr.



Tedesco reviewed the ETP process stating that it gives everyone within a corporation a voice no matter what their position.

A recent fire drill was discussed stating there was confusion as to where employees were to meet outside.

A county employee asked what happens if none of the GRC recommendations are considered or acted upon.

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**Committee discussion**

None

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**Meeting Adjourned:** 11:35 a.m.



PLEASE RECYCLE



## Government Restructuring Committee

c/o Story County Planning and Development  
Administration Building  
900 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201  
Phone: (515) 382-7245 Fax: (515) 382-7294  
[www.storycounty.com](http://www.storycounty.com)

### **Committee Members**

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

## **GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE**

Tentative Agenda  
Monday, March 5, 2012  
7:00 pm

*Ames City Hall – Council Chambers – Ames, Iowa\**

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21  
IOWA CODE.**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Committee Discussion
- V. Adjourn

\*Please note that this session will be televised live on local cable access Channel 12 and opportunities for “call-in” to the session will be available.



## MINUTES

### GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

(NOTE: This meeting was videotaped. Below represents a summary of the meeting.  
The video is available on the City of Ames' website – [www.cityofames.org](http://www.cityofames.org).)

**Date of Meeting:** March 5, 2012

**Call to Order:** 6:32 p.m.  
**Location:** Ames City Council Chambers  
Ames, Iowa

**Adjournment:** 7:37 p.m.

#### Roll Call

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** Jim Hendricks, Mary Ann Lundy, Paul A Lundy, Susie Petra, Margaret Jaynes, Erwin Klaas, Ann Campbell, Dolores Betts, Paul Overton, Paul Toot, Rick Sanders, Lauris Olson, Nancy Miller

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Mr. Ted Tedesco explained the role of the Committee to all individuals present and the work done thus far.

Ms. Sandy Opstvedt expressed her appreciation for meeting with elected officials, department heads and County staff and the information learned through such meetings.

Mr. Tedesco commented that some of the feedback heard thus far in the process addressed the creation of a one-stop permitting center and also the potential to combine the City and County Assessor's offices.

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#### PUBLIC COMMENT

##### Mr. Jim Hendricks

Mr. Hendricks noted his interactions with existing County offices have all been good experiences and commented that there were many positive actions happening.

##### Mr. Erwin Klaas

Mr. Klaas shared that he is an elected official, serving for the past 12 years on the soil and water conservation district. Mr. Klaas noted that he answered the questionnaire online. Mr. Klaas discussed the potential restructuring of the soil and water conservation districts along watershed boundaries rather than the current system. Mr. Klaas commented that there are additional ways to manage watersheds and drainage districts and discussed the history of drainage districts. Mr. Klaas noted that on the questionnaire he noted that all the elected officials other than the Board of Supervisors should be all appointed rather than elected.

**Ms. Susie Petra**

Ms. Petra questioned whether the Committee would be addressing means to direct attention and resources to the smaller communities. Mr. Tedesco reviewed comments shared at past meetings from township trustees and smaller community leaders.

**Ms. Nancy Miller**

Ms. Miller reiterated the concern that attention be given to the smaller communities as well.

Ms. Miller addressed the number of supervisors and a shift from three to five. Ms. Miller commented the current three are operating effectively, however, noted that five members would add diversity and action in numbers to accomplish more items.

**Ms. Dolores Betts**

Ms. Betts asked what the recommendations from the Committee may include. Mr. Tedesco responded that the recommendations are still being developed.

**Ms. Susie Petra**

Ms. Petra noted a concern that the elected officials can establish their own salaries. Mr. Tedesco outlined the duties of the Compensation Board, which sets salaries for the elected officials.

**Ms. Margaret Jaynes**

Ms. Jaynes reiterated Ms. Miller's comments regarding the communicative nature of the current Board of Supervisors and noted appreciation of the current three-member Board.

Ms. Jaynes noted she agreed that there did appear to be duplication of effort in having two assessors.

Ms. Jaynes commented on the competitive nature between the union and non-union employees. Ms. Jaynes further commented on the comparison of the salaries of Story County employees versus those salaries and benefits in the City of Ames.

Ms. Jaynes noted support for Mr. Klaas' comments regarding reorganization along watershed boundaries.

**Mr. Rick Sanders**

Mr. Sanders commented his appreciation for the efforts of the Government Restructuring Committee.

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**Adjournment – 7:37 PM**





**GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE  
TENTATIVE AGENDA  
Thursday, March 22, 2012  
6:00 p.m.**

c/o Story County Planning and Development  
Phone: 515.382.7245  
[www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov)

**Committee Members**

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco - Sandy Opstvedt  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

**Story County Administration**

**Assessor's Conference Room**

900 6<sup>th</sup> Street ~ Nevada, Iowa

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21 IOWA CODE**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. DISCUSSION WITH HUMAN RESOURCES DIRECTOR  
Alissa Wignall
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
6. STAFF UPDATES
7. ADJOURNMENT



## MINUTES

### GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** March 22, 2012

**Call to Order:** 6:15 p.m.

**Location: Administration Building  
Nevada, Iowa**

**Adjournment:** 8:15 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
\*Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
\*Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** Lauris Olson

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

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**Discussion with Human Resources Director Alissa Wignall**

Ms. Alissa Wignall gave an overview of the HR Director's duties and office support on staff. Ms. Wignall reviewed the current compensation study being conducted. Ms. Wignall gave an overview of the union and non-union staff.

Mr. Ted Tedesco asked for an overview of the employee review process. Ms. Wignall reviewed the process and stated that union and non-union employees have their own review process. Ms. Wignall stated that reviews are given at 60 days, 90 days and yearly. Ms. Wignall stated the county has a 90 day orientation period for all new employees. Ms. Wignall also stated the county has four unions within the county and gave an overview of each.

Mr. Marty Chitty asked if Ms. Wignall receives direction from the Board of Supervisors (BOS). Ms. Wignall concurred and stated that she attends BOS meetings weekly. Ms. Wignall stated that she has brought ideas to the BOS, some of which are currently being implemented, such as the compensation study and short/long term disability. Mr. Chitty asked how many employees use the county insurance. Ms. Wignall stated about 50 out of 308 employees carry county insurance. Ms. Wignall stated that the ISAC insurance rates are based on usage. Ms. Wignall commented that the county has a wellness program.

Mr. Tedesco asked who reinsures the health pool with ISAC. Ms. Wignall stated she was unsure. Ms. Wignall stated the county employees are good/healthy employees. Ms. Wignall stated the insured pool of employees will be changing as some retire over the next few years. Ms. Wignall stated that currently sick leave is not paid out, but vacation pay is. Mr. Chitty asked how many sick hours can be banked. Ms. Wignall stated employees can bank 960 hours of sick pay. Ms. Wignall reviewed the current Wellness Days program. Ms. Wignall stated that 960 hours as a cap is a common number among other counties. Mr. Chitty asked if benefits accrue by calendar year or fiscal year. Ms. Wignall stated that family sick hours are accrued on a calendar year and all other benefits are based on employee anniversary date.

Ms. Sandra McJimsey asked whether there is tension between union and non-union employees. Ms. Wignall stated in past there have been tensions when union employees receive a raise and non-union employees do not. Ms. Wignall stated that the county is doing their best to keep wages competitive between the two groups.

Mr. Chitty asked if Ms. Wignall is involved with the budget. Ms. Wignall stated she is involved in the decisions regarding budget and the upcoming fiscal year's budget has been approved. Ms. Wignall stated that the compensation study is scheduled to be reported back to BOS in May 2012.

Mr. Tedesco asked Ms. Wignall what her involvement is in the interview process. Ms. Wignall gave an overview of her assistance in the process.

Mr. Tom Corrieri asked for clarification regarding the stance the BOS hold when it comes to union and non-union employees. Ms. Wignall stated the county likes to treat the union and non-union employees equally.

Mr. Chitty asked if the compensation study includes a merit point system. Ms. Wignall stated they are looking into such a process and stated there will be a lot of training needed to implement the process.

Mr. Chitty asked if public input has been sought out by the county. Ms. Wignall stated they do receive complaints from the public. Ms. Wignall stated the public usually calls the BOS office and that information filters down to her.

Mr. Chitty questioned whether the employee review process is completed by the elected officials or if all the responsibility falls on Ms. Wignall. Ms. Wignall stated it is a joint effort.

Mr. Chitty asked for clarification of Ms. Wignall's responsibilities when it comes to employees vs. department head vs. elected officials. Ms. Wignall gave an overview of her involvement.

Mr. Tedesco asked whether Ms. Wignall receives work grievances from employees. Ms. Wignall stated she has an open door policy, but employees are encouraged to speak with their department head first.

Mr. Chitty asked Ms. Wignall to review her current continuing education classes and goals. Ms. Wignall gave an overview of her current studies. Ms. Wignall stated she has learned and brought many new ideas into her work efforts and is working towards her Master's Degree.

Ms. McJimsey asked Ms. Wignall what things, if any, are not in place, but are needed. Ms. Wignall stated that she felt the areas that needed to be reviewed are county insurance, employee training, and management training. Mr. Tedesco asked if the county provides training for elected officials. Ms. Wignall stated there is not a program currently in place. Ms. Wignall stated that employee orientation and training is done for both union and non-union employees. Ms. Wignall stated she stays in contact with other county HR Directors to give and receive input as needed.

Sandra asked Ms. Wignall for her thoughts and feelings about implementing a County Manager. Ms. Wignall stated she has seen such a position work in other counties, but the structure is slightly different. Ms. Wignall stated there are pros and cons to each, but she does not have a definite opinion one direction or the other.

Mr. Tedesco stated that an organization should never be based on current employees, but based on how the organization would run best. Mr. Chitty asked who determines the number of employees per department. Ms. Wignall stated the BOS makes those decisions and sets parameters.



Ms. McJimsey asked about communication between departments. Ms. Wignall stated she feels communication is improving. Ms. Wignall gave a short overview of the new county website and the information that is available to employees and public. Ms. Wignall also stated that the county is moving towards online applications as well.

Mr. Chitty asked whether the county re-evaluates vacant existing positions before trying to fill them. Ms. Wignall stated the county is currently working on evaluating such vacant positions and making cuts where it is deemed appropriate.

Ms. Wignall stated she looks at education progression of applicants. Ms. Wignall stated that the county does not have a current tuition assistance program. Ms. Wignall stated a policy could be put into place, but it would be difficult to budget for when it's unsure who is going to ask for such assistance.

Mr. Tedesco asked which board hires departmental managers. Ms. Wignall stated Commissions and Boards hire their own department directors.

Mr. Chitty asked if Ms. Wignall had any questions or concerns for the committee. Ms. Wignall stated she feels HR is a great benefit to the county employees and the budget.

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### **Public Comment**

#### **Lauris Olson**

Ms. Lauris Olson asked whether liability issues fall back on the BOS. Ms. Wignall stated that the BOS would handle all liability issues. Ms. Olson asked what happens if conflicting information is received regarding a complaint. Ms. Wignall stated that such issue would be taken to a BOS meeting and follow open meetings laws.

#### **Stacie Herridge**

Ms. Stacie Herridge asked for a review of the upcoming meetings and when a final report would be submitted by the committee. Mr. Tedesco stated the committee's submittal goal is by the end of the current fiscal year.

#### **Ty Stewart**

Mr. Ty Stewart stated his opinion that if there is a major disconnect between the BOS and department heads it creates an office that does not function well. Mr. Stewart also stated that employees need to realize that the HR Department is there to support employees. Mr. Tedesco re-iterated this is the first time the county has had an HR position.

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### **Committee Discussion**

It was decided by committee members to begin their review and start with the larger concerns and work way down. Ms. McJimsey stated the committee should have a running list of items that need discussing. Mr. Tedesco asked Ms. Leanne Harter to take specific notes so that she could draft the final report from the committee's notes.

- Better managerial organization
  - Elected BOS; all other positions would be appointed
  - Contact Bill Peterson, ISAC to see what could be done about disbanding elected positions. Does the county attorney have to be elected? (city-yes; county-?)
- Term limits for supervisors
  - Fresh ideas/2-3 terms/less entitlement
  - Elected county supervisor and elected BOS
- Part-time BOS
  - Stipend



- Stipend should be more than \$12-15k/annually
- Public gets irritated when they don't get their way
  - Should be the job of the BOS not elected mgr
  - County manager should have credentials and experience
- Need to trust the people and their comments/opinions
  - Elected official becomes territorial of their department
  - Survey results
- 5 vs. 3 BOS – equal representation or lack there of
  - Code states either at-large or district
- Communications – within county structures and out into the county
  - To outlying city councils
  - BOS meetings in outlying cities
  - Department heads & elected officials meeting regularly - publicly
  - Recording and put on TV.
- Township roles
- Water districts
- Elected officials – being active rather than reactive
- Combining of offices
  - Recorder/treasurer/auditor
- One location for permits
- BOS become ambassadors for economic development
- Weed commissioner combine with conservation
- Security
  - Someone at entrance
  - Point of notification in each office
  - Visual of pathways and parking lots
- One assessor for City of Ames and Story County
  - County office
  - Access through computer terminal
  - Universal computer system
  - BOS should approach City of Ames regarding assessor change
- BOS serving on other boards
  - Serve with non-voting rights
- Open meetings (5 vs. 3)
  - Compliance

### **Staff Updates**

Ms. Harter reviewed the new county website.

### **Adjournment**



**PLEASE RECYCLE**



**GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE  
TENTATIVE AGENDA  
Thursday, March 29, 2012  
6:00 p.m.**

c/o Story County Planning and Development  
Phone: 515.382.7245  
[www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov)

**Committee Members**

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco - Sandy Opstvedt  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets

**Story County Administration**

**Assessor's Conference Room**

900 6<sup>th</sup> Street ~ Nevada, Iowa

**THIS MEETING IS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 21 IOWA CODE**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. STORY COUNTY COMPENSATION BOARD  
Steve McGill
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
6. ADJOURNMENT
7. STAFF UPDATES



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** March 29, 2012

**Call to Order:** 6:03 p.m.  
**Location:** Administration Building  
Nevada, Iowa

**Adjournment:** 8:12 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
\*Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty 6:15 p.m.  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** Lauris Olson, Ty Stewart, Sue Vande Kamp

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter, Kristin Cook

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### Discussion with Story County Compensation Board Steve McGill

Mr. Steve McGill gave an overview of the Story County Compensation Board members, goals, powers, and meeting schedule. Mr. McGill stated the board meets annually. Mr. McGill also stated the board makes recommendations regarding, which can be overwritten by the Board of Supervisors, salaries.

Ms. Sandra McJimsey asked whether the Compensation Board makes comparables across the state. Mr. McGill concurred. Ms. McJimsey asked if only salary is discussed or total compensation package. Mr. McGill stated that discussions and recommendations are strictly salary based. Mr. McGill stated the board tries to stay within bargaining units. Ms. McJimsey asked whether the Sheriff is part of the union. Mr. McGill stated that the Sheriff and his Chief Deputy are not. Mr. Tedesco questioned if any of the elected officials have come forward and stated their compensation could be frozen or lowered. Mr. McGill stated all elected officials are **very realistic as to the board's goals.**

Ms. McJimsey asked if the board is mandated by state code. Mr. McGill concurred.

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### Committee Discussion

Mr. Ted Tedesco gave an overview of his meeting with ISAC, a review of Iowa Code 331 and the areas he deemed important to discuss. Mr. Tedesco stated there are currently two Iowa counties which have a County Manager; Scott and Polk Counties. Mr. Tedesco gave an overview of the districting possibilities. Mr. Tedesco reiterated a common concern from smaller cities regarding struggles to fill City Clerk positions.

Mr. Tedesco stated that the committee should recommend to the Story County Board of Supervisors that it would be up to the Board to approach the City of Ames with a recommendation to combine offices.

Mr. Tedesco gave a review of possible districting options.

Mr. Marty Chitty stated that there is a needed 11,680 signatures to make any discussed changes to Story County governmental structure. Mr. Chitty asked whether the City of Ames would be open to suggestions of possible changes. Mr. Tedesco concurred and stated the Board of Supervisors would need to initiate such discussions. Mr. Tedesco gave an overview of the City Assessor's office.

Mr. Chitty clarified his position regarding part-time Board of Supervisors. Mr. Chitty stated that the expectations need to be clarified.

Committee discussion was had regarding the revamping of county government across the nation. Mr. Corrieri stated the role of supervisors needs to be more thorough and concise. The committee discussed and compared the office location for licensing from state to state. Mr. McGill stated that the powers within offices should report to the County Manager so authority is given to such manager. Mr. Tedesco suggested a more business like structure. Mr. Chitty stated he views possible changes in more of a financial way by offering citizens a financial savings by making improvements that would help the budget.

Committee had discussions regarding townships and water districts.

Mr. Chitty stated cities are doing more annexing so the numbers of county residents are diminishing. Mr. Tedesco stated the committee will need to sell the ideas to the Board of Supervisors. Mr. Chitty stated it will be an education process.

#### **Committee Recommendation Discussion**

- **SECURITY**
  - Staff member at building entrances
  - Staff member at county meetings
  - Security at Justice Center – video, ban weapons
  - 28E agreement between City and County
  - Customer service representative at entrance
  
- **SURVEY RESULTS**
  - Paul Toot – Public Information Officer
  - Changed name of P&Z to P&D; what are BOS going to do to reflect such change
    - Hire Economic Development Director
    - Ms. Leanne Harter gave a review of the CPAT report and progress
    - Pg 9 Comment 6 on page
      - Good bold statements and committee needs to be just as bold
  
- **Role of Supervisors and form of Government**
  - Form a Charter Commission per Iowa Code
  - Form of Government
  - Elected vs. Appointed
  - 5 Supervisors; policy makers
  - Term; four year staggered terms
    - Outlined in Iowa Code
    - Three term max
  - Partisan Election; thoroughly discussed
  - Districts
    - Five
    - Resident of district representing
    - LSA
    - Compensation;
    - Duties
    - Hours
      - Couple days/month



- Duties
    - Appointing of boards/commission members
    - Policy making board; directing executive to carry out policies
  - **County Manager**
    - Appoints head of departments
    - Carries out policies
  - **Keep Human Resource Department**
  - **Removal of remaining Elected Officials**
  - **Combination of City and County Assessor**
- 

**Public Comment**

None

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**Staff Updates**

Ms. Leanne Harter reviewed a request to change the upcoming scheduled meeting time to 6:30 p.m. The Committee concurred. Committee members discussed next week's meeting date and made a decision to reschedule to Tuesday evening at 6:30 p.m. with a location to be determined.

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**Adjournment**

8:12 p.m.





# Government Restructuring Committee

c/o Story County Planning and Development Department

Administration Building

900 6th Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201

Phone: (515) 382-7245 Fax: (515) 382-7294

[www.storycountyia.gov](http://www.storycountyia.gov)

## Committee Members

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt

Marty Chitty

Tom Corrieri

Steve McGill

Sandra McJimsey

Patrick Sheets

**Story County Assessor's 1st Floor Conference Room**

**April 3, 2012**

**6:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - 3.I. March 22, 2012 Draft Minutes

Documents: [MARCH\\_22\\_2012\\_GRC\\_MINUTES.PDF](#)
  - 3.II. March 29, 2012 Draft Mintues

Documents: [MARCH\\_29\\_2012\\_GRC\\_MINUTES.PDF](#)
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
  - 5.I. Review Of Iowa State Code  
Section 331.232 and .238
  - 5.II. Duties Of Supervisors
  - 5.III. Proposed Supervisor Pay Under New Structure
6. STAFF UPDATES
7. ADJOURNMENT



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** April 3, 2012

**Call to Order:** 6:35 p.m.

**Location: Administration Building**  
**Nevada, Iowa**

**Adjournment:** 8:42 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** Lauris Olson; Nancy Miller; Ty Stewart; Susan VandeKamp

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

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**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MCU**

March 22, 2012 Draft Minutes  
March 29, 2012 Draft Minutes

Mr. Marty Chitty requested the word "officer" be replaced with "staff" in the draft March 29, 2012 minutes.

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**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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**3. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

Mr. Ted Tedesco discussed the emails from Bill Peterson and Kristi Hershberger, from ISAC, and Steve Owen, from the Story County Attorney's Office. Committee members discussed what ideas had been put forward for discussion thus far and the remaining issues to discuss, including the issue of compensation and appointment and/or election of a county manager position.

Mr. Chitty questioned whether Ms. Sandy Opstvedt was aware of the Committee discussions to date. Ms. Opstvedt noted she was not.

Mr. Tedesco provided an overview of committee discussions, including transition to a board/manager form of government; policy making board; essentially part-time; abolishing all the elected offices; moving to five members elected from districts; staggered terms with term limits; and elected on a partisan basis.

Ms. Opstvedt noted she would be the lone dissenter in that she doesn't agree with the direction. She expressed her position that the current three person board works and reviewed some of the issues encountered in Linn County as they transitioned to a five-member Board. Ms. Opstvedt

commented that Story County employees all work well together, the system works well and she stated she has been impressed with the way in which Story County government is run. Mr. Tedesco questioned whether Ms. Opstvedt's area of concern is the change from a three-person Board of Supervisors to a five-person Board. Ms. Opstvedt stated she didn't see the necessity for an administrator. In addition, Ms. Opstvedt commented that it was problematic in her opinion and didn't want to take away the people's voice in that they should be afforded the opportunity to vote for who is working for them. Ms. Opstvedt noted she thought there were ways in which the Board of Supervisors could function better. She expressed her concern in that during the meeting with the current Board they were commenting that they were working on many of the issues being brought forward and Ms. Opstvedt commented that she started questioning the purpose of the committee at that point in time.

Mr. Tedesco commented there appears to be a great disjoint in the county government with elected officials individually running offices. He stated that efficiency would be improved by adopting a business model. In addition, opportunities may exist to help the smaller communities with various roles and responsibilities with which city clerk's deal.

Mr. Tedesco noted he found it bothersome that some departments have not performed employee reviews. Ms. Opstvedt concurred.

Mr. Tedesco commented that he is used to city government and that model is essentially what has been envisioned by the committee thus far.

Mr. Tom Corrieri stated his opinion that there does not exist one executive authority for Story County. The Board of Supervisors acts in an executive fashion and all the other elected officials act in an executive capacity as well. Mr. Corrieri commented that the county administrator position should be elected. In terms of some of the elected offices such as the auditor, recorder, and treasurer, these positions are not really policy making positions and questioned how the committee is taking away the people's voice by having these appointed.

Ms. Opstvedt stated she didn't see the difference between the forms of government from the state to the county levels and has issues with taking away the people's voice.

Mr. Chitty questioned how what the committee has discussed is different from how the city of Story City is run where the police chief is appointed and not elected and a city administrator is appointed by the Council.

Mr. Steve McGill commented that in several of the meetings, he heard concerns from the smaller communities and expressed the need for finding efficiencies in Story County government with spending limited funds smarter with the existing pools of money coming in.

Ms. Opstvedt questioned whether the Code of Iowa allows the Sheriff to be appointed. The committee members noted that the report is just providing recommendations for action. Members further discussed the manner in which compensation is determined by the Compensation Board. They also reviewed the requirements of the Code of Iowa and the manner of voting of the electorate in general.

Mr. McGill noted that the biggest expense in any organization is generally the people and reiterated the need to improve efficiencies in county government and look at opportunities to share services.

The committee discussed how Board members may be compensated, outlining potential responsibilities of the Board members and the County Manager/Administrator position. Ms. Opstvedt commented that her understanding is that there is no way possible to district the county to exclude a component of Ames in any of the five districts. Mr. Tedesco agreed but stated the Ames component would be a minority. Committee members put forth that the



preferable manner in which to have the boundaries for possible districts drawn would be to engage the services of the Legislative Service Bureau.

Mr. Corrieri noted the figure he had initially come at for the compensation was around \$38,000.

Mr. Chitty asked what the figure would be if current salaries would be divide by five. It was pointed out that it neared Mr. Corrieri's proposed amount.

Mr. McGill questioned how the new County Manager position would be paid for following the theory of dividing the existing positions into five.

Mr. Tedesco responded that the salaries from the other elected positions which would become appointed could possibly contribute to the new salary.

The Committee discussed the salaries for statutory deputies in addition to the elected officials and the salaries of the collective bargaining employees. Committee members requested additional information from Mr. Corrieri regarding the elected nature of the County Manager position. Committee members agreed to defer discussion on the matter until the next meeting.

Mr. Tedesco commented on the recommendation to combine the City Assessor's office into that of the County Assessor. He indicated that the language should give direction to the Board of Supervisors that they inject themselves into a conversation with the Ames City Council to rescind the ordinance that established the Ames City Assessor.

Ms. Opstvedt questioned whether Mr. Tedesco had conversed with the City of Ames leadership. Mr. Tedesco responded he had and there was sentiment of support for such direction.

Mr. Chitty asked if the recommendation should be taken to the Board of Supervisors at the present time or wait and have it outlined in the report. Mr. Tedesco recommended it should be part of the report and Committee members further discussed the timing of going to the Board of Supervisors regarding this issue.

Mr. Tedesco questioned what other members would like to discuss at the next meet.

Mr. Chitty stated he would like clarification as to the elected officials in total that could be combined and/or appointed through an alternative form of government. Ms. Leanne Harter was directed to get direction on this matter from Assistant County Attorney Steve Owen.

Ms. Sandra McJimsey noted that the discussions regarding security had not been finalized. Ms. Opstvedt asked whether any steps had been taken by Story County regarding the matter. Mr. Tedesco stated that it had been expressed to be a budget issue and requested that Ms. Harter find out whether funds had been included in the approved budget to address the issue.

Ms. Nancy Miller stated that it is one of the goals of the current Board of Supervisors to be dedicated to transparency.

Mr. Chitty noted that if the City of Nevada is responsible for security at the Story County Administration building, should Committee members be reviewing options with that entity rather than the County. Mr. Tedesco commented that Nevada would only be responsible when a call is made and there remain concerns with internal security.

Committee members further discussed items for the next meeting agenda, highlighting the following: Process for combining of offices (if the Board/Manager form of government is not successful); incremental way of getting at the ultimate security plan; action to take on structure (recommendation action) on townships; drainage districts; one-stop permitting center; and communications both within and outside of the organization.



Mr. Tedesco commented that there are some concerns regarding communication from County officials to the smaller towns that needs to be addressed. He further stated that it may be time to look towards unifying services in the County such as law enforcement and that the Board of Supervisors should lead with all the cities and start to share services.

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#### **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Susan VandeKamp noted that there were meeting minutes and audio recordings not available on the website. Ms. Harter commented that staff was aware of the issue and was working towards resolving the matter.

Ms. Miller commented that she'd attended a number of the meetings and questioned whether topics such as the security was deviating from the charge of government restructuring as given by the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. McJimsey noted that the direction from the Board was to look across the board at all aspects of government and if concerns were identified, bring them to the attention of the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Miller suggested that the report should list some of these areas as "comments" or a "list of issues".

Ms. Opstvedt noted that it all entails government restructuring because it all involved the structure of county government.

Mr. Chitty reiterated the question that the committee has asked of people is "What would you do differently".

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#### **5. STAFF UPDATES**

Ms. Harter asked if the committee would like to identify those successful areas within Story County upfront in the report.

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**Adjournment – 8:42 PM**





# Government Restructuring Committee

c/o Story County Planning and Development Department

Administration Building

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## Committee Members

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt

Marty Chitty

Tom Corrieri

Steve McGill

Sandra McJimsey

Patrick Sheets

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - 3.I. Draft Minutes

Documents:

[FEBRUARY\\_10\\_2012\\_GRC\\_EMPLOYEE\\_MINUTES\\_DRAFT.PDF](#) ,  
[FEBRUARY\\_10\\_2012\\_GRC\\_CURRENT AND FORMER  
BOS\\_MINUTES\\_DRAFT.PDF](#) , [APRIL\\_3\\_2012\\_GRC\\_MINUTES.PDF](#)

4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
  - 5.I. List Of Elected Officials That Can Be Appointed  
follow-up information
  - 5.II. Security Of County Buildings
  - 5.III. Communications
  - 5.IV. Any Action To Take On Structure Of Townships
  - 5.V. Drainage Districts
  - 5.VI. One-Stop Permitting Center
6. STAFF UPDATES
7. ADJOURNMENT



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** April 10, 2012

**Call to Order:** 6:35 p.m.

**Location: Administration Building  
Nevada, Iowa**

**Adjournment:** 7:28 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair

Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair

Marty Chitty

Tom Corrieri

\*Steve McGill

\*Sandra McJimsey

\*Patrick Sheets

(\*) Absent

**Public Present:** Nancy Miller; Ty Stewart; Susan Vandekamp; Stacie Herridge

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

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**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MCU**  
April 3, 2012

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**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**  
None.

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**3. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

Mr. Ted Tedesco noted that the Board of Supervisors' approved budget included \$50,000 for security and commented that he was of the opinion that the committee should consider a statement in the report thanking the Board for budgeting for such purposes and encouraging them to expedite steps, including locating an individual at the main desk in the Administration building and installation of passive measures such as panic buttons to notify the Nevada Police Department.

Ms. Sandy Opstvedt expanded on Mr. Tedesco's comments, stating she would like to report to note the money going into the budget is viewed as a stepping stone and encourage the Board to continue to expand on the efforts.

Mr. Tedesco reviewed item 5.1, List of Elected Officials, from the agenda and referenced an email from Steve Owen stating that all elected officials can be appointed if so desired.

Mr. Tedesco asked committee members to send items they've heard throughout the various meetings to either him or Ms. Leanne Harter to incorporate in the draft report.

The committee discussed the one-stop permitting recommendation. Ms. Harter reminded the committee of the CPAT report and the recommendations put forth.

Ms. Opstvedt commented that the committee hadn't really discussed those recommendations and were not able to engage with the CPAT individuals to understand their thought processes in formulating the recommendations.

Mr. Tedesco asked committee members to review the report and plan to discuss possible recommendations at the next meeting.

Committee members discussed recommendations related to the communications item on the agenda.

Mr. Tedesco reiterated concerns voiced by smaller governments through the public meetings held by the committee members.

Ms. Opstvedt commented that several strategies could be employed to address the comments that have been voiced by County staff members and smaller governments to improve communications.

Mr. Tedesco questioned whether materials are distributed to Township Trustees and Clerks and small cities. Ms. Stacie Herridge outlined the materials sent out for the annual meeting and budget development. Ms. Nancy Miller noted that the new website allows individuals to review to be notified of agenda items for review by the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Tedesco asked if newsletters are distributed to County employees. Ms. Harter noted that County News was a newsletter that used to be sent out.

Mr. Tedesco further questioned whether weekly/monthly/quarterly meetings are held of elected officials and department heads. Ms. Sue Vandekamp responded that they are held quarterly.

Mr. Tedesco stated that in review of the Code language on the Charter Commission, that entity would set the enumeration to be considered and commented that the committee had been using the word "stipend" and questioned if anyone had a definition of "stipend". Ms. Harter read a definition from the *Merriam-Webster* dictionary which defines stipend as "a fixed sum of money paid periodically for services or to defray expenses."

Mr. Tedesco asked Ms. Herridge if she could provide additional information on townships to the committee. Ms. Herridge provided copies of the Code sections relevant to townships to the committee.

Mr. Tedesco reviewed item 5.5, Drainage Districts, from the agenda and commented that he wasn't sure that much could be recommended in the report as drainage districts across multiple jurisdictional boundaries. Mr. Tedesco asked Ms. Harter to forward additional information on drainage districts on to the committee members.

Ms. Opstvedt commented that she wanted to revisit the previous meetings' conversations regarding the recommendation to change to an alternative form of government. She reviewed the meetings that have been held with the elected officials and department heads and highlighted the successes that have been achieved with the current form of government. Ms. Opstvedt noted that she found it disappointing the committee is looking to recommend a complete overhaul of a form of government that has been successful for years. Ms. Opstvedt further stated she would formulate a dissenting opinion to the recommendation.

Mr. Tedesco questioned Ms. Opstvedt whether she was still concerned with the recommendation to go from three to five members of the Board. Ms. Opstvedt affirmed, outlining concerns with moving them to a part-time basis and cutting back on their authority and services, which are vital to the county.



Mr. Tom Corrieri commented the committee's recommendation is not indicative that the County isn't being run well, but does identify that there are always ways to improve things and have it run better. Mr. Corrieri noted that Iowa is one of a few states where there are no elected county executive forms of government and referenced a study completed in Wisconsin that reviewed board-appointed managerial forms. Mr. Corrieri reviewed Cecil County, Maryland and their shift from a Board of Supervisors to an elected executive with a part-time Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Tedesco stated that the paradigm is shifting as communities expand and the governance area of the County is reducing by default. Mr. Tedesco shared his viewpoint stating that moving to five Board members would increase the ability of the whole to make decisions county-wide. Mr. Tedesco noted that he disagreed with Mr. Corrieri's comments regarding a manager that is an appointed position.

Ms. Opstvedt questioned whether further conversations had been held regarding the merger of the two assessors. Mr. Tedesco reviewed a conversation held with Mr. Bob Kindred, Ames Assistant City Manager. Mr. Tedesco noted the report should recommend that the Board request to meet with the City Manager, Mayor and City Council of Ames and coordinate any merger with the expiration dates of the contracts.

Ms. Opstvedt recommended a possibility to review would include buying out the existing contract which may result in some cost savings.

Committee members returned to discuss the issue of townships. Mr. Tedesco asked whether ISAC provides any training for township trustees. Ms. Herridge indicated there were none of which she was aware.

Ms. Opstvedt questioned if townships would cease, where those responsibilities would lie ultimately.

Ms. Miller asked if townships were abolished, what would be impact, and further questioned if there are functions performed by the County that could be combined with cities.

Mr. Tedesco commented that the township structure relates back to the 1800s and the role of townships to mediate the fence law and govern cemeteries.

Ms. Opstvedt noted that many people still hold identity in township structured and would view alternative processes in a negative light.

Ms. Opstvedt stated that Mr. Corrieri was not available the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Tedesco requested that Ms. Harter poll committee members via email to see whether they would be available to meet on the 26<sup>th</sup> rather than the 24<sup>th</sup>.

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**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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**5. STAFF UPDATES**

None.

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**Adjournment – 7:28 PM**



**PLEASE RECYCLE**



# Government Restructuring Committee

c/o Story County Planning and Development Department

Administration Building

900 6th Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201

Phone: (515) 382-7245 Fax: (515) 382-7294

[www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov)

## Committee Members

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt

Marty Chitty

Tom Corrieri

Steve McGill

Sandra McJimsey

Patrick Sheets

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - 3.I. April 10, 2012 Minutes
    - Documents: [APRIL\\_10\\_2012\\_GRC\\_MINUTES.PDF](#)
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
  - 5.I. CPAT Discussion
  - 5.II. Drainage Districts
6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING
  - Committee discussion regarding upcoming meeting date/dates
7. STAFF UPDATES
8. ADJOURNMENT

## Government Restructuring Committee

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"Commitment, Vision, Balance"

# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** April 17, 2012

**Call to Order:** 6:37 p.m.

**Location: Administration Building  
Nevada, Iowa**

**Adjournment:** 7:17 p.m.

### Roll Call

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
\*Tom Corrieri  
\*Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** Susan Vandekamp; Lauris Olson

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

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### 1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MCU

April 10, 2012

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### 2. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

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### 3. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION

#### 5.1 CPAT Discussion

Mr. Ted Tedesco reviewed the recommendation outlined in the CPAT report to hire a full-time person involved in economic development and suggested the committee incorporate the recommendation into the report.

Ms. Sandy Opstvedt questioned how such an individual would work with the regional economic development group or whether such individual would replace it. Ms. Leanne Harter described the potential role and job functions of such an individual.

Mr. Marty Chitty requested staff to provide an update as to what has occurred following receipt of the CPAT report. Ms. Harter reviewed the stakeholder meeting.

Mr. Tedesco commented that the County could serve as the catalyst to bring all the citizens of Story County together.

Mr. Chitty stated the name change from Planning and Zoning to Planning and Development encouraged Story County to pursue additional changes to accompany the name change.

### **5.11 Drainage Districts**

The committee members discussed the drainage district maps of Story County which were distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Tedesco commented that he thought it would be appropriate for the report to reflect the perspective asserted by Mr. Erv Klaas wherein drainage districts should be managed and organized by watersheds rather than the current framework.

Ms. Sandra McJimsey concurred and recommended language to the effect of support efforts of others in this matter.

### **Townships**

Mr. Tedesco relayed correspondences from Ms. Stacie Herridge, with the County Auditor's Office and Mr. Steve Owen, Assistant County Attorney regarding Ms. Herridge's information provided regarding townships and Mr. Tedesco's question whether townships can be abolished by the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. Opstvedt commented that she read Mr. Owen's email message as indicative that a county must have townships however the *Code of Iowa* does not specify any required number of townships. Ms. Opstvedt questioned how many townships are not currently represented. Mr. Tedesco noted that there are only a couple vacancies.

Ms. McJimsey questioned whether each township has to develop a budget. Mr. Tedesco affirmed.

Ms. Opstvedt asked whether there is anything to gain by merging townships or is the status quo working. Mr. Tedesco responded that he did not see any real advantage to merging townships. Ms. McJimsey noted that if townships were abolished, the tasks would have to be done by someone. Mr. Tedesco responded that responsibility would revert back to the Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Chitty commented that it would be beneficial to make an appeal out to the township trustees to make them aware of the available County services.

Mr. Tedesco stated that most of the trustees do not submit for their compensation.

Ms. McJimsey commented that she felt uncomfortable recommending changes to the existing format without a more purposeful study and engagement with the township trustees.

### **Committee Recommendations**

Mr. Tedesco reviewed the recommendations developed thus far, noting that there will be two minority reports built into the "Alternative Form of Government" recommendation from Mr. Tom Corrieri and Ms. Opstvedt.

Committee members discussed recommendations related to security. Direction was given to staff to reference instances, other than man-made incidences, and address disaster planning as is currently underway by Story County Emergency Management.

Mr. Chitty commented he would like to see Story County meet with primary contacts in the City of Nevada and City of Ames.

The committee members commented that it would be appropriate to include recommendations related to assistance to other jurisdictions.

Mr. Chitty noted he would also like the report to address the facility needs of Story County, complementing the current Facilities Management Department on their abilities and noting how current space limitations for storage and work area are of concern. Mr. Chitty further noted that

there is unused office space on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Administration building used to house election equipment, which could be located off-site, if adequate storage was identified. Mr. Chitty also commented that other departments, such as the Sheriff's that use off-site storage for equipment, which is not always the most convenient. Mr. Chitty referenced the vacant parcel south of the Administration building as a possible location for a building for such uses.

Mr. Tedesco questioned what that property was zoned and directed Ms. Harter to determine such and respond to the committee.

Ms. McJimsey commented that she had erroneously believed that anything changing the overall structure of county government had to be determined through a charter commission process, but noted that in regards to the number of Board of Supervisors, they themselves can go ahead and take steps to expand on their own. Ms. McJimsey questioned whether the report should speak to such.

Mr. Chitty noted that he didn't believe that would occur as it wasn't saleable either fiscally or politically to change to five Board of Supervisors.

Mr. Tedesco commented that there was nothing, after the Board of Supervisors receives the report, to have them take such action to go to five but suggested since the recommendation is to have an overall change in charter, it would be preferable to not include.

Committee members discussed the maps produced by the County Auditor and GIS regarding potential three members vs. five member districts.

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**4. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Due to scheduling conflicts, the following week's meeting was change to Thursday, April 26, 2012.

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**5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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**6. STAFF UPDATES**

None.

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**Adjournment – 7:17 PM**



# Government Restructuring Committee

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## Committee Members

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt

Marty Chitty

Tom Corrieri

Steve McGill

Sandra McJimsey

Patrick Sheets

**April 26, 2012**

**Public Meeting Room - 2nd Floor**

**6:30 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - 3.I. April 17, 2012 GRC Meeting Minutes

Documents: [APRIL\\_17\\_2012\\_GRC\\_MINUTES\\_DRAFT.PDF](#)
  - 3.II. April 17, 2012 GRC Minutes, Amended April 25, 2012

Documents:  
[APRIL\\_17\\_2012\\_GRC\\_MINUTES\\_DRAFT\\_AMENDED\\_APRIL\\_25\\_2012.PDF](#)
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
  - 5.I. Consideration Of Resolution Regarding The Reorganization Of The Soil And Water Conservation Districts

Documents: [REORGANIZATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS ACCORDING TO WATERSHED BOUNDARIES.PDF](#)
6. STAFF UPDATES
7. ADJOURNMENT



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** April 26, 2012

**Call to Order:** 6:32 p.m.  
**Location: Administration Building**  
**Nevada, Iowa**

**Adjournment:** 7:49 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
\*Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** None

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

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**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – McJimsey/Chitty - MCU**

April 10, 2012 – Amended and Re-Approved  
April 17, 2012 – Amended and Approved

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**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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**5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

Mr. Ted Tedesco referenced the draft report presented to the Committee members at the meeting, asking them to review and provide comments to Ms. Leanne Harter as soon as possible with the possibility for the Committee to consider approving the final report at the May 1, 2012 meeting. Mr. Tedesco noted that the report could then be presented to the Board of Supervisors on the Tuesday, May 8, 2012 meeting.

Ms. Harter provided an overview of the format of the draft report.

**5.1 Consideration of Resolution Regarding the Reorganization of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

Mr. Tedesco reviewed the information sent from Mr. Erv Klaas with the Soil and Water Conservation District. Ms. Harter noted that from her discussions with Mr. Klaas, she inferred that he would like the Committee to encourage the Board of Supervisors to take such actions as appropriate to support the reorganization of Soil and Water Conservation districts along the lines of watershed boundaries.

Committee members discussed various options available to the Board to identify steps to fund security improvements. Mr. Tedesco questioned Ms. Harter whether she would be able to seek

legal counsel as to whether bonding would be a tool that would be available for Story County to use to finance the needed security improvements. Committee members agreed that an additional study needs to be undertaken to complete a comprehensive plan for security.

Mr. Marty Chitty outlined concerns related to space needs of Story County in regards to equipment and storage. Committee members discussed possible locations at existing County facilities to locate facilities to provide additional space.

Committee members discussed the condition of the secondary road system and what steps may need to be taken to address funding and continued viability of the roads with the funding concerns present. Direction was given to add another heading entitled "Transportation Safety".

Committee members commented regarding regional partnerships and noted that the time may be right to take advantage of opportunities to regionalize various services and identify redundancies and seek solutions to partner and improve efficiencies.

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**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

May 1, 2012

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**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

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**5. STAFF UPDATES**

None.

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**Adjournment – 7:49 PM**





# Government Restructuring Committee

c/o Story County Planning and Development Department

Administration Building

900 6th Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201

Phone: (515) 382-7245 Fax: (515) 382-7294

[www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov)

## **Committee Members**

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt

Marty Chitty

Tom Corrieri

Steve McGill

Sandra McJimsey

Patrick Sheets

**May 1, 2012**

**Public Meeting Room, 2nd Floor**

**6:30 pm**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - 3.1. April 26, 2012 Minutes

Documents: [APRIL\\_26\\_2012\\_GRC\\_MINUTES\\_DRAFT.PDF](#)

4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
6. STAFF UPDATES
7. ADJOURNMENT



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** May 1, 2012

**Call to Order:** 6:32 p.m.

**Location: Administration Building  
Nevada, Iowa**

**Adjournment:** 7:37 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
\*Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** Ty Stewart, Nancy Miller

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

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**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – McGill/Corrieri - MCU**  
April 26, 2012

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**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**  
None

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**5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

Mr. Ted Tedesco referenced the draft presented to the Committee members at the meeting, noting the two formats available for the Committee to review.

Ms. Leanne Harter provided an overview of the revisions of the draft report.

Mr. Tedesco discussed the timing of the minority reports to be incorporated into the final report and the applicable meeting dates for presentation to the Story County Board of Supervisors. Ms. Harter noted the deadlines for submittal of items to the clerk for the Board.

Committee members discussed potential revisions and directed staff to complete changes as discussed.

Ms. Sandy Opstvedt questioned what the intent of the Transportation Safety recommendation might include. Ms. Sandra McJimsey commented such recommendation would address the maintenance of County roads, bridges and the convenience and safety issues that arise due to the current practices. Ms. McJimsey noted that the Committee suggested a deliberative, comprehensive plan be developed with centered discussions as to how to best manage the deteriorated conditions of the roads and whether the County needs to begin to reclassify some of the roads. She further noted that such a process would begin a dialog rather than a pre-emptive decision-making process.

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Mr. Tom Corrieri noted that he would be providing amended language to Ms. Harter for his minority report.

Committee members discussed issues related to the Board-Manager form of government, addressing stipend as opposed to salary, part-time status, and term limits. Members also noted proposed revisions to the Manager points.

Mr. McGill questioned whether a fiscal impact study would be completed if a charter commission was to be established and who would complete such a study. Ms. Harter reviewed statements from the *Code of Iowa Section 331.235* that address the procedures and reports to be filed by the charter commission.

Ms. McJimsey noted that some sort of an action step should be included in the report regarding the transportation study and capital improvements planning efforts.

Committee members reviewed comments offered by County staff regarding communication. Ms. Harter reviewed the role of the EAC and relationship with the Board.

Committee members identified potential timing for review and revisions to the documents.

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**6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - May 3, 2012**

Mr. Tedesco questioned whether Committee members would be available for a last meeting prior to the presentation at the Board of Supervisors' meeting on May 8, 2012. Committee members agreed to meet on Thursday, May 3, 2012.

Committee members directed Ms. Harter to request a special meeting of the Story County Board of Supervisors for the evening of May 8, 2012, to present the report. Ms. Opstvedt noted she had a conflict with the regularly scheduled day-time meeting of the Board on that date.

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**5. STAFF UPDATES**

None.

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**Adjournment – 7:37 PM**





# Government Restructuring Committee

c/o Story County Planning and Development Department

Administration Building

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## Committee Members

Co-Chairs: Ted Tedesco –Sandy Opstvedt

Marty Chitty

Tom Corrieri

Steve McGill

Sandra McJimsey

Patrick Sheets

## Public Meeting Room, 2nd Floor

**May 3, 2012**

**6:30 PM**

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
  - 3.I. May 1, 2012 GRC Draft Minutes  

Documents: [MAY\\_1\\_2012\\_GRC\\_MINUTES.PDF](#)
4. PUBLIC COMMENT
5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION
  - 5.I. Final Discussion And Review Of Report
  - 5.II. Discussion Regarding Committee's Presentation To The Board Of Supervisors
    - Date of meeting
    - Time of meeting
    - Submittal deadline of materials
6. STAFF UPDATES
7. ADJOURNMENT



# MINUTES

## GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** May 3, 2012

**Call to Order:** 6:37 p.m.

**Location: Administration Building**  
**Nevada, Iowa**

**Adjournment:** 7:16 p.m.

**Roll Call**

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
\*Steve McGill  
Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

**Public Present:** None

**Staff Present:** Leanne Harter

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**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

May 1, 2012                      **Chitty/Corrieri - MCU**  
March 5, 2012                  **Opstvedt/Chitty - MCU**

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**4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

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**5. COMMITTEE DISCUSSION**

**5.1 Final Discussion and Review of Report**

Mr. Ted Tedesco referenced the draft report presented before the Committee.

Mr. Marty Chitty requested that the word "stipend" not be used.

**MOTION:** On page 12, amend as follows:

- Serve as policy makers (~~compensated with stipend instead of salary and benefits~~  
**compensation to be determined**) with administration and executive duties transitioned to the County Manager position, whom the Board of Supervisors appoints through a hiring process. In their role as policymakers, Supervisors would no longer be full time officials but rather their commitment of time would be devoted to regular Board meetings and related public outreach.

**Corrieri/Chitty – MCU**

Ms. Opstvedt request to amend the following section on page 15 of her minority report as follows:

Story County operations have historically been quite successful under the oversight provided by an elected three person Board of Supervisors. Adding another level of government in the role of

County Executive or County Manager is an unnecessary measure and would result in undue expense to the taxpayers. Supplementing the related economic burden by expanding the number of Supervisors while decreasing their authority and reducing them to part-time ~~stipend~~ recipients (of stipend or lowered compensation) is simply not logical. Doing so would involve expanding government for the purpose of doing a job already positively performed by a body which has exhibited professionalism, knowledge, and dedication in their responsibilities to the public.

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Ms. Leanne Harter noted the addition to the first action step to reflect a joint meeting of the Government Restructuring Committee and the Board of Supervisors.

Ms. McJimsey asked whether the word "transportation" would include bicycle paths, or should the action step explicitly include bicycle paths. Mr. Tedesco indicated it was inclusive.

Ms. McJimsey asked whether an action step specific to economic development needed to be included. Committee members discussed appropriate language to incorporate an action step in this regards.

**MOTION:** On Page 19, amend as follows:

Plan and conduct a county-wide community needs survey

**McJimsey/Opstvedt – MCU**

**MOTION:** Add the following Action Step to the Next Steps section:

Prioritize CPAT-recommended strategies and allocate staff resources.

**McJimsey/Chitty – MCU**

Committee members discussed removing "Summary of Public Feedback" from the heading on Page 10 and replace the word "survey" with "questionnaire". All members concurred.

Ms. Opstvedt questioned whether Transportation Safety would include river trails and related planning. Mr. Tedesco responded that transportation planning generally includes only those areas within rights-of-way of streets.

**MOTION:** To approve the "*Final Report and Recommendations of the Story County Government Restructuring Committee*" as amended.

**Opstvedt/McJimsey - MCU**

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## **6. STAFF UPDATES**

None

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**Adjournment – 7:16 PM**



**PLEASE RECYCLE**

## **Appendix B**

Government Restructuring Committee Questionnaire and Results

# Results of Questionnaire

GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING  
COMMITTEE  
MARCH 2012

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Story County Planning  
and Development

Please rate Story County's performance in the following areas:	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	Response Count
The value of services for the amount of property taxes collected by Story County.	22 (26%)	39 (47%)	15 (18%)	6 (7%)	82
The overall direction that Story County is headed.	14 (17%)	47 (57%)	16 (19%)	5 (6%)	82
The job Story County does at welcoming citizen involvement.	16 (19%)	28 (34%)	29 (35%)	8 (9%)	81
The transparency of Story County's day-to-day operations.	21 (25%)	23 (28%)	24 (29%)	14 (17%)	82
<i>Answered question</i>		82			
<i>Skipped question (online)</i>		13			
<i>Skipped question (paper)</i>		3			
"TOTAL RESPONSES"		98			

How would you rate the overall quality and delivery of service in Story County?	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Response Count
	17 (20%)	19 (23%)	28 (34%)	17 (20%)	1 (1%)	82
<i>Answered question</i>	82					
<i>Skipped question (online)</i>	14					
<i>Skipped question (paper)</i>	2					
"TOTAL RESPONSES"	98					

Please rate each of the following services offered by Story County.	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Response Count	
Animal control	21 (30%)	15 (21%)	26 (37%)	7 (10%)	1 (1%)	70	
Convenience of paying taxes and fees	13 (29%)	15 (33%)	14 (31%)	2 (4%)	1 (2%)	45	<i>Question was only online.</i>
County parks	26 (32%)	29 (36%)	17 (21%)	6 (7%)	1 (<1%)	79	Need more funding; county parks are <u>underfunded</u> and <u>understaffed</u>
Crime prevention	14 (18%)	23 (30%)	26 (34%)	8 (10%)	4 (5%)	75	Cameras at jail not hooked up - more anticrime efforts need- less enterprise work
Disaster/emergency information and services	18 (24%)	22 (29%)	28 (37%)	5 (6%)	1 (<1%)	74	Not enough staff for entire county
Economic development	12 (16%)	10 (14%)	25 (35%)	15 (21%)	9 (12%)	71	Too much attention paid to developers not to citizen input
Land use and code enforcement	10 (13%)	17 (23%)	19 (26%)	22 (30%)	5 (6%)	73	Understaffed; P&Z is way understaffed and underfunded - and, why are they hidden away?
Mental health services	11 (15%)	20 (27%)	23 (31%)	10 (13%)	8 (11%)	72	Considering low funding - need more funding; staff-excellent; good, considering limited funding
Nature programs or classes	24 (33%)	25 (35%)	19 (26%)	3 (4%)	0 (0%)	71	My children learned so much from box city!
Public information services	15 (20%)	18 (24%)	23 (30%)	7 (9%)	12 (16%)	75	What information don't get unless go to seek it out online; what services?
Road and bridge repair	7 (9%)	15 (19%)	30 (38%)	15 (19%)	10 (12%)	77	Need work in <u>rural</u> areas, getting shafted
Sheriff services	18 (23%)	19 (24%)	25 (32%)	9 (11%)	6 (7%)	77	Getting <u>too</u> much money compared to other departments; should be transparent on how much smaller towns are charged for "protection"; Eliminate <u>entrapments</u> ! Spend

Please rate each of the following services offered by Story County.	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Response Count	
							manpower and time security county buildings.
Snow removal on County roads and highways	11 (14%)	25 (32%)	26 (33%)	14 (17%)	2 (2%)	78	Needs work in rural areas of county
Traffic enforcement on County roads and highways	10 (13%)	25 (33%)	28 (37%)	8 (10%)	3 (4%)	74	
Voter information and registration services	21 (27%)	25 (32%)	22 (28%)	7 (9%)	1 (1%)	76	
<i>Answered question</i>	79						
<i>Skipped question (online)</i>	18						
<i>Skipped question (paper)</i>	1						
"TOTAL RESPONSES"	98						

Currently, there are three members of the Board of Supervisors, all elected at large. State Code allows the registered voters of the county at a general election to vote on a proposition to increase the number of supervisors to five. The Code of Iowa specifies the following three plans. Please note your level of support for the four alternatives below, including keeping the number of Board of Supervisors at three.	Yes	No	No Opinion	Response Count	
The number of Supervisors should remain at three.	49 (59%)	29 (34%)	5 (6%)	83	Five Supervisors. Split County into (4) equal areas and (1) at larger person; There should be one hired manager with 3 non-paid supervisors; with an elected County Executive or Manager;
Plan "one". The number of Supervisors should increase to five. Election at large without district residence requirements for the members.	19 (29%)	43 (66%)	3 (4%)	65	
Plan "two". The number of Supervisors should increase to five. Election at large but with equal-population district residence requirements for the members.	16 (27%)	39 (66%)	4 (6%)	59	
Plan "three". The number of Supervisors should increase to five. Election from single-member equal-population districts, in which the electors of each district shall elect one member who must reside in that district.	26 (41%)	33 (52%)	4 (6%)	63	
					Plan Four: 3-part time supervisors and 1 County Manager Full Time
<i>Answered question</i>	83				
<i>Skipped question (online)</i>	7				
<i>Skipped question (paper)</i>	0				
"TOTAL RESPONSES"	90				
Question layout - they may have selected something other than the top response.					

The State Code allows the combining of duties of elected officials or the elimination of elected offices and the assumption of the duties of those offices by appointed officials. Please note your level of support to combine or eliminate the elected offices listed below.	Keep as is	Eliminate and combine	No Opinion	Response Count	
Sheriff	79 (82%)	11 (11%)	6 (6%)	96	County buildings aren't secure/protected.
Treasurer	67 (70%)	21 (22%)	7 (7%)	95	Appointed not elected; Appoint
Recorder	55 (58%)	36 (38%)	3 (3%)	94	Eliminate! (By including in Auditor's job)
Auditor	64 (67%)	27 (28%)	4 (4%)	95	Include Recorder with Auditor
Medical examiner	58 (60%)	14 (14%)	24 (25%)	96	
General assistance director	39 (41%)	29 (30%)	27 (28%)	95	What does this do? Who is that?!
County care facility administrator	43 (45%)	29 (30%)	23 (24%)	95	Combine with social welfare into social services?
Commission on veteran affairs	58 (60%)	21 (21%)	17 (17%)	96	
Director of social welfare	47 (48%)	28 (29%)	21 (21%)	96	Combine with County Care Facility Administrator
County assessor	59 (61%)	26 (27%)	11 (11%)	96	Eliminate <u>City</u> Assessor!! Take out or eliminate city's assessor and combine with County; get rid of city
County weed commissioner.	39 (40%)	37 (38%)	20 (20%)	96	Done by Maint. Dept so combine; why do we have this? Over rated;
<i>Answered question</i>	96				
<i>Skipped question (online)</i>	1				
<i>Skipped question (paper)</i>	1				
"TOTAL RESPONSES"	98				

Within the past year, how many times have you either visited a Story County department/elected official in person, by phone or via website for the following service?	Never	Once a Year	Once a Month	Once a Week	Daily	Response Count
Applied for a marriage license	67 (92%)	6 (8%)	0	0	0	73
Applied for a Story County job opening	70 (89%)	9 (11%)	0	0	0	79
Applied for dust control	75 (96%)	3 (4%)	0	0	0	78
Applied for permits for house, septic, address, floodplain, driveway	65 (81%)	15 (19%)	0	0	0	80
Applied for resources and services through Community Services	70 (92%)	3 (4%)	1 (1%)	2 (3%)	0	76
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting	24 (32%)	31 (42%)	17 (23%)	2 (3%)	0	74
Attended a tax sale	71 (92%)	6 (8%)	0	0	0	77
Dialed 911	64 (83%)	13 (17%)	0	0	0	77
Discussed my property's tax assessment	56 (79%)	17 (22%)	3 (4%)	0	0	76
Filed a complaint	69 (95%)	4 (5%)	0	0	0	73
Installed a geothermal well system	71 (97%)	2 (3%)	0	0	0	73
Located flu clinics	55 (74%)	16 (22%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	74
<b>Looked up a property on the Story Assessor's website</b>	21 (27%)	18 (23%)	21 (27%)	7 (9%)	12 (15%)	79
Paid for property taxes	10 (12%)	64 (81%)	2 (8%)	1 (1%)	2 (3%)	79
Participated in a recreation program or activity Visited a County park	13 (17%)	40 (52%)	17 (22%)	4 (5%)	3 (4%)	77
<b>Participated in Community Life Program's Vocational Rehabilitation Services</b>	70 (97%)	1 (1%)	0	0	1 (1%)	72
Processed a passport application	55 (75%)	17 (23%)	0	1 (1%)	0	73
Purchased vehicle tags and plates	2 (3%)	74 (93%)	3 (4%)	0	1 (1%)	80
Recorded a warranty deed	51 (68%)	18 (24%)	2 (3%)	1 (1%)	3 (4%)	75
Registered my boat, snowmobile or ATV	54 (72%)	19 (25%)	1 (1%)	0	1 (1%)	75
Registered to vote	32 (43%)	42 (56%)	0	0	1 (1%)	75
Reported a stray animal	53 (72%)	19 (26%)	2 (3%)	0	0	74
Requested a vital record (birth, death and/or marriage license)	54 (70%)	18 (23%)	3 (4%)	0	2 (3%)	77
Requested assistance from Story County <b>Sheriff's office</b>	51 (73%)	18 (26%)	1 (1%)	0	0	70
Researched information about Story County and/or one of the cities in the county	29 (40%)	26 (36%)	22 (15%)	5 (6%)	2 (3%)	73
Reviewed proposed budgets for County departments	32 (44%)	33 (45%)	6 (8%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	73

Within the past year, how many times have you either visited a Story County department/elected official in person, by phone or via website for the following service?	Never	Once a Year	Once a Month	Once a Week	Daily	Response Count
Reviewed the agenda and materials for an upcoming Story County meeting online	34 (45%)	15 (20%)	13 (17%)	12 (16%)	1 (1%)	75
<b>Reviewed the Payment Claims Database on the County's website</b>	59 (82%)	8 (11%)	4 (6%)	1 (1%)	0	72
Signed up for Veteran's benefits	63 (88%)	8 (11%)	0	0	1 (1%)	72
Subdivided property	66 (93%)	5 (7%)	0	0	0	71
Used the payment drop box for motor vehicle registration renewals and/or property taxes	67 (91%)	5 (7%)	0	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	74
Visited the Story County animal shelter	49 (67%)	18 (25%)	5 (7%)	1 (1%)	0	73
Visited the Story County jail	60 (81%)	11 (15%)	2 (3%)	0	1 (1%)	74
Voted absentee for an election	36 (48%)	37 (49%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	0	75
<i>Answered question</i>	80					
<i>Skipped question (online)</i>	12					
<i>Skipped question (paper)</i>	0					
"TOTAL RESPONSES"	92					
Question layout - some <b>respondent's</b> skipped lines.						

## COMMENTS RECEIVED

Lead a coordinated effort to lead town (in St. County) to a town name sign for each little city (participate financially) with similar design

Lead in Color IA Clinic thru Reiman @ISU for communities - participate financially.

I don't think people are aware of what the county provides - maybe more PR.

Lower the acreage restrictions on rural home building. Most counties are 10 acres.

Any conclusions you make from survey results on the 3-or-5 supervisors plan are NOT valid. Citizens haven't had enough pro/con specifics to make informed vote.

County supervisors are too highly paid and out NOT be able to give themselves raises.

Keep 3 supervisors (for bit less pay) and HIRE County Manager or Executive...over Sherriff, Atty, etc.

More \$ needed to be earmarked from DOT to repair bridges and roads!

County Treasurer should not be an elected position.

This morning I observed the Board for the LWV. They tentatively adopted their revised Open Records and Procedures Policy. It is a greatly improved document which they are sending out to depts to look over for 7 days and when the Board will take it up again. When I first looked at it, I thought it was for all of St. County, but upon further reading I saw that the Recorder's office is exempt and other elected offices can be too since the Board can't bind other elected officials. I think it shows that county government needs to be revised to make it better serve the needs of the public. I am glad that you two are working to make things better. Example: the document states the prices that can be charged for copying will be 5 cents. However, the Board cannot fix prices in the offices of other elected officials. These offices may adopt this policy, including the fee schedule, but are not required to do so.

Five Supervisors. Split County into (4) equal areas and (1) at large person.

Is this committee a solution in search of a problem? (Also, congrats to Paul Fitzgerald for his leadership nationally!)

Someone at the front desk. Eliminate recorder, combine assessors; more transparency from the spending side - heard about supporting so may softwares need to see \$ spent: you're spending my money foolishly

I think there has to be change - but your suggested changes to "5" person board are ridiculous considering "3" can't even let people know what's going on. The rural parts of Story County are definitely underserved already. What would "5" people do but collect taxpayer salaries and do nothing as well. Need to rotate monthly meeting sites. Publicize more widely what goes on/when meetings are. I knew meeting to discuss this was Monday 3/5/12 but had prior commitment - only reason I knew of meeting was because of one of the committee members-he told me of it in advance. The supervisors as they are now make way too much money (just voted themselves another raise!) for what we as taxpayers get out of their efforts. In my opinion, in Story county it is the departments with the most vocal proponents that get attention. The Sheriff's depart especially, which is odd considering the cameras at the jail don't even work? I think we need a county manager to corral all the departments and provide for a more equal distribution of money. Also we need to retain 3 part time supervisors to listen to the concerns of the taxpayers and bring these concerns to the attention of the county manager. As it stands now, the full time 3 can't even be bothered to do this. Also...we need a more transparent system and one where information is provided to all in a multitude of venues - newspaper, radio, email, website.

Put your blade down when grading gravel roads.

Combine city & county assessor's offices

Remove the person(s) who conceived this survey and decided to, or allowed it to be so deeply embedded, opaque and un-findable. It is between sneaky and ignorant, appearing arrogant.

1. less taxes. 2. less welfare services. 3. less regulation. 3. Equal rights to all, less good ol boys clubs

In attending the work session I listened to the discussion and came to the conclusion that the group was after "low hanging fruit". I believe this discussion should happen on a regional basis. Our current form of government was created over 160 years ago when we relied on horses as a mode of transportation. Yesterday it was cars and trucks, today it is the internet. We have the ability to do almost any transaction via the internet. The days of doing business at the local court house should be a thing of the past. It's time to move in to the future. Do away with local courthouses and regionalize local governments. There is no need for 99 Treasurers, Auditors, Sheriffs.... This group needs to think outside the box. You've been formed to bring back insightful commentary. Take this idea and move forward with it.

Increase taxes so we could provide better support for mental health. We have tremendous wealth in this county and need to use it better to support those with mental illness and those who are poor. We who are able are willing to help more.

Get more information to public on all departments, as things go on - not just a general description of department.

Elect only supervisors and appoint sheriff, etc. County attorney as criminal prosecutor should be eliminated and state should assume prosecutor in district attorney system. Then, appoint county attorney for civil (non-criminal) issues.

The Story county Community Life program should not be operated as a County entity. It should be privatized into a private-not-for-profit organization, like the rest of the human service agencies in the county. If it stays as a County-operated entity, it should have to go through the ASSET process like all other agencies. They have been exempt from this process since the day ASSET was begun. Further, it is a conflict of interest for Case Managers to be county employees and then make referrals to county-operated programs. Can you say "fox watching the hen house"?

I am glad to live in Story County.

-Combine the offices of recorder, treasurer and hire a professional. It should not be an elected position. -Privatize the community life program. The County should not be in the business of competing against other non-profit organizations when it is directly involved in the facilitating of care for individuals. -Hire a county manager and make the supervisors part-time -redesign the website--it's horrible and outdated and offers little useful information

Reconstruction of the oversight of Story County Community Life and the Community Mental Health Center. Separate the services for MH and Intellectual Disabilities until the board of supervisors developed a plan to prevent SCCL from intermingling services for people with mental illness and NO intellectual disability by giving Intellectual Disability services to those with Mental Illness. Prevent SCCL from offering services that duplicate those of the community mental health center. It would be better if SCCL received funding for intellectual disabilities and group residential care only. Allocate funding for treatment and services for people with Mental Illness to the community mental health center. With the change in community mental health services to a Polk county located service in July 2012, this is an opportune time to separate these conflicting situations. Continuing to allow individuals with the intellectual ability to live in their own apartment, successfully complete Master's Degrees, and own and operate a car to have SCCL pay for housekeeping services for their apartment, dedicate the time and responsibility for storing medication bottles when the individual has the capacity to do these things on their own with monthly outreach services is a waste of human resources, money, and the recovery or self-responsibility of these clients. Since SCCL has shown an inability to successfully treat people with Mental illnesses who do not have documented intellectual disabilities.

Develop a comprehensive plan for sustainability and resilience in preparation for increased weather and social disruptions. Stricter land use regulation to protect farm land and natural areas. More funding for soil and water conservation. More parks and trails. Economic development should focus on locally owned businesses and local food systems. Reduce use of fossil fuels; develop alternative energy, solar and wind, not ethanol. Improve public transit including light rail system. Raise taxes to pay for it.

Hire a county manager.

Making the Auditor, Treasurer and Recorder administrative positions rather than elected.

Get rid of the sheriff.

change the representation make up of the board of supervisors

Go to 5 supervisors, one which would be the official county administrator/board chair with a full-time salary based on either the number of votes received in the general election or the most votes received in a vote among the five supervisors. The other four would serve part-time.. focusing on only a couple of departments, the budget and policy/legislation.

No reason for two assessors in the same county. Is a waste of tax payers money.....

Keep spending under control. Just because some court house official or community mover and shaker has an idea doesn't mean hurry and fund it. Start by cutting the budget by 10%, and keep doing it.

paving Heart of Iowa Nature Trail and making a better connection with the other trail in Slater.

More recreational activities needed in the northern part (in addition to the improvements to Dakin's Lake). The Prairie Rail Trail needs to be upgraded to a more user-friendly area, much like the HOINT in southern Story county. Economic development would certainly follow.

Better mental health funding Road emphasis on bridge repair Combining of low traffic volume offices

# Story County Government Restructuring Committee—Public Input Questionnaire

<i>Please rate Story County's performance in the following areas:</i>	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
The value of services for the amount of property taxes collected by Story County.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The overall direction that Story County is headed.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The job Story County does at welcoming citizen involvement.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
The transparency of Story County's day-to-day operations.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<i>Please rate each of the following services offered by Story County.</i>	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
Animal control	<input type="radio"/>				
County parks	<input type="radio"/>				
Crime prevention	<input type="radio"/>				
Disaster/emergency information and services	<input type="radio"/>				
Economic development	<input type="radio"/>				
Land use and code enforcement	<input type="radio"/>				
Mental health services	<input type="radio"/>				
Nature programs or classes	<input type="radio"/>				
Public information services	<input type="radio"/>				
Road and bridge repair	<input type="radio"/>				
Sheriff services	<input type="radio"/>				
Snow removal on County roads and highways	<input type="radio"/>				
Traffic enforcement on County roads and highways	<input type="radio"/>				
Voter information and registration services	<input type="radio"/>				

<i>How would you rate the overall quality and delivery of service in Story County?</i>	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor
	<input type="radio"/>				

<i>Currently, there are three members of the Board of Supervisors, all elected at large. State Code allows the registered voters of the county at a general election to vote on a proposition to increase the number of supervisors to five. The Code of Iowa specifies the following three plans. Please note your level of support for the four alternatives below, including keeping the number of Board of Supervisors at three.</i>	Yes	No	No Opinion
The number of Supervisors should remain at three.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Plan "one."</b> The number of Supervisors should increase to five. Election at large without district residence requirements for the members.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Plan "two."</b> The number of Supervisors should increase to five. Election at large but with equal-population district residence requirements for the members.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<b>Plan "three."</b> The number of Supervisors should increase to five. Election from single-member equal-population districts, in which the electors of each district shall elect one member who must reside in that district.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<i>The State Code allows the combining of duties of elected officials or the elimination of elected offices and the assumption of the duties of those offices by appointed officials. Please note your level of support to combine or eliminate the elected offices listed below.</i>	Keep as is	Eliminate and combine	No Opinion
Sheriff	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Treasurer	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Recorder	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Auditor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Medical examiner	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
General assistance director	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
County care facility administrator	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Commission on veteran affairs	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Director of social welfare	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
County assessor	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
County weed commissioner.	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<i>Within the past year, how many times have you either visited a Story County department/elected official in person, by phone or via website for the following service?</i>	Never	Once a year	Once a month	Once a week	Daily
Applied for a marriage license	<input type="radio"/>				
Applied for a Story County job opening	<input type="radio"/>				
Applied for dust control	<input type="radio"/>				
Applied for permits for house, septic, address, floodplain, driveway	<input type="radio"/>				
Applied for resources and services through Community Services	<input type="radio"/>				
Attended a meeting of local elected officials or other local public meeting	<input type="radio"/>				
Attended a tax sale	<input type="radio"/>				
Dialed 911	<input type="radio"/>				
Discussed my property's tax assessment	<input type="radio"/>				
Filed a complaint	<input type="radio"/>				
Installed a geothermal well system	<input type="radio"/>				
Located flu clinics	<input type="radio"/>				
Looked up a property on the Story Assessor's website	<input type="radio"/>				
Paid for property taxes	<input type="radio"/>				
Participated in a recreation program or activity Visited a County park	<input type="radio"/>				
Participated in Community Life Program's Vocational Rehabilitation Services	<input type="radio"/>				
Processed a passport application	<input type="radio"/>				
Purchased vehicle tags and plates	<input type="radio"/>				
Recorded a warranty deed	<input type="radio"/>				
Registered my boat, snowmobile or ATV	<input type="radio"/>				
Registered to vote	<input type="radio"/>				
Reported a stray animal	<input type="radio"/>				
Requested a vital record (birth, death and/or marriage license)	<input type="radio"/>				
Requested assistance from Story County Sheriff's office	<input type="radio"/>				
Researched information about Story County and/or one of the cities in the county	<input type="radio"/>				
Reviewed proposed budgets for County departments	<input type="radio"/>				
Reviewed the agenda and materials for an upcoming Story County meeting online	<input type="radio"/>				
Reviewed the Payment Claims Database on the County's website	<input type="radio"/>				
Signed up for Veteran's benefits	<input type="radio"/>				
Subdivided property	<input type="radio"/>				
Used the payment drop box for motor vehicle registration renewals and/or property taxes	<input type="radio"/>				
Visited the Story County animal shelter	<input type="radio"/>				
Visited the Story County jail	<input type="radio"/>				
Voted absentee for an election	<input type="radio"/>				

*What other thoughts or ideas would you like to share about how Story County could be more efficient?*

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Please return this questionnaire by March 10, 2012, to:

**Government Restructuring Committee**

c/o Story County Planning and Development - Administration Building - 900 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Nevada, Iowa 50201  
 Phone: (515) 382-7245 Fax: (515) 382-7294 [www.storycounty.com](http://www.storycounty.com)

## **Appendix C**

Meeting Minutes with Current and Former Board of Supervisors





## MINUTES GOVERNMENT RESTRUCTURING COMMITTEE

**Date of Meeting:** February 10, 2012

**Call to Order:** 11:30 a.m.

**Location:** Administration Building  
Nevada, Iowa

Ted Tedesco, Co-Chair  
Sandy Opstvedt, Co-Chair  
Marty Chitty  
Tom Corrieri  
\*Steve McGill  
\*Sandra McJimsey  
\*Patrick Sheets  
(\* Absent)

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### Joint Meeting with the Board of Supervisors

Ms. Sandy Opstvedt mentioned that the Committee members had heard concerns from employees regarding retaliation and manager issues. Mr. Wayne Clinton outlined the process for employees to bring forward concerns and the role of the Employee Action Committee, EAC.

Ms. Opstvedt stated that the EAC is viewed as a coffee and cookie club and asked what would happen if the Committee would make a recommendation wherein nothing would happen as a result similar to that which was expressed happens with the EAC. Mr. Rick Sanders responded that the actions of the Board will be determined at the time the report is received. He expressed concerns that the Committee is being viewed as a dumping ground for issues that are present.

Mr. Ted Tedesco commented there would be a better employee base if all are working towards the same goals and noted that it was expressed that the EAC is not truly representative of all employees if not all department heads are encouraging someone to serve on the EAC. Mr. Paul Toot stated that membership on the EAC has typically been the same small group of individuals serving year after year; while those that don't serve offer the complaints.

Ms. Opstvedt stated that the attendance at the GRC meetings thus far has not been overwhelming.

Mr. Sanders commented that he spent two years critiquing Story County government, but found once he was within the organization that Story County is in most areas ahead of the other 98 counties.

Mr. Tom Corrieri stated that it seemed to be time to modernize government and described the current model in which Story County operates as a 21<sup>st</sup> century county with a 19<sup>th</sup> century government.

Mr. Toot responded that Story County was not unusual from any other County in the United States.

Ms. Opstvedt stated that the government process appeared to be structurally sound and found it helpful to hear all perspectives and was grateful of those willing to give input.

Mr. Clinton commented that common issues and problems are voiced at NACo. He further stated that in Story County, visionary changes have been undertaken that cost money up-front but have realized long-term benefits.

Ms. Opstvedt noted that issues with technology have been mentioned several times. Ms. Opstvedt also comments that there appeared to be communication issues present as well, with lack of uniformity present.

Mr. Clinton stated that the Board would ask that if problems are identified, the committee include possible suggestions to correct the situation.

Ms. Opstvedt reviewed concerns voiced by a township trustee.

Mr. Sanders commented the Board is in the initial phases of dealing with I.T. issues and expects they will be satisfactorily addressed prior to the Committee's report being finalized.

Mr. Tedesco stated that in County government, there is not supreme power and commented that if we are a leading county, maybe Story County should be working towards changing it whole scale to benefit other counties.

Mr. Sanders noted that if the Committee's report included a minority report, there may not be the political will present for the Board of Supervisors to act on the recommendations.

Ms. Opstvedt commented that it didn't seem as if anyone exactly new what the responsibilities are the Board included.

Mr. Clinton directed the Committee members to resources on the ISAC website.

Mr. Sanders noted there is "perception vs. reality" in that the Board is viewed as ultimately responsible for anything that happens in Story County.

Mr. Tedesco questioned whether the possibility exists for the Board to mandate security over the Administration Building through a 28E agreement, which would allow the Story County Sheriff's Office to respond rather than the City of Nevada.

Ms. Sanders noted that security in all the County buildings is a concern but budget concerns are a real concern.

Mr. Toot questioned the committee whether they felt a deputy should be at the front kiosk from 8 – 5 pm. Mr. Corrieri responded affirmatively noting there must be ways to fund security which is essential.

Mr. Clinton noted that it would have to be more than one person in such a capacity with breaks and other issues and questioned whether the perception of a body would represent the idea that such individual is able to assist with questions.

Ms. Opstvedt commented that it was alarming that cost is a concern.

Mr. Clinton stated the presence of an armed person may not prevent the person from approaching a County employee or other individual outside the building.

Mr. Sanders noted that the Board tried to build into the budget the staffing of the front counter to the Administration Building.

The Committee members raised the issue of compensation. Mr. Clinton explained the current system and shared that the County is in the process of having a new compensation study completed with revised job descriptions. Mr. Clinton reviewed the flex benefits package provided to employees by Story County. Mr. Chitty questioned whether there was an expectation that if someone takes the cash rather than County's insurance, that the money is actually going towards



insurance. Mr. Clinton affirmed, stated that the County has been told, however, that proof of insurance cannot be required.

The Committee and Board of Supervisors discussed the open meetings law and the manner in which discussions and functions from an administrative perspective as opposed to legislative side differ.

Mr. Chitty applauded the Board of Supervisors for the CPAT meeting and work.

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### **Joint Meeting with former members of the Board of Supervisors**

Mr. James Strohman reviewed economic development opportunities.

Mr. Jack Whitmer noted that there could be opportunities to provide assistance to smaller communities.

Mr. Strohman suggested a course of action to do away with as many elected officials as possible.

Mr. Whitmer noted that if Story County did it right, other counties may benefit as well.

Mr. Tedesco commented that in trying to modernize/streamline government, there are kingdoms which must be dealt with. Mr. Tedesco further noted that the citizens should be able to go to one office and buy all the permits they need at one spot.

Mr. Whitmer stated that fewer people deal with their government each day.

Mr. Strohman advocated for five supervisors if the issue of three vs. five was addressed, combining both the executive and legislative into one office and hiring a County Manager to do the administrative duties.

Ms. Opstvedt commented that comparing a city council to the Board of Supervisors may be an unfair comparison.

Mr. Tedesco shared comments heard through the meetings where those in Eastern Story County felt under-represented.

Mr. Whitmer questioned whether districts had been drawn.

Ms. Johnnie Hammond stated that districts would increase partisanship and may result in making the Board member feel less representative of all of Story County.

Mr. Strohman commented that the Board should be involved in the daily administrative happenings.

Mr. Larry Larson questioned whether the current work underway was a solution in search of a problem and expressed thoughts that the current system has worked well.

Mr. Whitmer noted that people would need to be educated as to whom to go to with concerns.

Ms. Hammond commented that there are a lot of areas of county government and lower that need to be streamlined. Ms. Hammond suggested actions to do away with townships and trustees which are entities that are inefficient and costly for the services provided.

Mr. Tedesco questioned the presence of two assessors' in Story County and suggested it may be time to move to one assessor.



Ms. Opstvedt noted she was leaning towards Mr. Tedesco's position on the assessor issue.

Mr. Larson noted that such action may not be in the prerogative of the Committee.

Ms. Jane Halliburton commented that she viewed the Committee as another opportunity to raise the issues associated with two assessors. Ms. Halliburton also noted that the committee needs to remain mindful of coordinated Homeland Security with Public Health.

Mr. Tedesco stated that the E911 Board and Emergency Management work together.

Ms. Strohman noted that there are concerns with Courthouse security.

Ms. Halliburton commented it is necessary to look at mandated services and unmet needs.

Mr. Whitmer stated that people should remain mindful of the bigger impact the financial industry is going to have on all levels of government and look at finances from a long-term perspective.

Ms. Halliburton encouraged the Committee members to not only talk about the various functions and offices but also look at the services Story County residents need and find ways to be provide those services.

Ms. Mary Richards comment on the role of the County Attorney noting that the job is different than some other County offices as it must also serve as an arm of the State as well. Ms. Richards noted that the importance of seeking balance between it, "If ain't broke; don't fix", and identifying areas of inefficiencies.

Ms. Hammond opinioned that the role of the County Attorney should be an elective position and suggested that the committee look at all County officials and ask why it should be elected or appointed.

Ms. Richards noted that some positions require a certain element of professional background or training.

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### **Committee Discussion**

The committee asked Ms. Leanne Harter to schedule meetings with Alissa Wignall and the Story County Compensation Board chair.

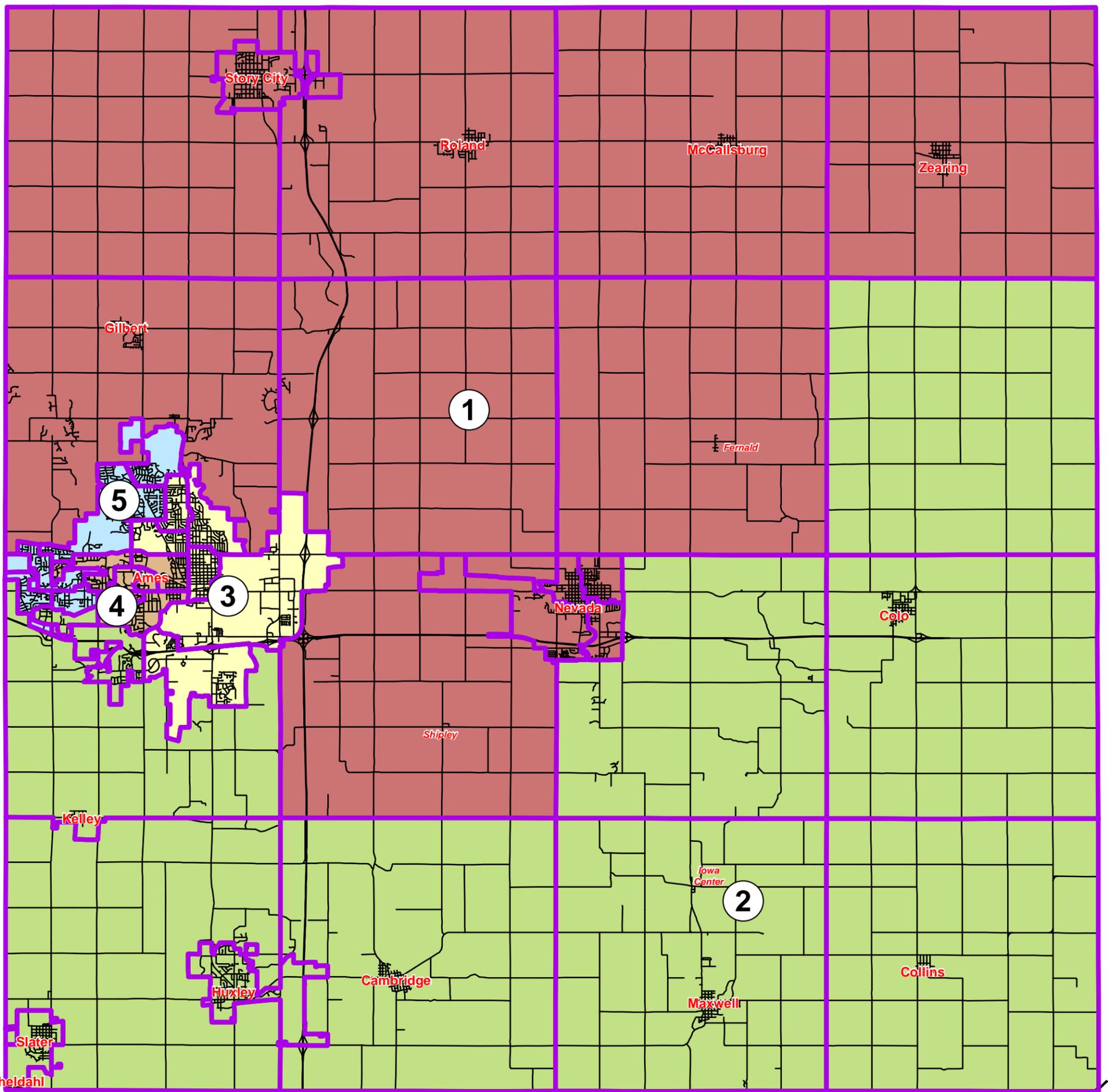
The Committee directed Ms. Harter to send a thank you email to County staff and let them know they may continue to provide comment and input.

### **Adjournment at 3:53 pm**



# **Appendix D**

Sample Five Supervisor Districts Map



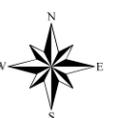
**Legend**

- Story County Voting Precincts
- Roads

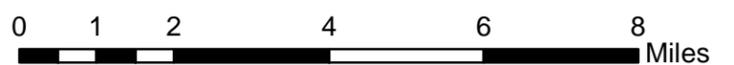
**DIST\_NAME**

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

# Five County Supervisor Districts First Draft



Date Printed: April 2012  
Matt Boeck, Story County GIS Coordinator



# **Appendix E**

Soil and Water Conservation District Reorganization

## Reorganization of Conservation Districts according to Watershed Boundaries

Soil and water districts have long recognized the wisdom and efficiency of managing soil and water conservation according to watershed boundaries. Watersheds often cross county or state lines resulting in the encompassing of multiple soil and water districts within an individual watershed. Thus, watershed projects require close cooperation between agencies that may not always have the same priorities or needs. Many of our river basins have experienced extreme flooding and property damage in recent years that has led to federal and state legislation aimed at improving floodplain and watershed management. Dealing with multiple political bodies within a watershed complicates coordination and slows down the application of conservation practices.

**CDI supports the formation of a special task force to study the feasibility of a reorganization of Iowa's Conservation Districts according to watershed boundaries. CDI should ask the State Soil Conservation Committee to work with the Secretary of Agriculture and Conservation districts of Iowa to appoint a task force that would have the necessary mix of political and technical assistance to complete the study.**

Explanation: Many questions need to be answered with serious study. What size watershed would be appropriate as a district? Iowa has about 58 watersheds that are classified as Hydrological Code Unit (HUC) 8. If HUC 8 watersheds are used to form district boundaries this would mean a reduction in the number of districts from the current 100. How would commissioners be selected, by appointment or election? How would watersheds that cross state boundaries (Minnesota and Missouri) be managed? Would re-organization allow conservation programs to be administered more efficiently?

In Nebraska, major river basins form the boundaries of 23 Natural Resource Districts and each district is governed by a locally elected board of directors. For example, the Central Platte NRD is governed by a 21-member board of directors, who are elected by voters within the district. The board sets policy for the district and then works with the staff to carry out the district's goals.

Submitted by: Story and Boone SWCD

For further information contact: Erv Klaas 515-233-3327 [eklaas@iastate.edu](mailto:eklaas@iastate.edu) or  
Kevin Griggs 515-230-7044 [kevin@griggs-strategies.com](mailto:kevin@griggs-strategies.com)