

## SERVICE DELIVERY PROMOTING QUALITY OF LIFE

### 2019 State of the County Address

A new year brings new faces, new roles and new ideas to Story County. Yet some of the work that we undertake during 2019 is based upon initiatives begun in 2018 or earlier.

As the new chairperson of the Board of Supervisors, I welcome newly elected officials County Supervisor, Linda Murken of Gilbert and County Treasurer, Ted Rasmussen of Colo.

We are already creating connections with our County's other elected officials Supervisor Rick Sanders, Auditor Lucy Martin, County Attorney Jessica Reynolds, Recorder Stacie Herridge and Sheriff Paul Fitzgerald to support the County's dedicated, efficient workforce.

You can learn about some of the County's previous priorities and projects by reading our 2018 Annual Report. We have distributed paper copies to all of the city halls and libraries in the county. It also can be found online at <http://www.storycountyiowa.gov/1150/Annual-Reports>.

Our successes last year ranged from partnering with our mental health region, Central Iowa Community Services, and Mary Greeley Medical Center to create a crisis stabilization and transitional living center to getting our first look at the assessment of the Story County's smaller watersheds commissioned by the previous Board of Supervisors.



### STAY CONNECTED!

Sign up for Notify Me at [www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov)

### Upcoming Events

- Brown bag Lunch and Learn Series on FEMA's revised floodplain maps on February 6th, March 7th, and April 3rd from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
- Citizen of the Year Nominations Due February 15th
- Story County Offices are closed on Monday, February 18th in observance of President's Day
- Story County Board of Supervisors Budget Public Hearing on March 12th beginning at 10:00 am
- Story County Conservation Annual Photo Contest runs March 4th - March 22nd
- Property Taxes Due April 1st
- Boat renewals due by April 30th

Story County Board of Supervisors meet weekly on Tuesdays at 10:00 am in the Public Meeting Room 2nd Floor, Story County Administration Building, Nevada.

For more Story County events and classes through Story County Conservation, please visit



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

### Property Tax Reminder

Story County Treasurer Ted Rasmussen would like to remind Story County property owners that the first half of the fiscal year 2018 -2019 property taxes are due on or before April 1, 2019. Penalty of 1½% attaches April 2, 2019. Anyone with questions can call the Treasurer's Office at 515-382-7330 or visit our websites at: [www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov) and [www.iowatreasurers.org](http://www.iowatreasurers.org).

### Fiscal Year 2020 Budget Update

Planning for Fiscal Year 2020, which begins July 1, 2019, is well underway. The Board of Supervisors will consider the proposed budget at a public hearing scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 12th in the Public Meeting Room, located on the second floor of the Story County Administration Building at 900 6th Street in Nevada.

Concurrently with the proposed budget development, Story County is preparing its Capital Improvements Plan (CIP). The CIP is a multi-year guide to the construction and/or improvement of County facilities and the acquisition of equipment. By preparing and updating a CIP, the County meets the need for orderly maintenance of the County's physical assets and has an implementation tool for the acquisition, development, construction, maintenance, and renovation of public facilities, infrastructure, and capital equipment.

Public comment on the CIP runs from February 5th - March 1st. The draft CIP may be viewed on our website at [www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov) > Government > Offices and Departments > Board of Supervisors > Capital Improvements Planning. The Board is scheduled to take action on the proposed CIP on March 12th, following the budget hearing.

#### Watersheds and Sensitive Areas

This year, we will map out a plan and activate its first steps to keep our ecologically sensitive areas safe, improve the quality of our local lakes, ponds, creeks, and prevent contamination of those watersheds. In an effort to do this, the Board will consider funding a watershed coordinator and passing an ordinance that sets stricter standards in controlling stormwater flow in rural developments.

The consultant surveying sensitive areas will continue working with rural property owners, especially farmers, to identify patches of ground hosting rare native insects, animals and plants in hopes we can discourage land use activities that would damage or destroy these areas and their native inhabitants.

We also expect to continue the dialogue about the State's permitting process for confined animal feeding operations in relation to combining Story County's strong agricultural base with citizens' widespread desire to improve water quality and foster a healthy natural environment.

Last winter, the County hosted a workshop with several experts on scoring the DNR's voluntary review system – the Master Matrix – to determine what flexibility the County had in scoring it.

This year, we are holding a special evening meeting to collect citizen input on the Master Matrix as we consider calling upon the State of Iowa to make changes to the Master Matrix.

#### Paved Trails

Walkers, runners and bicyclists should have a couple new miles of paved trails this fall to enjoy Story County's beautiful countryside. There will be paving projects on a segment of the Praeri Rail Trail near Dakins Lake in Zearing and on a segment of the Heart of Iowa Natural Trail between Slater and Huxley.

The County will also open its park at the ISU Research Park. Named the Tedesco Environmental Learning Corridor, the park includes a new paved trail that will hook up with the Heart of Iowa Natural Trail via a few miles riding on County Road R-38 on the southwest part of Ames.

#### Gender Equity

Gender-balance for local boards and commissions has been State law since 2012. Story County, however, has yet to achieve compliance of almost equal numbers (3 – 2; 4 – 3) of male and female members on each of its boards and commissions at one time.

After a concentrated effort started last fall and continuing this winter to solicit qualified female candidates, we expect to be 100 percent compliant this spring as we fill vacant seats on the Planning and Zoning Commission, Board of Health and Veteran Affairs Commission. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact us.

#### Community Priorities

Our remodeled animal shelter is expected to host a ribbon cutting in late winter or early spring. Baffle paneling in the dog area and a cat room with lots of light and a shared play area offer the animals a less stressful environment, which has led to cat adoptions occurring again after a three-month drought.

We continue our commitment to fund community supports and individual needs for those who require help. The Board of Supervisors has already committed to over \$1 million dollars in funding for youth, family and low-income assistance programs eligible via the ASSET joint-funding collaboration.

Story County continues to seek partners who can collaborate to resolve the ongoing shortages of affordable housing and difficulties in accessing reliable rural transportation.

#### Preliminary Budget Numbers

Story County continues to be financially healthy with a projected ending general fund balance – our cash reserves – of 25% of our expenses. This amount is needed to meet the County's cash flow needs until property taxes are due in September. Budget workshops for FY20 have just begun, but preliminary estimations show our expenses are expected to be \$41 million. Of that amount, approximately \$28 million is expected to come from local property taxes.

Land valuations subject to County property tax levies top \$6 billion. The levy rates will not be finalized and certified with the State until mid-March.

#### Possible Bonding

Maintaining healthy reserve balances will be important as Story County is forecasting some large one-time expenditures in 2020.

We expect to need at least \$3M to pay the County's portion of an \$11 to \$12 million price tag to create a new interoperable radio system for law enforcement, first responders and other essential service providers in Story County.

Paying cash would drop our reserve funds below the preferred 25%, so as of the time this article was written, the Supervisors are considering bonding for the \$3M.

The County's general debt will be paid in full this year, and rather than letting our debt service levy expire completely, the debt service levy rate could be reduced with a \$3M bond.

Economic development opportunities appear to be ramping up faster than anticipated, so the Board of Supervisors may also consider bonding to pave three rural roads tied to business growth areas in Ames, Huxley and Nevada. If we do that, the debt service levy rate would stay very close to what is now.

#### Thank You

I hope what you've read assures you that the County's assets, the County's services and the County's future are overseen by responsible, vigilant public servants and elected officials.

On behalf of the County's 250 employees, thank you for giving us the honor of serving you.

Lauris Olson, Chairperson  
Story County Board of Supervisors



# Our Story

## SERVICE DELIVERY PROMOTING QUALITY OF LIFE

### Story County Elected Officials Take Oath of Office

Story County's newly Elected Officials were sworn in on Wednesday, January 2nd in a ceremony presided over by Story County District Court Judge Bethany Currie.

Story County Supervisor Rick Sanders was sworn in to a four-year term following his re-election to the seat in November. Supervisor Sanders was appointed to the Board of Supervisors in August 2010 to fill an unexpired term, and then elected to serve a full term that fall and again re-elected in 2014.

Linda Murken joins the Board of Supervisors as the newest member of the Board, elected in November 2018. Supervisor Murken, a life-long resident of Story County, retired in 2010 as the Director of the Second Judicial District Department of Correctional Services. Following retirement, she continued serving Story County as the founding President of the Gilbert/Franklin Township Fire and Emergency Rescue Agency, President of the League of Women Voters of Ames/Story County, member of the Planning and Zoning Commission and involvement in other areas.

Ted Rasmusson is Story County's newest Treasurer, elected in November 2018. Prior to election, Treasurer Rasmusson served as a business analyst and project manager for EMC Insurance in Des Moines.

Recorder Stacie Herridge was sworn in to start her second term as County Recorder, first elected to the position in 2014. Recorder Herridge is a life-long resident of Story County, with over 20 years working at Story County serving the residents in both the Recorder's Office, but also as the Deputy Auditor of Real Estate in the County Auditor's Office.

County Attorney Jessica A. Reynolds was sworn in for her first full term. Ms. Reynolds, who began working for Story County in 2008, was appointed County Attorney by the Story County Board of Supervisors in 2016.



From Left to Right: Treasurer Ted Rasmusson, Recorder Stacie Herridge, Story County District Court Judge Bethany Currie, Supervisor Linda Murken, County Attorney Jessica Reynolds, Supervisor Rick Sanders

### Boat Renewals Due in April

2019 is a boat registration year. Boat renewals are due before April 30th for all boats currently registered in Story County. The Recorder's Office will be sending out renewal notices to all current boat owners. Boat renewals are good for three years.

You can visit the County Recorder's Office in the County Administration Building, 900 6th Street, Nevada, Iowa. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8:00 am - 5:00 pm.

### Replacing Wallet-Sized Birth Certificates

The Iowa Department of Public Health Bureau of Health Statistics has announced the exchange of wallet-sized newborn birth certificates issued from May 1993-October 2009. During that time, there was not enough vital information printed on the certificates to be used for identification purposes.



This no-charge exchange is only offered for wallet-sized birth certificates issued by the Iowa Department of Public Health during this time period. This does not apply to certificates issued by the Clerk of Court.

The Story County Recorder's Office provides birth certificate exchange service to the public if the birth was recorded in Story County or if the State has issued the county rights to print the certificate. If the Story County Recorder's Office doesn't have access to the record, they can still assist in obtaining a copy from the appropriate issuing office.

To obtain a replacement birth certificate directly from the Story County Recorder's Office, you must be entitled to the record, meaning you are either the person named on the record or a parent, grandparent, sibling, or spouse. You will need to complete a short application regarding the birth and present a valid, government-issued photo identification. The wallet-sized birth certificate must be surrendered in order to obtain the no-fee copy. For questions or additional information, please contact the Recorder's office at (515) 382-7230.

### Annual Reorganization of the Board of Supervisors

As set forth in the Code of Iowa, each calendar year at the first meeting in January, the Board of Supervisors determines who serves as Chair and Vice Chair, the date and times of the regularly-scheduled meetings, Board appointments to various boards and commission, and addresses other procedures established by state law.

At the 2019 Organizational Meeting held January 2nd, the Board of Supervisors elected Lauris Olson to serve as Chair for the coming year and Linda Murken as Vice Chair. Regularly-scheduled meetings will continue to be held each Tuesday morning at 10:00 am in the Public Meeting Room at the Administration Building located in Nevada.

Board and commission assignments include the following:

- Aging Resources of Central Iowa Board of Directors – Lauris Olson; Linda Murken, alternate
- Ames Assessor Mini-Board – Lauris Olson; Rick Sanders, alternate
- Ames Economic Development Commission (AEDC) – Lauris Olson; Linda Murken alternate
- Ames Metropolitan Planning Organization Transportation Policy Committee – Lauris Olson; Rick Sanders, alternate
- Board of Health (ex-officio) - Lauris Olson; Linda Murken, alternate
- BooST Together for Children (Boone and Story Counties Early Childhood Iowa (ECI) Area Board) – Linda Murken
- Central Iowa Community Services (Regional Board) – Linda Murken; Lauris Olson, alternate
- Central Iowa Juvenile Detention Board – Lauris Olson; Rick Sanders, alternate
- Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning Alliance (CIRTPA) Policy Committee – Lauris Olson; Rick Sanders, alternate
- Central Iowa Region 11 Workforce Development CEO Board – Rick Sanders
- Central Iowa Region Housing Authority Executive Board – Lauris Olson
- Conservation Board (ex-officio) – Rick Sanders
- DeCat Board – Linda Murken; Rick Sanders, alternate
- Emergency Management Commission – Rick Sanders; Lauris Olson, alternate
- Four Mile Creek Watershed Authority: Leanne Harter; Linda Murken, alternate
- Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA) – Lauris Olson; Rick Sanders, alternate
- Prairie Rivers of Iowa (subject to invitation) – Linda Murken; Lauris Olson, alternate
- Second Judicial District Department of Corrections – Lauris Olson; Rick Sanders, alternate
- Story County Assessor Mini-Board – Linda Murken
- Story County E-911 Service Board – Paul Fitzgerald; Linda Murken, alternate
- Squaw Creek Watershed Authority – Linda Murken
- South Skunk Watershed Authority – Linda Murken

### Open Houses to Review Revised Floodplain

Story County has a long, established history of floodplain management programs, through the review of applications and issuance of permits to record keeping to a strong relationship between floodplain management and hazard mitigation for properties in *unincorporated* Story County. Our adopted Floodplain Management program looks at three aspects: Regulations, Mapping, and Flood Insurance.

Story County is part of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS). As a CRS community, a minimum 5-percent discount is applied to all flood insurance policies issued or renewed in unincorporated Story County. Story County entered the CRS Program at a Class 7 rating, entitling unincorporated residents within the Special Flood Hazard Area a 15% discount on their insurance premiums.

Story County's flood risk information is being revised by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and updated flood hazard maps are available. You are invited to attend one or more of three scheduled brown bag Lunch and Learn sessions\* to discuss the proposed changes to the floodplain maps. These meetings provide opportunities to discuss the changes to floodplain maps in the unincorporated areas of Story County, Iowa (outside city limits.) The public is invited to visit anytime between 11:30 am - 1:30 pm on any of the following dates. No formal presentations are scheduled. All three sessions will take place in the Public Meeting Room (2nd floor) at the Administration Building - 900 6th Street in Nevada.

February 6th      March 7th      April 3rd

Please free to contact Leanne Harter with any questions at 515-382-7247 or via email at [lharter@storycountyiowa.gov](mailto:lharter@storycountyiowa.gov). If you are not able to attend one of these sessions, please feel free to contact staff directly with questions. \*Food will not be provided, but please feel free to bring your own.

### Traveling Abroad?

Approximately 40 County Recorder Offices throughout the state of Iowa accept passports, including Story County, with two passport agents available in the Recorder's Office. Whether studying abroad, taking a trip for Spring Break, or just planning an international vacation, now is a good time to think about applying for your passport. The Story County Recorder's office accepts passport applications Monday through Friday between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm on a walk-in basis. No appointment is necessary. Passport photo services are also available at the Recorder's Office for \$15. Passport forms, fees, and a list of required materials can be found at the Department of State's official website, [travel.state.gov](http://travel.state.gov). If you have questions concerning the application process, you are strongly encouraged you to call the Recorder's Office at (515) 382-7230.

**Administration Building**  
Phone: 515-382-6581

**Animal Shelter**  
Phone: 515-382-3338

**Engineer and Secondary Roads**  
Phone: 515-382-7355

**Justice Center**  
Attorney Phone: 515-382-7255  
Sheriff Phone: 515-382-6566

**Human Service Center**  
Phone: 515-663-2930

**Conservation**  
Phone: 515-232-2516

## STORY COUNTY ELECTED OFFICIALS

County Attorney  
Jessica Reynolds

County Sheriff  
Paul Fitzgerald

County Auditor  
Lucy Martin

County Treasurer  
Ted Rasmusson

County Recorder  
Stacie Herridge

Supervisor  
Lauris Olson

Supervisor  
Rick Sanders

Supervisor  
Linda Murken