



# Our Story

February 28, 2014

## Board of Supervisors



**Paul Toot**  
Chair



**Rick Sanders**  
Vice-Chair



**Wayne Clinton**

Story County, Iowa

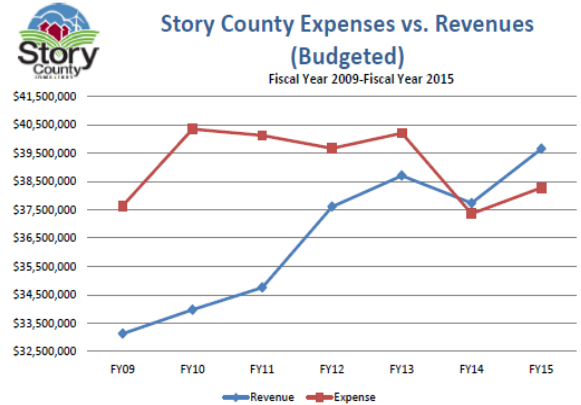
900 6th Street  
Nevada, Iowa 50201

## Story County Budget

In 2011 a new Board brought a new focus to Story County's Budget. At that time Story County had a budget shortfall (expenses exceeded revenues) of \$5.4 million, employees could not rely on annual raises, the County was assuming debt to pay for road repairs and building maintenance was being deferred.

By budgeting only for necessary items, decreasing operational costs and prioritizing the needs of the County, the Board was able to cut the deficit by more than half in FY12 and produce Story County's first balanced budget in more than a quarter-century in FY14. This year (FY15) the Supervisors will approve Story County's second balanced budget in a row, will continue to treat all employees' wage increases the same regardless of their status with a bargaining unit, and will increase the County's budgeted Ending Fund Balance (savings) from \$6.1 million in FY11 to over \$13 million in FY15. Additionally, funding for

### Story County Expenses vs. Revenues (Budgeted)



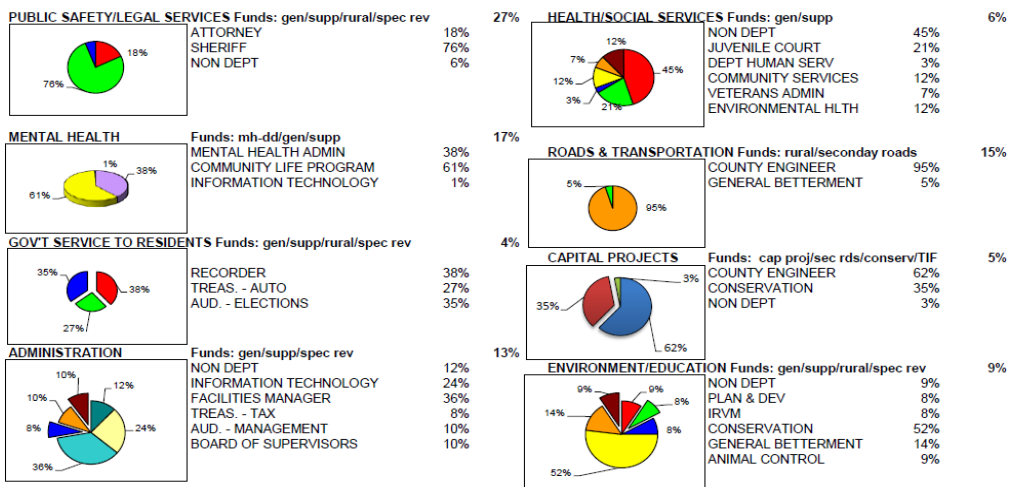
Secondary Roads has grown to help offset shortfalls from the State, and ongoing building maintenance has been addressed.

Also of note, the Countywide Levy Rate has been reduced from \$5.82/1000 in FY10 to \$5.39/1000 in FY15. Story County's fiscal position is outstanding.

-Rick Sanders, Vice Chair

The State of the County address presented by Chair Paul Toot is available on our website at [www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov) under the Your Government/Board of Supervisors tab.

### Fiscal Year 15



Visit us online at

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

## Elected Officials



**Treasurer  
Renee Twedt**



**Recorder  
Sue Vande Kamp**



**Sheriff  
Paul Fitzgerald**



**County Attorney  
Stephen Holmes**



**Auditor  
Lucy Martin**

## Property Taxes Due

Story County Treasurer, Renee M. Twedt, would like to remind Story County property owners that the second half of the fiscal 2013 – 2014 property taxes are due on or before March 31, 2014. Penalty of 1 ½% attaches April 1, 2014.

Property tax statements were mailed out in August 2013. By law, all property owners are mailed a tax statement – even if they pay taxes through an escrow account. Property owners who pay taxes through escrow accounts or other third party arrangements can consider the tax statement FYI. Anyone with doubts about their

property tax obligation should check with their bank or mortgage company, or call our office at 515-382-7330.

Mailed payments must be post marked on or before March 31, 2014. Remember dropping it in the mail box does not guarantee a postmark. It is very important that the payment coupon from the property tax statement accompany all payments.

For the convenience of commuters and others unable to make it to our office during normal business hours, the

Story County Treasurer's Office will have extended hours on Monday, March 31, 2014. We will open at 7:00 a.m. and remain open until 6:00 p.m. Our office now has an outdoor drop box outside the Administration Building at 900 6th Street-Nevada, Iowa, for your convenience. However, payments placed in this after March 31st will require penalty.

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).

## 2014 Edition of the Story County Plat Book

Story County Auditor Lucy Martin presented a 2014 plat book to Arthur Davis. The latest edition bears his award-winning photograph entitled "Nature's Mirror" on its cover. This is the fifth plat book the Story County Auditor's Office has selected a cover photograph from entries to Story County Conservation's annual Partners photo contest.

The new 2014 edition of the Story County Plat Book is now available for purchase at the Auditor's Office in the County Administration Building at 900 6th Street, Nevada. The price is \$20. For more information call (515)382-7210 or visit the county website at [www.storycountyiowa.gov](http://www.storycountyiowa.gov).



**Auditor Martin  
Presents Plat Book  
to Local  
Photographer**

## Annual Township Meeting

The annual township meeting was held on Wednesday, February 5, 2014. In light of an updated township manual, published in December of 2013, I decided to host a more structured training session for the elected township officials. This was a departure from the usual format of informational sessions with County officials plus two to three presentations about County programs or hot topics, usually presented by department heads. Elected officials and department

heads graciously condensed their remarks to accommodate the agenda.

The training, given by Alan Vandehaar of ISU Extension, received many positive comments. While I await the formal evaluation summary, several township officials remarked that it was "the best training we've had" which was gratifying to hear. Our township trustees and clerks provide crucial services and,

once voted into office, often find themselves elected for life. I was happy they were willing to spend a snowy morning at the Administration Building sharpening their skills. The session was such a success that I plan to offer it on a regular basis, likely in odd-numbered years to coincide with the start of terms of newly-elected officers.

**-Lucy Martin, Auditor &  
Commissioner of Elections**

It is my honor and privilege to serve as the County Attorney in a county with such great people and great employees. The Story County Attorney's office has started 2014 with a very busy schedule. We are currently carrying over 1500 indictable cases and juvenile cases. Not to mention all the other matters we have pending in the way of misdemeanor cases, civil cases, contracts, legislative priorities and providing advice in the wide range of activities which county government serves the residents of Story County.



Several items of note have occurred recently. On January 31, 2014 I argued against the resentencing of Yvette Louisell . Ms. Louisell was convicted of First Degree Murder in 1988 . She was 17 years old at the time of the murder. In June of 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in Miller v. Alabama that state life sentences, without possibility of parole, for juveniles were unconstitutional under the 8th Amendment as cruel and unusual punishment. The Governor of Iowa commuted the 38 juveniles serving life without parole sentences to life, with 60 years as a minimum which the Iowa Supreme Court overruled as unconstitutional in State v. Ragland. The Iowa Legislature failed to enact a new sentence for juvenile first degree murder in 2013 and have still failed to act. In the resentencing for Ms. Louisell the court pronounced a straight 25 year sentence (over my objection) for which Ms. Louisell is given credit for the twenty six years she has served. The new sentence makes Ms. Louisell eligible for immediate release. The Attorney General's Office has filed for and been granted a stay of the District Court's Order and has also filed an Application for Discretionary Review with the Iowa Supreme Court. As hard as this is to accept, as the law currently stands, there is no statutory mechanism to charge and prosecute juveniles of first degree murder in Iowa.

Our office continues to increase results in our fines recovery program. This is a program that allows my office to recover delinquent restitution and court fines. We had a 31% increase in restitution recovery in FY13 (from FY12) and a 61% increase in revenue to the county in FY13 (from FY12). The program recovery efforts bring in a large amount of money to the state with no expense to the state while providing the county with sufficient funds to hire employees and still have considerable monies to deposit in the general fund.

The chart below shows the monetary progression of our fines recovery program:

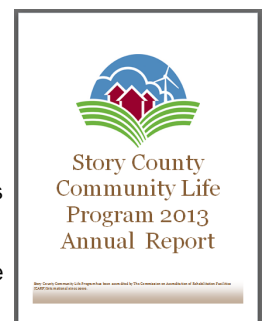
	FY 09	FY 10	FY 11	FY 12	FY 13
Restitution	\$ -	\$19,982.14	\$54,420.37	\$76,636.75	\$100,934.19
County Received	\$2,068.51	\$38,601.01	\$142,732.34	\$203,765.94	\$328,796.65
Total Recovered	\$7,228.95	\$106,559.39	\$570,119.81	\$949,543.70	\$1,182,951.76

All of us in the County Attorney's Office wish to express our thanks and state our continuing desire to be a leader in the administration of justice in Story County.

## Community Life Program Update

### Mental Health/Disability Services Redesign

Legislation passed in 2012 requires counties to regionalize in order to provide and fund mental health/disability services (MH/DS). Fifteen MH/DS regions have been formed throughout the state (insert website). Story County has partnered with 9 other counties to create the Central Iowa Community Services region. The other counties include: Boone, Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Jasper, Madison, Marshall, Poweshiek, and Warren. Central Iowa Community Services has a governing board which is created through a 28E Agreement. Members of the governing board include a county supervisor from each member county and two ex-officio members representing agencies and consumer/family members. Wayne Clinton and Paul Toot (alternate) represent Story County on the governing board. Wayne is also the current chair of the governing board. The Community Services Directors from each of the member counties serve on the region's administrative team. John Grush from Boone/Madison counties is the Chair/CEO of the administrative team and Deb Schildroth is Vice Chair. The role of the administrative team is to act in an advisory capacity to the governing board.



The region has also created a regional advisory committee comprised of 2 individuals from each member county – one representing an agency and the other representing a consumer/family member with lived experience. The role of the advisory committee is to act in an advisory capacity to the governing board. Meetings of the regional board and advisory committee are open to the public.

The legislation tasks regions with providing core services, developing core plus services, budgeting and financing services, and monitoring agency performance through outcomes contracting. Regions are required to be fully implemented as of July 1, 2014.

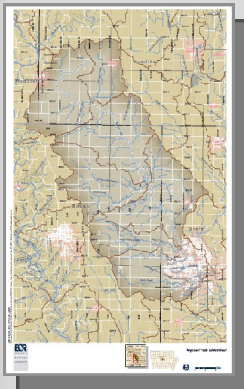
-Deb Schildroth, LMSW  
Director—Story County Community Services





**The Dakin's Lake completion will be a major attraction and economic boost for the Zearing community and expand outdoor recreation opportunities.**

**-Supervisor Wayne Clinton**



## Story County Conservation Upcoming Events

**You can register for upcoming events by contacting us at 515-232-2516 or via email at [conservation@storycounty.com](mailto:conservation@storycounty.com).**

As spring approaches, Story County Conservation is pleased to bring you a number of events for all ages and interests. More information on our programs and facilities can be found on the Story County website at [www.storycountyia.gov](http://www.storycountyia.gov).

## Dakins Lake Improvement Project

### Phase 1 Complete, On to Phase 2

First, let me update you on the construction progress this fall. I am happy to report that Phase 1 of the project was completed December 2013. It was a privilege to be able to watch as the new lake took shape. Nearly perfect weather conditions in September and October allowed McAninch Construction to move dirt very quickly. The last pieces of the project were finalized in December and included adding the sluice gate to the dam outlet and placing the culvert between the two lakes. The sluice gate will allow us to control the water level in the lake. The culvert allows the two lakes (original and new) to fill almost simultaneously. This will also allow a canoe to paddle between the two lakes.



Phase 1 also created a series of three wetlands in the northwest corner of the property. These will not only improve water quality in the new lake, but they will also add valuable wildlife habitat. Almost all of the grading needed for Phase 2 has been completed, and Story County Conservation staff has finished all the temporary seeding and over half of the permanent seeding. Hopefully, we will have enough moisture this winter and spring to fill the two lakes and allow the first bluegill to be stocked. The first fish stocked will be 10,000, 2" fingerling bluegill (500/acre) provided by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. These bluegill will have the summer to outgrow the predation threat from the bass that will be stocked in the fall. We are about half way to our fundraising goal for purchasing larger fish from a private hatchery that would "jump" start the large-mouth bass, channel catfish, and crappie populations. The first of these funds will be needed in the fall of 2015.



### On to Phase 2

Five bids were received for Phase 2. The Story County Board of Supervisors awarded the bid from Smith Seeding Inc., from Eldridge, Iowa on January 21. This bid allows all alternates to be included in the contract. Therefore, Phase 2 will include all the components to make Dakin's Lake a complete park. It will include: rock for roads, camp pads, and parking areas; a paved boat ramp; all utilities (electric, water, sewer, and RV dump station); restroom/shower house; picnic shelter with restrooms and serving area; playground; interpretive signs; and a rain garden.

We anticipate the contractor will start as soon as weather allows this spring with a hopeful completion date of October 1. This will allow Story County Conservation staff and volunteers to put the finishing touches on the park in the remaining fall. We hope to officially open the new park and campground in the spring of 2015.



## Squaw Creek Watershed Planning Underway

The Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority involves a team of people from large and small communities, rural and urban areas in the counties of Boone, Story, Hamilton and Webster who share an interest in Squaw Creek. There has been a great deal of work conducted over the past ten years in this watershed culminating in the formation of the Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority (SWMA). The Squaw Creek Watershed Management Authority has identified a definite interest in improving the quality of Squaw Creek and its tributaries. With financial support from the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, the time has come to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan to provide guidance for watershed activities over the next twenty years.

Protecting water is not a new concept but watershed management is a new approach in Iowa. The planning process will take about one year and it will be addressing extreme variations in flow, erosion and sedimentation, elevated nutrients levels (nitrate and phosphate), loss of biodiversity, elevated "coliform" bacteria levels and trash in the watershed.

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