



2015



STORY COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT



SERVICE DELIVERY PROMOTING QUALITY OF LIFE

2015

was another year of significant progress for Story County. Building on planning work started in 2014, we identified foundational pillars from which we continue to build our comprehensive planning efforts. While we faced challenges in 2015, these made the foundation stronger.

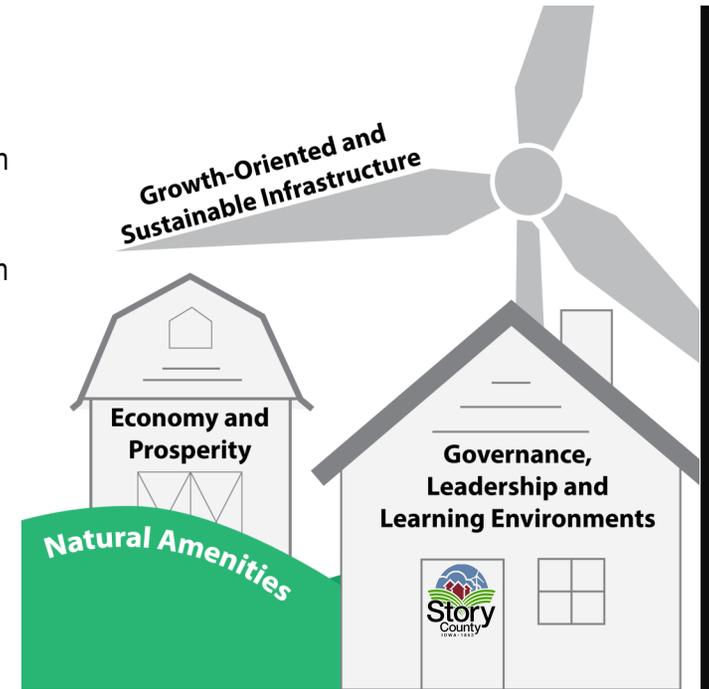
By building on these foundational pillars now and into the future, Story County will continue to set high standards for performance, fiscal stewardship and best practices for local governments.

The 2015 Annual Report presents highlights from this past year. The successful projects and efforts accomplished in 2015 demonstrate the dedication of Story County employees in working towards building on our foundation.

The following pages review what happened in 2015 in the following areas:

Growth-Oriented and Sustainable Infrastructure
Natural Amenities

Economic and Prosperity
Governance, Leadership and Learning Environments



Wayne Clinton



Rick Sanders



Paul Toot

We are pleased to present you with the 2015 Annual Report for Story County, Iowa.

Story County Board of Supervisors



GROWTH-ORIENTED AND SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

C2C Plan In early 2015, Story County selected a consulting team to guide us through our comprehensive planning project—*From Cornerstone to Capstone (C2C Plan)*. The C2C Plan looks forward to 2036. Story County has built a solid foundation (the Cornerstone) with planning dating back to the 1950s. The Plan designs our blueprint (the Capstone) for how we grow and develop over the coming 20 years. Throughout the year, the citizens task force and project team members reviewed draft planning documents based on extensive public participation and feedback. The schedule brings the *C2C Plan* to the Board for action in June 2016.

Lead Hazard Control Grant Program Story County started participating in the HUD Lead Hazard Control Program managed by the City of Marshalltown. The program provides financial assistance for lead hazard remediation of owner-occupied and renter-occupied units to families that live in unincorporated Story County.

Proposed Changes to U.S. Highway 30 As the Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) worked on alternatives for the US Highway 30 Planning Study from Ames to Nevada, Story County responded outlining comments and concerns. The Board expressed strong opposition to the alternative proposing permanent closures of crossings at 580th, 590th and 600th Avenues, encouraging the IDOT to retain access points for businesses and the farming community that uses the corridor on a daily basis.

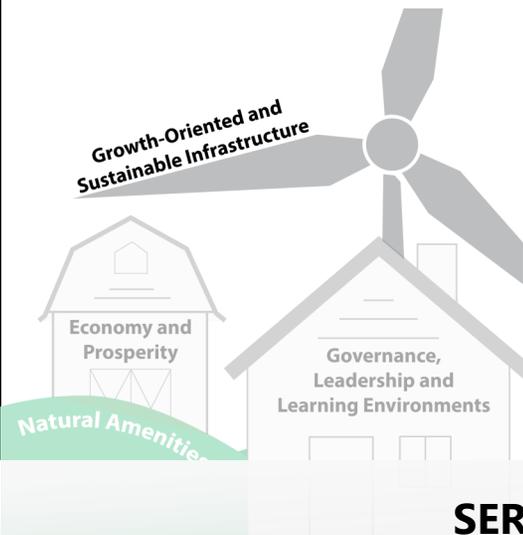
Ames Municipal Airport The Board of Supervisors committed \$100,000 towards improvements at the Ames Municipal Airport, including an 11,500 square foot aircraft hangar.

Capital Improvements Planning The Board of Supervisors annually reviews the Capital Improvements Plan (CIP) to ensure projects meet the needs of the community and that individual projects move along in their planning and budgeting processes. The annual review started in August, with initial presentation to the Board of Supervisors in October, and then opportunity for public review and input through December. The CIP defines continued reinvestment in existing assets combined with strategic investments in new assets and is essential to the County's future success.

National Community Planning Month The Board proclaimed October as National Community Planning Month. This year's theme was "Healthy Communities, Healthy People", underscoring the impact that planning can have on residents' health.

Support to Heart of Iowa Regional Transit Agency (HIRTA) In September, the Board approved matching funds for HIRTA in the amount of \$32,998 for the purchase of two new buses.

Continuity of Operations Program and Continuity of Government (COOP/COG) Continuity of Operations Program (COOP) and Continuity of Government (COG) are necessary response planning steps Story County must take to ensure minimal disruption of essential services to our citizens in a disaster or major emergency. These issues are critical and, for Story County, have taken center stage. COOP/COG work kicked off in June 2015 with review of the process, elements, committee participants, and expected timeframe and Board direction to staff to begin data compilation and return in early 2016 with draft plans.



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ECONOMY AND PROSPERITY

Home Base Iowa Governor Terry Branstad recognized Story County as a Home Base Iowa (HBI) community in 2015. The HBI program began in November 2013 as Governor Branstad's initiative to recruit Veterans to the state in hopes of building its skilled workforce. The Board designed the *Welcome Home to Story County* relocation package as an incentive designed to supplement efforts of the Home Base program.

Technical Assistance to Communities For the third consecutive calendar year, the Board of Supervisors extended a funding opportunity targeted towards communities under 3,000 persons. Funding covered up to \$3,000 or 75% of the total project costs, whichever is less, for technical assistance to update ordinances and policies and develop emergency operations plans and capital improvements plans. During 2015, \$11,000 was distributed to four communities, and over the past three calendar years, the Board funded nearly \$60,000 for projects under this program.

Façade Grant Program The Board formally established the Façade Improvement Grant Program during 2015. In August, the Board approved applications from the cities of Roland and Zearing for projects in the main street districts. Roland received \$892 for a \$4,460 project working on a vacant building, and in Zearing nearly \$2,000 was awarded to help with a \$15,000 project to complete improvements to the façade of the car wash.

Story City Pool Funding In January, upon request from the City of Story City, the Board approved funding \$10,000 for construction of the pool project for the community.

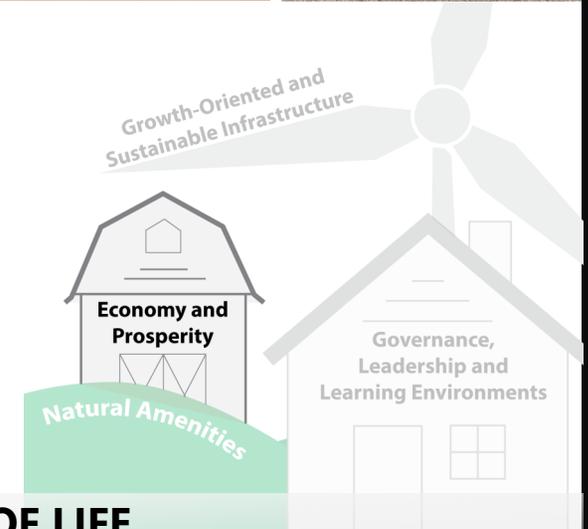
Community Building Funding The Board committed funding \$80,000 over a three-year period to the Story County Fair Association for the Community Building Renovation and Expansion project.

Economic Development and Workforce Development Assistance After two successful years of engaging the Ames Economic Development Commission (AEDC) for consulting services and assistance with economic development planning, Story County renewed the contract with AEDC for a third year in July. To further the partnership and build the Home Base Iowa program in Story County and design workforce development strategies, a second contract between AEDC and Story County was established, focused on these specific areas.

Region II Chief Elected Official (CEO) Board The Board of Supervisors approved the 28E Agreement defining Story County's participation in the Region II CEO Board, and Supervisor Rick Sanders represents Story County in the organization's quarterly meetings.

Iowa Games Story County continued its long-standing tradition of providing annual financial support to the Iowa Sports Foundation and Iowa Games. Chuck Long, CEO of the Iowa Sports Foundation, presented an appreciation plaque to the Board and expressed his gratitude for the years of support by Story County.

Connect Iowa Governor Branstad recognized Story County's efforts for becoming a Certified Connected Community in January 2015. Working since September 2014 with Connect Iowa on Connected Community Engagement Program to assess the local broadband landscape, identify connectivity gaps, and establish technology-driven goals and objectives to increase broadband access, adoption, and use for families, organizations, and businesses throughout the county, Story County met the requirements necessary to achieve the Certified Connected Community status.



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NATURAL AMENITIES

Dakins Lake Story County celebrated the grand opening of the redesigned, redeveloped and expanded Dakins Lake in northeast Story County to a 103-acre park with nearly 40 campsites ranging from sites with full hookups to primitive camping sites.

Hickory Grove Watershed Improvements Story County began implementation of the first phase of strategies identified to positively affect the Hickory Grove watershed. The first phase of the watershed improvements focused on maintenance and stabilization of about 1,500 feet of a stream channel, as well as the construction of a pond and replacement of a culvert.

Master Matrix Policy and Procedures Annually since 2004, the Board of Supervisors has formally adopted the construction evaluation resolution, allowing Story County to review certain types of confinement operations through the master matrix review process. In 2015, the Board formed the Master Matrix Review Committee and established new procedures for the review of construction permit applications.

Iowa State University Research Park Story County is a key partner with the current expansion of the ISU Research Park. As expansion plans move forward, Story County Conservation will own and maintain green spaces and trail systems within the Research Park, which gives the County the opportunity to work with Ames and the Research Park to create a state-of-the-art model to nationally demonstrate how things can be done.

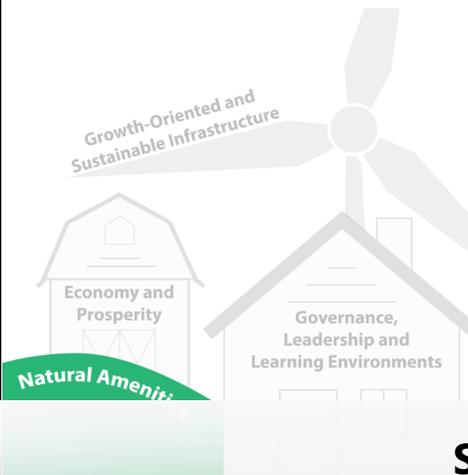
Drainage Districts The *Code of Iowa* outlines the additional role of the Board of Supervisors to act as Drainage District Trustees. Story County has 122 drainage districts. The Board, acting

as Drainage District Trustees, approved levies for repairs against 14 districts totaling \$101,745.46.

Community Rating System and Floodplain Management Program

The National Flood Insurance Program's (NFIP) Community Rating System (CRS) recognizes floodplain management and outreach activities performed by communities that exceed the NFIP minimum standards. CRS, a voluntary program, recognizes these efforts by reducing the cost of flood insurance premiums by 5 to 45 percent for flood insurance policies in communities that participate in the CRS. During 2015, Story County began the multi-step CRS application process coordinating with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, FEMA Region VII, and the Insurance Service Office, Inc. (ISO). Staff from the IDNR conducted a Community Assistance Visit (CAV) to assess Story County's floodplain management permitting and administrative processes. Once that was completed, the ISO conducted their Verification Visit with Story County to review the CRS application materials in a face-to-face meeting with the CRS Coordinator. It is anticipated that Story County will officially enter the CRS October 1, 2016, following FEMA approval of the CRS class rating.

C2C Plan A vital component of the C2C Plan development has been the evolution of the *Conservation of Natural Resources and Recreation* chapter of the Plan. This Chapter is being designed in such a way that it may "stand alone" for Story County Conservation to implement as well as be one of the many pieces of the entire C2C Plan that strive to achieve Story County's vision through 2036.



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GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

Strategic Planning In 2012, Story County developed a county-wide strategic plan, building an overarching mission and setting long-term goals. This plan guided Story County through Fiscal Year 2015. In August 2015, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Strategic Plan to guide Story County through Fiscal Year 2018 (ending June 30, 2018.) It serves as a roadmap to guide our priorities, strategic directions, and concrete goals and objectives for the Board of Supervisors and County departments. The Plan identifies prioritized projects for the following areas: Employee Compensation and Benefits, Parks and Trails, Community Resiliency, Water Quality, Infrastructure, and Public Safety.

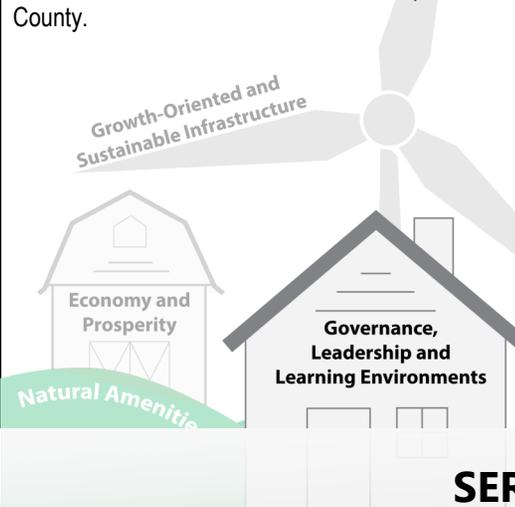
Communications Plan In February 2015, the Board of Supervisors reviewed and updated the Communications Plan to implement throughout calendar year 2015. Many of the same outreach strategies identified in 2014 were carried forth with the updated plan, including the quadrant meetings held semi-annually with local elected officials from school districts, cities and townships in Story County. For these meetings, the spring time meetings were held during the day, and the Board elected to host the fall meetings during the evening to provide additional scheduling opportunities for people to attend. New strategies added to the Communications Plan included celebrating National County Government Month in April, Box City, and the creation of a “tradeshow toolkit” for staff members to use at events and celebrations.

Joint Meetings (Superintendents, Historical Alliance, Librarians) The Board continued its practice of meeting with members of the Story County Historical Alliance as well as librarians from all the libraries throughout Story County. In addition to these groups, during October 2015, the Board also met with superintendents from all the school districts in Story County.

Leadership Nevada Story County is proud to be involved in the biennial planning of Leadership Nevada and to host a “County Government” session as part of the program’s curriculum. The Story County session was held in December 2015, with the day’s activities kicked-off with welcoming remarks by Supervisor Paul Toot and included a tour and lunch at the Justice Center, presentations by the Auditor, Recorder and Treasurer in the Administration Building, and skills development session designed to educate Leadership Nevada participants on Project Management.

Citizens of the Year In 2015, the Board of Supervisors established the Citizen of the Year award. Given annually, it is awarded to residents of Story County who perform meritorious service above and beyond what would be expected of a citizen. Their efforts demonstrate creativity, vision, leadership, and citizenship by providing service to programs and activities that positively impact the welfare of the citizens of Story County. Mayor Wallace Loney of McCallsburg and former YSS CEO George Bellitsos were the 2015 recipients.

Policies and Legislative Actions The Board of Supervisors has both legislative and administrative powers and is the policy-making body for Story County government. With its authority to adopt legislation and policies for department operations, the Board sets priorities, allocates resources and maintains budgetary control. Throughout 2015, the Board of Supervisors adopted new and/or revised policies in the following areas: social media; clean air/tobacco use; and open records requests. Legislatively, the Board approved ordinance amendments regarding decommissioning agreements, permitted accessory uses, road renamings, gas canopy setbacks, and the ordinance adoption process.



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GOVERNANCE, LEADERSHIP AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS

National Association of Counties (NACo) Achievement Award Story County was recognized with an Achievement Award from NACo in 2015 for our strategic planning efforts. The award honors innovative, effective county government programs that enhance services for residents.

Board of Supervisors' Office Restructuring Two new positions were established by the Board of Supervisors in 2015 to increase efficiency and streamline communication channels. The position of Director of External Operations and County Services was filled with the transfer of Deb Schildroth from her position as Community Services Director. Alissa Wignall's responsibilities were increased as she assumed the position of Director of Internal Operations and Human Resources.

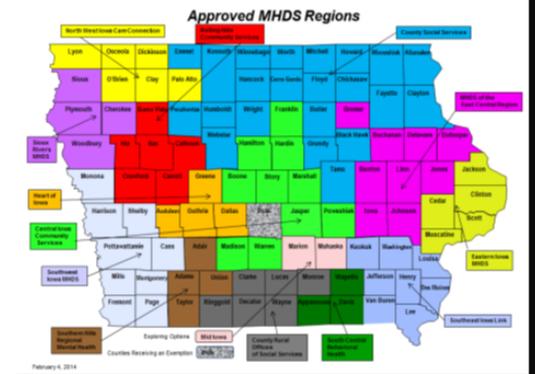
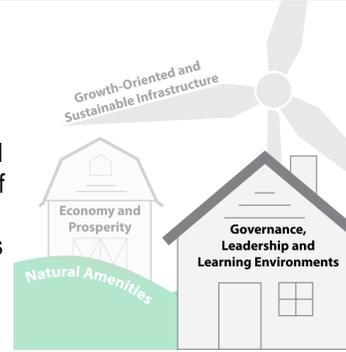
Wellness Programs 2015-2016 Wellness Initiatives were presented to the Board of Supervisors during the fall of 2015. Working towards the mission of setting up programming and strategies to help County employees make voluntary behavioral changes, which reduce their health risk and enhance their individual productivity, the Board approved new projects including an employee Health Risk Assessment and establishment of a Healthy Living Day.

Optimae and CLP Transition In January 2015, the Board of Supervisors in conjunction with the Central Iowa Community Services Regional Governing Board started contract negotiation with Optimae LifeServices and Progress Industries to provide mental health and disability services. The goal was to maintain existing levels of service and to manage the transition as smoothly as possible for clients. By May, the full transition to the private provision of these services was completed, with a majority of former County employees working for Optimae LifeServices.

United Way Day of Caring Story County employees participated in the 2015 United Way Day of Caring. Two teams were established, with one team assigned to work at Reiman Gardens in Ames and the second team in Nevada at Rolling Green Village. The Board encouraged employees to take part in the United Way Day of Caring. For those employees that volunteered, they were able to do so without taking personal leave for the day.

Alliant Buy-Out In September 2015, the Board of Supervisors approved an offer from Alliant Energy to buy out a contract for generators and various components of the leased well-field located at the Justice Center in Nevada. The total costs of the buy out was \$281,000. However, by buying out early, Story County saved more than \$500,000 as the original contract would not expire until 2022.

Insurance As the Board started budget discussions in January 2015, they were made aware that the long-standing flex benefit policy where employees received \$575 towards the cost of insurance with the ability of that employee to "cash out" was not an acceptable practice and could no longer continue as it did not qualify as meeting the affordability test. As a result, the practice was re-evaluated and the flexible benefit plan policy amended so that monthly contribution amount did not exceed maximum premiums for Mandatory Life Insurance, Mandatory Short-term Disability, Mandatory Long-term Disability, Family Dental and Family Vision for any given plan year. The Board recognized that a more cost-effective insurance plan for employees and families, if applicable, needed to be adopted. The Board solicited proposals from insurance vendors and ultimately selected Coventry to provide insurance to Story County employees and budgeted for Story County paying 90% of a single plan and 80% of a family plan.

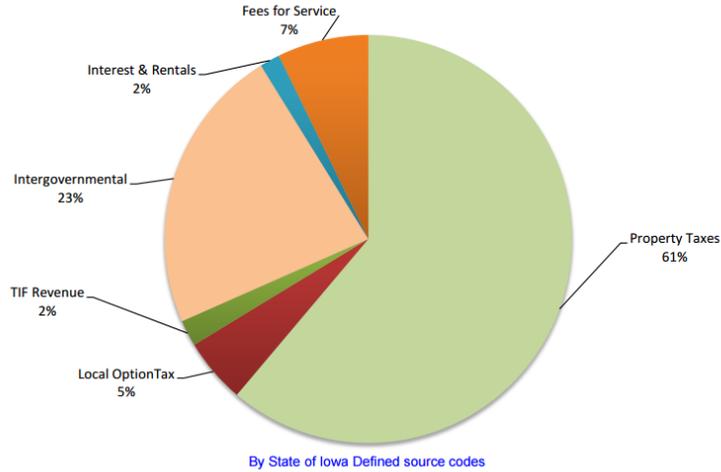


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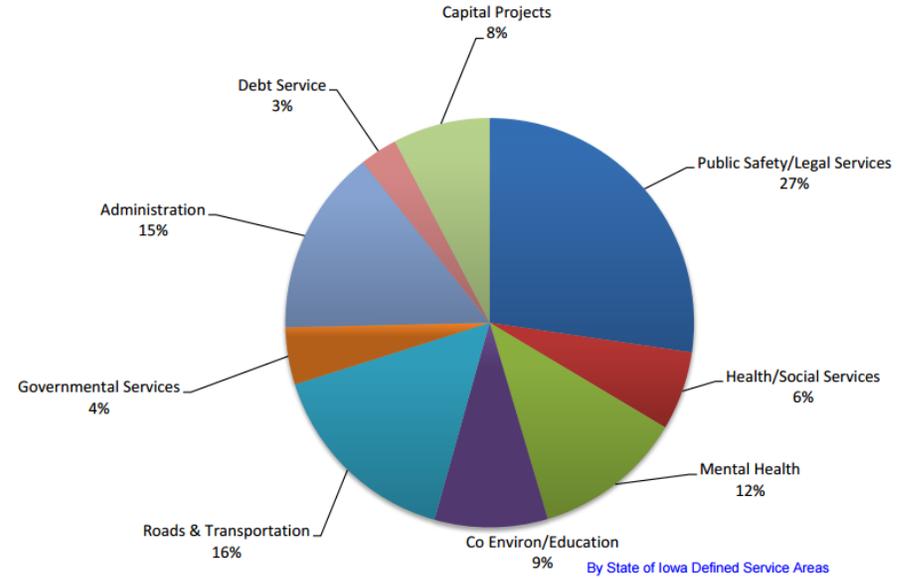


FINANCIAL REVIEW

Fiscal Year 2016 Budgeted Revenues

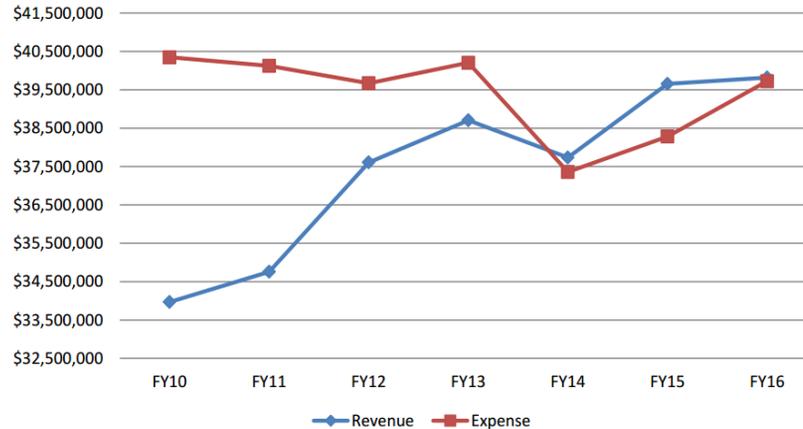


Fiscal Year 2016 Budgeted Expenditures



Story County Expenses vs. Revenues (Budgeted)

Fiscal Year 2010-Fiscal Year 2016



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2015 SUPERVISORS' ACTIONS

Regular-Scheduled Meetings of the Board of Supervisors	Agenda Items											
	<i>Total Meetings</i>	<i>Consent</i>	<i>Minutes</i>	<i>Personnel Actions</i>	<i>Claims</i>	<i>Public Hearing</i>	<i>Additional Items</i>	<i>Agency Reports</i>	<i>Departmental Reports</i>	<i>Other Reports</i>	<i>Proclamations</i>	<i>Total Items</i>
	52	455	49	48	26	23	168	30	43	24	8	874

Other Meetings of the Board Members	Total Meetings
Board of Canvassers	5
Drainage District Trustees	17
Board Appointments	365
Rick Sanders	110
Paul Toot	87
Wayne Clinton	168

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www.storycountyiowa.gov