THE JOHNSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
WORK SESSION MINUTES
JULY 29, 2026

Chairperson Green called the Johnson County Board of Supervisors to order in the Johnson County Health and Human Services Building Boardroom at 9:00 a.m. Members present: V Fixmer-Oraiz, Jon Green, Mandi Remington, and Rod Sullivan. Members absent: Lisa Green-Douglass.

Green sought and received unanimous consent for approval of the agenda as presented.

Public Comment - County Treasurer Scott Finlayson spoke in support of the language access initiative.

Resolution Establishing Speed Limit on F14 / Sutliff Road NE
County Engineer Paul Wittau said the road currently has no posted speed limit and is subject to the statutory speed limit under Iowa Code. He noted a recent change to Iowa Code increased the statutory speed limit from 55 mph to 60 mph, prompting an engineering investigation of the roadway. Wittau recommended approving a resolution establishing a 55-mph speed limit on F14/Sutliff Road NE between F12/140th Street NE and the Johnson County/Linn County line. He said new speed limit signs will be installed using existing maintenance funds at an estimated cost of $1,650. Formal consideration of the resolution will be scheduled for a future Board Meeting.

Jail Bond Financing with Piper Sandler & Co. & Bond Referendum Tax Impact Amount Disclosure
County Finance Director Dana Aschenbrenner said the purpose of the discussion was to finalize the annual tax impact disclosure amount for the referendum. He reviewed the assumptions used to calculate the estimated annual tax impact required for the proposed jail bond referendum notice. He said the estimate was intentionally conservative to establish a ceiling the County could confidently state without exceeding when the bonds are issued while preserving flexibility to negotiate favorable financing terms. Based on updated project costs of $94.5 million, the estimated annual tax impact is approximately $105 per $100,000 of taxable property value. Will Braverman of Piper Sandler & Co. reviewed financing scenarios included in the agenda packet, comparing bond maturity options, estimated interest rates, tax impacts, and projected construction proceeds. He said the scenarios assume a $94.5 million borrowing amount and use conservative assumptions based on current market conditions, comparable Iowa bond issuances, and no assumed growth in taxable valuation. Braverman and Board members discussed financing assumptions, bond call dates, interest rates, refinancing options, and potential impacts if project costs exceed available bond proceeds. Braverman explained that bond call dates provide opportunities for refinancing if market conditions improve. They also discussed the role of the Construction Manager at Risk delivery method in maintaining the project within budget, potential project savings, and the tradeoffs between shorter and longer bond maturities, including tax impacts, total interest costs, financing flexibility, and the expected useful life of the proposed jail. Aschenbrenner cautioned that the tax impact published in the referendum notice establishes the maximum amount that may be levied and that selecting a longer repayment period solely to reduce the published amount could limit financing flexibility and increase legal risk. Green

proposed using a 12-year financing scenario for the published tax impact disclosure, saying it balances future flexibility with limiting additional interest costs. Sullivan proposed a 15-year maturity to reduce the annual tax impact on taxpayers. Remington reiterated concerns regarding the overall project size and cost. Fixmer-Oraiz questioned the long-term cost of extending repayment. Braverman reviewed considerations related to private placement financing versus a competitive public bond offering. Aschenbrenner and Braverman reviewed additional steps required to bring the bonds to market. Green noted a competitive market offering could potentially reduce interest rates but would require additional ongoing work for the County Finance Department related to disclosures and maintaining the bond rating. Sullivan noted Johnson County's outstanding debt is small relative to its bonding capacity and said the County should be viewed as a strong credit. Aschenbrenner noted the County has historically maintained conservative borrowing practices. Board members shared additional perspectives regarding the proposed jail project and the broader decision before the County. Members discussed the importance of addressing current jail needs, the long-term implications of project size and cost, and impacts on taxpayers. Green noted the importance of having these conversations publicly and thanked Board members for engaging respectfully. Green discussed next steps, noting the Board would continue discussion of the anticipated 12-year tax impact scenario at the following Wednesday work session and bring the matter forward for formal consideration at the following Thursday Formal Meeting.

Service Agreement - Language Access Planning Development & Procurement of Technology
County Board Office Community Engagement & Policy Coordinator Paola Jaramillo Guayara said the County issued a request for proposals (RFP) for a consultant to support development of a Language Access Plan (LAP) and received 10 proposals. She said the internal steering committee recommended Lighting Up Language, LLC for the project in the amount of $85,000. She noted the project will be funded through American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds and completed and invoiced by the expenditure deadline. Jaramillo Guayara said the agreement has been reviewed by the County Attorney's Office and is scheduled for Board action at tomorrow's Board Meeting.

Strategic Plan Update
County Board Office Executive Director Erin Shane said there is no update to report.

State & Federal Legislative Issues, Including Updates on the Urban County Coalition (UCC), pending Legislation Affecting the County, and Representation of County & Supervisor Positions
Green said there is no update to report. Shane spoke about a tax revenue webinar she recently attended.

Operational Issues of the Board of Supervisors Office
Shane reviewed the Board Meeting schedule, which can be viewed online at [https://johnsoncountyiowa.gov/meetings.](https://johnsoncountyiowa.gov/meetings)

Discuss new agenda item requests from Supervisors
Sullivan referenced an email regarding Shelter House and the Housing Trust Fund of Johnson County related to outstanding loans and encouraged the Board to discuss the matter. Green said the matter is

currently under review by the County Attorney’s Office. Fixmer-Oraiz asked whether Sullivan’s involvement with the Housing Trust Fund would require recusal from discussion or action. Sullivan said he would consult with the County Attorney’s Office regarding the matter.

Workday implementation Update
County Finance Director Dana Aschenbrenner provided a Workday implementation update and said reconciling the general ledger (GL) to bank activity remains a priority. He said staff have reviewed the issue from multiple approaches and identified that the challenge appears related to transitional data structure rather than an imbalance in the County’s financial records. Aschenbrenner said staff submitted a ticket with Avaap/AMS and are working to develop a plan to reconcile the data. He also noted staff are working with Strata to address related application functionality. County Finance Department Financial Analyst Dan Grady provided additional information. Board members discussed the matter and emphasized the importance of bringing together the appropriate departments and parties involved in the Workday implementation process to assist with resolving outstanding issues.

Appointment(s) to the Greater Iowa City, Inc., data center working group
Board members discussed appointments to the Greater Iowa City, Inc. data center working group. Remington and Fixmer-Oraiz expressed interest in serving on the working group. Board members agreed that County Planning, Development, and Sustainability Director Josh Busard would identify the third appointee, with consideration given to selecting someone with relevant professional expertise. Once Busard makes his selection, Shane agreed to communicate the appointments to Greater Iowa City, Inc.

Adjourned at 10:28 a.m.
Attest: Julie Persons, Johnson County Auditor
Recorded by Auditors Office: Marly Melsh, Executive Clerk to the Board