

KEOKUK COUNTY BOARD PROCEEDINGS
JULY 9, 2026

The Keokuk County Board of Supervisors met in special session, Thursday, July 9, 2026 in the Courthouse. Present were: Michael C. Hadley, Daryl Wood, Kevin Weber and LuAnn Berger recording secretary. Christy Bates, County Auditor, was absent.

Weber moved, Wood seconded to approve the agenda as submitted. All ayes and motion carried.

Met with Mayors & City Council, Sheriff & Chief Deputy and Board of Supervisors to cordially discuss ideas regarding Keokuk County law enforcement protection by means of a city/county 28E Agreement with guaranteed hours and established fees thereof was held. Present were: Casey Hinnah, Sheriff; Adam Pence, Chief Deputy; Kadon Foubert and Jeff Runnells, Deputy Sheriffs; Angie Schott, Civil Processor/Secretary; Stacey Nichols, Jailer/Dispatcher; Connie Baker, Harper Council; Marcus Anderson, Hayesville Council; Stephanie Anderson, Hayesville Clerk; Mike Spilman, Hedrick Mayor; Christine Norris & Jeremy Greiner, Hedrick Council; Ryan Carr, Keota Mayor; Chad Greiner, Keota Council; Hunter Bruns, Keota Clerk; Ben Mast, Kinross Mayor; John Capps, Richland Mayor; Cyndia Crafton, Mim Gaines and Steve Pfeifer, Richland Council; Gary Iosbaker, Sigourney Mayor; Connie McLaughlin, Sigourney 3rd Ward Council; Darrell Wilkening, What Cheer Mayor; Sandy VanPatten, Donna Rogers, What Cheer Council; Richard Fortney, Emergency Management/E911; Helena Hayes, State Representative District 88; along with multiple Keokuk County residents and media. The sign-in sheet is available for viewing with the minutes.

Mayor Spilman stated the purpose of this meeting is to come together as a group of cities to constructively figure out a solution regarding law enforcement and work toward the future and shared city concerns of not having active law enforcement present and the initial idea of the four largest cities pooling funds to cover wages and benefits for a deputy to patrol those cities that would be based out of the Sheriff's Office. Everyone agreed that the deputies are stretched thin, covering 580 square miles, and are doing the best they can do.

Key points/suggestions mentioned were: shortage of deputies and need of additional deputies; opening the hiring process with the civil service commission as soon as possible and if there are not enough applicants, open it up again as often as needed; difficulties getting people to apply; time frame it takes to get a deputy trained/hired – the hiring process is quicker if individual is already certified, but very few apply that are already certified; possibility of sign-on bonus/retention plan; competitive wages; contact area colleges/schools for students interested/enrolled in law enforcement. It is hopeful for all sixteen cities to enter into a 28E agreement with the county, fee based on per capita versus number of calls to make it fair for all cities, with guaranteed hours in return.

Helena Hayes stated there are a lot of options available that include available state funding offered for a School Resource Officer, that could be shared with a county, as financial relief. Ultimately it is the city's responsibility to provide police protection realizing that not every city cannot afford to fund their own police department. Everyone needs to work together and look at other options by talking with surrounding entities.

Consensus was to create a steering committee consisting of one Board of Supervisor, Sheriff & Chief Deputy Sheriff, one representative from each city, and possibly one school board member per district, to discuss and create a plan/agreement. Once all entities involved agree, it will then be presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval. The open meetings law does not apply when only one elected official per entity is present, which allows the representatives to have open discussion/brainstorming

sessions without interruption, to work on a possible solution. Informal meetings do not require an agenda or minutes.

On vote and motion Hadley adjourned the meeting at 8:39 p.m.

The above and foregoing information is a summary of the minutes taken at the above indicated meeting. The full and complete set of minutes is available at the Keokuk County Auditor's Office and www.keokukcounty.iowa.gov.

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Michael C. Hadley

Daryl Wood

Kevin Weber