West Branch Times

Cedar county claims

General Basic Fund 35.38-Amazon Capital Services-external

20.00-Barry Anderson-mtg 34.33-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-

phone 314.95-Henry Bentley-ME 347.14-Bob Barker Company-razor 1353.34-Bow Tie Automotive-headlight 748.02-Cedar County COOP-seed 1156.64-Cedar County Health Fund-ins 600.00-Darrow Center-well plug 162.00-Central Iowa Distributing-towels 364.83-City of Stanwood-util 90.04-Conservative Publishing-legal 11560.10-Consolidated Management 1439.25-Mike Dauber-postage-ME

40.00-Lori Dunn-mtgs 2500.00-Fry Funeral Home-exps 7244.28-GlaxoSmithKline-flulaval 922.00-Brice Greene-rent 320.26-H & H Auto-oil chg, brakes 182.05-Megan Hamdorf-mil 388.87-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-

175.00-Heartland Shredding Inc-shred 48.70-Robin Housley-mil 48.70-Shelly Howsare-mil 1609.50-la Dept Of Public Safety-terminal

100.00-ICACMP-Conf 30.00-International Academies of-EMD 198.00-lowa Assoc Of Naturalists-training 314.00-iPrint Technologies, Inc-toner

9.97-Thiesen's-cleaner 329.93-Johnson Co. Medical Examiner-

490.00-JP Glass & More-windshield 40.00-Douglas Klein-mtg 700.00-Dave Kruse-well plug 726.70-Latta Well & Pump Corp-leak

144.50-Lynch's Plumbing, Inc-leak 49.80-Michael Male-mil 205.49-MARC Mid-American Research-

20.00-Dick Maske-mtg 764.52-Jay McMichael-well plug 525.23-Menards-wood 429.68-Motor Parts & Equipment Corp-77.80-O'Rourke Motors Inc-oil chg

. 40.00-Logan Peitscher-mtgs 510.24-Reserve Account-postage 600 00-Joshua Pruitt MD-case fee

10.80-Quest 8 Blue Lagood Car Wash-400.00-David Rozinek-well plug 3952.50-Sanofi Pasteur Inc-fluzone 700.00-Rick Shumaker-well plug

9089.40-Sinclair Tractor-mowe 20.00-Dale Slach-mtg 194.04-Spahn & Rose Lumber Co-wood 140.00-Spengler Auto Repair Inc-bal tires 54.20-Michael Stigers-mil 118.00-T & M Clothing-uniform LO 40.00-Jerod Timmerman-mtgs 50.35-Frank W. VanWaes-mil 50.00-VISA/Bankers Bank-testing 40.00-Dave Vonmuenster-mtgs 1295.00-Welter Storage Equip Company-

120.00-Devalyn Wilson-clerk American Rescue Plan Act Fund 1000.00-Sinclair Tractor-mower General Supplemental Fund 83.60-Brian P. Donnelly P.C.-fees 3353.04-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-

w/c 206.00-Thomson Reuters-West Pioneer Cemetery 480.00-Storji Bros Lawn Care Gregmowing Moneka 2400.00-Eric Storiohann-graves Rural Services Basic Fund

5.01-Matt Jackson-fuel 297.00-Quest 8 Blue Lagood Car Wash-Secondary Road Fund 13086.28-Advantage FS, Inc-RENT 161.82-Alliant Energy-UTILITIES

653.07-Altorfer Inc-PARTS 23.43-Jeric Armstrong-MEALS 28.41-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-4353.87-Calhoun-Burns & Assoc.-2024

19347.26-Cedar County COOP-DIESEL 125.00-Central Iowa Distributing 1906.64-Central Petroleum Equip

Co-DIESEL TANK 63.22-Cove Equipment-FILTERS 156210.00-Custom Builders-BUILDING 2146.30-Diamond Mowers-PARTS 228.50-Eastern Iowa Tire Inc-TIRES 4000.00-Emmons & Oliver Resourses,

115.85-Grainger Parts Inc. W.W. Grang-90.94-Rick Gritton-SHOES

1615.00-Harry's Farm Tire Inc-TIRES 4398.69-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-INSURANCE 325.00-ICEA-ICEA CONFERENCE

375.00-Interstate Billing Service, Inc-BUILDINGS 3574.20-lowa Prison Industries-SIGNS

131.10-J.J. Nichting Company-PARTS 180.49-Thiesen's-SPRAYING 3358.10-Klahn Living Trust-LAND 1078.26-Lacal Equipment Inc-PARTS 11.88-Lawson Products Inc-TOOLS

561.38-Midwest Wheel Companies 264.61-Motion Industries, Inc-PARTS 359.53-Motor Parts & Equipment Corp-5133.00-Petroleum Marketers Mngmnt

Ins-CLARENCE 42.50-Phelps the Uniform Specialists-SUPPLIES 12480.00-Powers' Seeds Bob Powers-

LAND 660.19-River Products Company-ROCK

861.80-Road Machinery & Supplies-2805.11-Robinson Heritage Farms LLC-LAND

1152.46-Roth Electric-BUILDINGS 1615.90-Sadler Power Train, Inc-**EQUIPTMENT** 467.36-SJ Smith Co.-SUPPLIES & Rose Lumber 249.12-Spahn Co-BUILDINGS

408.69-Star Equipment Ltd-PARTS 32978.93-Stone City Quarries-ROCK 33.98-Storm Steel-PARTS 9173.12-Wendling Quarries Inc-ROCK Transfer Station Fund

171.46-Altorfer Inc-coolant 772.55-Cintas Corporation-1st aid 50.86-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-w/c 5218.04-MHC Kenworth Quad Cities-

25245.63-Quad Cities Landfill Millenniu-868.00-Weikert Iron-ewaste Cedar Co Health Fund

2222.75-Benefits, Inc- monthly 9674.25-CEDAR COUNTY TREASURER ACH MED-self funded med 8874.40-Delta Dental Plan of Iowa Paym-

149724.70-Wellmark Blue Cross and Conservation Trust Fund

41.00-Mike Dauber-registration Early Childhood Ia-Cedar/Jones 2356.11-Genesis VNA-Nurse Consult 1636.94-Hawkeye Area Community Action-Nurse Consult Jnt Disaster Serv.Fund 1985.89-Access Systems Leasing-lease

105.49-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-39.52-US Cellular-wifi

708.50-Alliant Energy-elec 200.00-Aureon Alliance Connect, LLC-

35.04-CenturvLink Lumen-data 520.00-Farm&Home Publ.-book

750.08-Heartland Insurance Risk Pool-55131.00-Vanguard Appraisals Inc-Rural

618759.63--Grand Total WBT 42

Cedar county board BOARD PROCEEDINGS (FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES.FULL TEXT OF DAY'S MINUTES ARE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION AT AUDITOR'S OFFICE OR ON OUR WEBSITE-WWW. CEDARCOUNTY.IOWA.GOV) TIPTON, IOWA

Cedar County Board of Supervisors met in regular session at 8:30 a.m. Oct. 1, 2024 with following members present: Bixler, Barnhart, Gaul, Kaufmann, and Chairperson Bell. Members of public were also present.

Board viewed correspondence from vari-Manure Management Annual Updates

following Disbursement issued on 9/27/2024 to Cedar County Treasurer for Benefits Inc. for an electronic deposit: #440148 for \$5,835.34-self funded medical claims. Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Bixler to approve agenda.

Chairperson Bell addressed public for comments. Joseph Schroeder presented pictures of a dangerous intersection at Vermont Avenue and Taylor Road. Board will give information to Engineer Fangmann. Sally Freeman explained how Acciona plans to decommission wind turbine south of Mechanicsville. A meeting will be held at EMA building at 9:00 a.m. Friday Oct.4, 2024 to further discuss this topic.

A phone call placed to HR Attorney Galloway to discuss pay scale for EMS Director. Average wage is \$72,800/year for this area. Galloway recommends this be regular non-union position and he will work on setting a pay grade and verbiage for an ad to hire. Discussion held on legal changes to handbook. Galloway said his retainer covers changes and updates to our handbook. Consensus of Board to email Galloway handbook for review. Galloway did mention that any policies that need to be changed is done by Board and Department heads with his direction Moved by Barnhart seconded by Gaul to approve Board Minutes of Sept. 24, 2024.

Abstain: Bixler Barnhart seconded red by Kaufmann to approve Claim Disbursements #440023 - #440147 paid

At 9:00 a.m. Board held their monthly department head meeting. Discussion

cuss IT equipment for 2nd floor meeting room. He would like to purchase an Owl Meeting Camera and 75" TV screen for meeting uses. Discussion held. Board recommended to have instructions available for individuals using meeting room. Moved by Barnhart seconded by Bixler to approve purchase of an Owl and 75' TV using ARPA funds for \$1,818.97.

Moved by Kaufmann seconded by Barnhart to approve three Home Base lowa applications.

Moved by Bixler seconded by Gaul to approve an affiliate membership to lowa mergency Medical Services Association for \$100.00/year.

Ayes: All
Moved by Gaul seconded by Bixler to appoint Duane Moeller to Cedar County Conservation Board due to passing of current member Leon Steinhagen with term ending 12/31/2027.

Discussion had on 5-year maintenance contract for ArcaSearch using ARPA funds. Discussion held. Consensus of Board to wait until project is near completion and we get actual figures of project cost before signing a maintenance

Moved by Bixler seconded by Kaufmann to adjourn at 10:23 a.m., to Oct. 8, 2024.

Stephanie Wiese, Audito

West Branch city

council (The following is a synopsis of the minutes of the West Branch City Council meeting. A video recording is available for inspection at westbranchiowa.org The minutes are not approved until the next regularly scheduled City Council

West Branch, Iowa; City Council; October

Council Chambers; Special Meeting; 6:00 Mayor Roger Laughlin called the West Branch City Council special meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Roll call: Council members Tom Dean, Jerry Sexton, Mike Horihan, Colton Miller and Jodee Stoolman were present.

Motion to adjourn to Closed Session to

discuss personnel matters per Section 21.5(i) of the Code of Iowa. / Move to City Administrator Kofoed requested to keep the meeting in "open" session to discuss his role as the City Administrator The discussion centered around review-

ing and/or revising the City Administrator job description but does not want to change the ordinance. The mayor and Council are in support of this recommenwith Kofoed on the revisions.

Adjourn from Closed Session.

Motion to adjourn the special meeting by Miller, second by Dean. Motion carried on a voice vote. City C adjourned at 7:46 p.m. City Council meeting West Branch, Iowa; City Council; October

Council Chambers; Regular Meeting

Mayor Roger Laughlin called the West Branch City Council regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Roll call: Council members Tom Dean Jerry Sexton, Mike Horihan, Colton Miller and Jodee Stoolman were present. City Staff present: City Administrator Adam Kofoed, City Clerk Leslie Brick, Police Chief Greg Hall, Sergeant Cathy Steen, Public Works Director Matt Goodale, Parks & Recreation Director

Erin Laughlin, City Engineer Dave Schechinger and City Attorney Kevin Olson. Staff attending via Zoom: Deputy Clerk Jessica Brown and Library Director Jessie Shaffer. APPROVE THE AGENdA Motion by Miller, second by Horihan to

approve the agenda. Motion carried on a voice vote. APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA Approve minutes from the Septembe

16, 2024 City Council meeting. Approve minutes from the September 30, 2024 City Council Special meeting. Approve West Branch Fire Department

Classified/Legals

Approve the August Monthly Financial Approve Claims for October 7, 2024. EXPENDITURES - 10/7/2024 AMAZON.COM-FALL FEST, LHLM, OFFICE SUPPLIES

CITY OF COWETA-DAMAGED INTERLIB LOAN BOOK-36 99 CURTIS L CASPER-LAWN MOWING-NUISANCE-65.00 GRIEBAHN INDUSTRIES-NOTARY STAMPS-LIBRARY-55.22 HAWKINS-CHEMICALS-3 301 74

IA DNR-2025 ANNUAL WATER USE FEE-115.00 LYNCH'S EXCAVATING-STORM INTAKE REPLACEMENT-5,686.50 LYNCH'S PLUMBING-PARTS-TEMP

WATER SERVICE-43.70
MENARDS-SEWER SAMPLE FRIDGE-OVERDRIVE-DIGITAL & AUDIO BOOKS-370.21

PROTECT YOUTH SPORTS-COACH BACKGROUND CHECKS-40.50 STERICYCLE-SHREDDING SERVICES-91.33 THE HOME DEPOT PRO-TOILET PAPER-P&R-62.07 TYLER TECHNOLOGIES-AUTO METER **READ PROJECT FEE-60.10** UNIVERSITY OF IOWA HEALTH-PHYSICAL S-POLICE-81 00 VEENSTRA & KIMM-VARIOUS PROJECTS-37,485.71

WHITE CAP-SHOP SUPPLIES-TOTAL--48.212.93 PAYROLL-WAGES, TAXES, EMPLOYEE BENEFITS - 9/27/2024

PAID BETWEEN MEETINGS AT&T MOBILITY-WIRELESS SERVICE-259.96 UNIFORM DEN-UNIFORM-COTTERILL-721.15 USA BLUE BOOK-WATER PLANT SUPPLIES-1 837 43 UMB BANK-GO BOND 2023 FEE-

BAKER & TAYLOR-BOOKS-293.04 JOHN DEERE FINANCIAL-UNIFORMS, SUPPLIES-PW-1.554.63 MENARDS-NATURE TRAIL BRIDGE MTRLS.-1,261.55 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE-LHLM 5K

QUILL-OFFICE SUPPLIES-130.62 STATE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS-CHEMICALS-250.38 VERIZON WIRELESS-VERIZON SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 9/23/2024-

9.25 METLIFE-INSURANCE PREMIUM-2,232.61 SISCO-INSURANCE PREMIUM-16.998.40 SISCO-HEALTH CLAIMS 9/16/2024-107.59 AMAZON.COM-BOOKS, DVDS,

BAKER & TAYLOR-BOOKS-658.85 HI-LINE-SHOP SUPPLIES-696.94 MEDIACOM-CABLE SERVICE-41.90 MENARDS-HOOVER TRAIL BRIDGE MIDWEST FRAME & AXLE-TRUCK PARTS-121.07 MIDWEST UNDERGROUND

CONTRACTORS-EAST SIDE WATER MAINS PH2-114,796.72 OLSON, KEVIN-LEGAL SERVICES-SEPT 2024-1,500.00 PANTHER UNIFORMS-UNIFORMS-POLICE-640.68 PLUNKETT'S PEST CONTROL-PEST

CONTROL-160.14 QC ANALYTICAL SERVICES-LAB ANALYSIS-868.00 STATE INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS-CHEMICALS-161.62 SCOTT STUELAND-CEMETERY STUMP GRIND-3,400.00 US BANK CORPORATE CARD-CREDIT CARD PURCHASES-2,265.09 ENERGY-16 946 58

CULLIGAN WATER TECHNOLOGIES-WATER SOFTENER SERVICE-30.49 FIRST DUE HOSE-HOSE TESTING-2,142.70 IA LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY DEESCALATION TRAINING-25.00 LAW ENFORCEMENT SYSTEMS-PARKING TICKET BOOKS-214.00

LEASE-LIBRARY-142 02 LINDE GAS & EQUIPMENT-OXYGEN TANKS-FIRE-65.83 LINN COUNTY REC-STREET MPEC-MOWER BATTERY-134.91 STATE HYGIENIC LAB-LAB ANALYSIS-72.50 SUMMIT FIRE PROTECTION-EXTINGUISHER RECHARGE-175.50 WEST BRANCH REPAIRS-VEHICLE

SERVICE-POLICE-162.00
WEST BRANCH TIMES-LEGAL PUBLICATIONS-610.12 GRAND TOTAL EXPENDITURES

291,833.96 FUND TOTALS GENERAL FUND-50,868.42 CIVIC CENTER-656.08 -6.668.81 LIBRARY

ROAD USE TAX-8,538.28 TRUST AND AGENCY-28,915.70 DEBT SERVICE-600.00 WW TREATMENT FACILITY-2.458.00

330 EAST SIDE WATER MAIN PH2-128,223.47 331 CEDAR JOHNSON RD RECON-

600 WATER FUND-20,799.63 SEWER FUND-17,166.98 STORM WATER UTILITY-6,424.23 GRAND FUND TOTAL--291,833.96 REVENUE-FISCAL YEAR 2025 AUGUST

001 GENERAL FUND-32,653.81 022 CIVIC CENTER-415.00 031 LIBRARY-477.00 110 ROAD USE TAX-26,349.94 112 TRUST & AGENGY-2.933.51 121 LOCAL OPTION SALES TAX-

26,249.41 125 TIF-76.67 226 DEBT SERVICE-248.78 324 WW TREATMENT FACILITY-85,546.47 330 EASTSIDE WATER MAINS PH2-

104.443.19 600 WATER FUND-74,490.80 610 SEWER FUND-81.363.18 740 STORM WATER UTILITY-5,717.25 TOTAL--440,965.01

The Council had no comments.

Motion by Dean, second by Horihan to approve the Consent agenda. AYES: Dean, Horihan, Sexton, Stoolman, Miller. NAYS: None. Motion carried. PRESENTATIONS / communications /

David Bitterman, LRS introduced himself as being the new leader for the North Liberty location since August of 2024.

West Branch Community Schools will have multiple items for sale on GOVDEALS.COM.

Ritterman said he was aware that the City is seeking proposals for providing trash and recycling services and asked if the Council had any feedback for them to retain the City's business. Bitterman admitted to struggles the City had this past year and said they were committed to addressing any problems as they occur to regain the City's trust.
PUBLIC HEARING / NON-CONSENT AGENDA

Amendment #7 to the Amended and Restated West Branch Urban Renewal

Laughlin opened the public hearing at 7:10. There were no public comments. Laughlin closed the public hearing at Resolution 2024-104 - Approving and

Adopting Amendment No. 7 to the Amended and Restated Urban Rer Plan for the West Branch Urban Renewal Area. / Move to action. This amendment includes the addition of three new projects; a TIF rebate for the new dental office on West Main Street, construction costs for the reconstruction of Cedar-Johnson Road and construction costs for the reconstruction of West Main Street. Olson explained that the costs are over estimated to include inflation

since not all projects will be completed at

Motion by Dean, second by Sexton to approve Resolution 2024-104. AYES: Dean, Sexton, Miller, Stoolman, Horihan. NAYS: None Motion carried First Reading of Ordinance 816 – Amending Chapter 69 – Parking Regulations. / Move to action.

Miller asked why the parking limit was being requested. Brick said that over the past few years, parking along Poplar Street has increased and that often times city office visitors have nowhere to park when conducting city business. By implementing a thirty-minute parking zone, this should alleviate all day parking in front of the office. Miller asked if employees would be able to park in the new restricted zone and Brick confirmed that the ordinance would be enforced

Motion by Dean, second by Horihan to approve the first reading of Ordinance 816. AYES: Dean, Horihan, Stoolman, Miller, Sexton. NAYS: None. Motion

First Reading of Ordinance 817 Amending Chapter 30 – Police Department. / Move to action. Horihan questioned the thirty-mile residency requirement based on reporting of the West Branch Times which said the thirty-mile limit could include parts of Illinois. Horihan asked Chief Hall if he was still okay with that mileage limit if work for the department. Hall responded to Horihan's question and said he had no issue since it is most likely not to happen. Stoolman commented that former Chief had a similar request in 2023, a request the Council denied

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Miller responded to Stoolman and said once the Council realized that they were not attracting qualified candidates, they had to be willing to make some changes or the City wouldn't have a police depart

Motion by Dean, second by Miller to approve the first reading of Ordinance 817. AYES: Dean, Miller, Horihan, Sexton. NAYS: Stoolman. Motion car-

Resolution 2024-105 - Approve Invoice #35132 in the amount of \$2581.25 to Impact7G for the Wapsi Creek Widening SRF Sponsored Project. / Move to

to stop paying and start doing"? Schechinger stated that FEMA is questioning some of the modeling done by USGS in the past and each time they question something, the ninety- day response time starts again. Schechinger said he is very frustrated with the pro-cess and is seeking higher authority to keep things moving through the approval

Motion by Dean, second by Sexton to approve Resolution 2024-105. AYES: Dean, Sexton, Horihan, Miller, Stoolman. NAYS: None. Motion carried West Branch Employee Handbook. /

This resolution repeals 2024-103 approved by the City Council on September 16, 2024. The revised resolution more clearly defines the difference in work week versus work periods for certain employees and corrects the hours that police officers must work before overtime pay is earned based on their compressed work schedule. This language will be incorporated into the West Branch Employee Handbook Motion by Dean, second by Miller to approve Resolution 2024-106. AYES: Dean, Miller, Stoolman, Horihan, Sexton NAYS: None. Motion carried. Resolution 2024-107– Approve a Revised Final Plat for Heritage Hill. /

Jon Marner, MMS Consultants representing Heritage Hill Subdivision said the reason for the revised final plat is to create individual parcels to make home buying more attractive. Marner also mentioned that the trail was relocated to the outside of the detention basin on the west side of the property. He said adjustments were also made to the south end of the trail to provide more green space between the trail and the retaining wall for added safety to trail Motion by Dean, second by Sexton to

approve Resolution 2024-107. AYES: Dean, Sexton, Horihan, Miller, Stoolman NAYS: None. Motion carried.
Resolution 2024-108 – Approving a Program Membership Agreement with US Bank. / Move to action. Olson explained that the City has been part of a consortium with US Bank since 2014 and that ten-year agreement has

expired. This new agreement will renew that membership. Miller asked why the City still uses US Bank since they are no longer have a West Branch location and if the City should look toward moving their business to Fidelity Bank and Trust. No direction was given to staff to make any changes at this time.

Motion by Sexton, second by Miller to approve Resolution 2024-108. AYES: Sexton, Miller, Dean, Stoolman, Horihan. NAYS: None. Motion carried. Discussion - Police officer Longlett pro-

posed salary increase
Chief Hall asked the Council to consider increasing Longlett's annual salary to the ten-year service mark based on his prior seventeen years in law enforcement. Hall said that when Longlett was hired, he had to complete some certifications and was hired in at the certified officer rate of \$66,560.00. Hall said that Longlett has completed the required certifications and requested that Longlett should be compensated at the tenyear certified officer pay. The Council questioned what the employment offer stated and said they would honor what was promised. Laughlin directed Hall to make his official request with the Clerk for the next City Council agenda. Discussion – Police officer Dorsey pro-

posed salary increase

Chief Hall reminded the Council that when Officer Dorsey was hired, he had been a certified police officer in Delaware. However, lowa did not recognize his certification and therefore Dorsey was required to attend the lowa Law Enforcement Academy. Dorsey was hired at the certified officer rate of \$66,560 and upon completion of the academy in August, was given a twodollar an hour pay increase. Hall is now asking for the Council to recognize Dorsey's prior certified experience of seven-years and move him to \$78,845. Miller asked Hall if these salary increases are within the Chief's budget and Hall confirmed that they are. Stoolman questioned where the City is getting all the money to pay these salaries and Kofoed reminded the Council that budget cuts services in order to afford five well paid officers. Miller and Horihan said they are supportive of the request. Laughlin directed Hall to make his official request with the Clerk for the next City Council

agenda. Discussion - Review Franchise Fees revenue purpose statement Brick asked the Council to review the draft resolution so that they were comfortable in moving forward with the revenue purpose statement. Brick asked the attorney to review the statement to ensure that it covered park debt and improvements as the draft language was vague. Olson agreed that additional language should be added. Brick said she would work with Olson and bring another resolution back to Council for

SEE LEGALS, P7

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WBELC

From Page 1

TV 8 reviewed the list of 16 schools and challenged the Democrats' conclusions.

On Monday, the post had been taken down.

WQAD-TV 8 reporter Maddie Frantz said she contacted all 16 schools and found that four of them closed due to budgetary concerns.

Frantz reported that Davenport's Board Education voted to close another school on the list a month before ESAs passed the legislature.

Further, her report stated that four of the schools were consolidated and two of those sent students to newer buildings.

"Two schools are still open," Frantz reported, one of which was WBELC.

WOWT-TV 6, based in Omaha, published a report by Conner Hendricks with a list of all 16 schools that Democrats alleged to have closed.

His report stated that three schools were replaced by new buildings, four closed due to enrollment concerns, one was demolished due to its age, two closed for renovations or repairs, one was set for closure before ESAs were passed, one closed to merge with another school, and one closed for an unconfirmed reason.

One other school on the list was the Cedar Rapids Virtual Academy, which was created in response to the coronavirus pandemic but discontinued to be replaced with another virtual school.

Kaufmann

From Page 1

The final school listed

ESA's give children

who's families have little means the same opportu-

nities as the rich kids. I

was WBELC, which still income families. The doloperates at 400 West Orange Street in West Branch.

The WQAD report received a comment from Mason Maurao, deputy communications director for Gov. Kim Reynolds, criticizing the Democrats' report.

"As for the list of private schools Democrats released, many of the 'new' private schools are not new, but only newly accredited. In fact, some of the schools they claim are 'new' have been in operation for years. One of the schools on their list does not exist," he stated. "As Gov. Reynolds has said, the idea that Iowa's traditional public schools, charter schools, and private schools are engaged in a zero-sum struggle is both unhelpful and wrong. Instead, all schools are an indispensable part of a single education system that's responsible for every Iowa child. The success of each group encourages the success of the others.

Hendricks' report states that the House Democrats said they got their information from the Iowa Department of Education

He further reported that an IDOE spokesperson stated the Democrats used a list of building directories with addresses and contact information for use by families, rather than an official record of schools that have opened and closed.

"After we asked questions (House Democrats) now admit that list does not appear accurate," Hedricks stated in his report.

Passed in January 2023, ESAs began by giving \$7,598 to qualifying, low-

think that is important.

I believe you can both

support great public

schools as I have done and

give parents the opportu-

nity to give their kids what

they feel is best for them.

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lar amount coincides with per-pupil funding given to

LEGALS

FROM P6

CITY ADMINISTRATOR REPORT work on rebuilding the pedestrian bridge on the Hoover Nature Trail that was failing. The bridge re-opened late last

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT - No report

public schools.

This year, the program expanded to provide \$7,826

CITY ENGINEER REPORT Schechinger reported on various city projects and said that the two major projects would be wrapping up by the end of October. He also noted that the sewer meter installed at the West Branch Village was installed improperly and is in need of replacement. West Branch Village is working with their engineers to accomplish this. Schechinger also informed the Council that he is reviewing will be providing comments for it to go to to families below 400 percent of the federal poverty guidelines. Next year, the

Planning & Zoning

STAFF REPORTS
Brick informed the Council that the fire truck was successfully auctioned off on GovDeals and brought \$116,500. The truck was purchased from a volunteer fire department in Vine Grove, Kentucky and was picked up last week. Brick also noted that Dawson Brick has completed his Eagle Scout project the Council approved back in 2023. The project is a ighted archway located at the trail head of the Hoover Nature Trail near the Colstate lifts the limits, allowing anyone to access the funding.

COMments from mayor and council nembers – No comme adjournment Motion to adjourn by Miller, second by

Dean. Motion carried on a voice vote City Council meeting adjourned at 7:56

Roger Laughlin, Mayo ATTEST

Legal Notice

Cedar County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections, Stephanie Wiese, hereby Election in Cedar County, Iowa on the 5th day of November, 2024. Qualified electors of Cedar County will vote at the polling places designated below for the purpose of electing candidates for Partisan Federal, State and County Offices. for Nonpartisan Offices, to act upon the retention of Judges in office and Constitu-

tional Amendment questions.
In said GENERAL ELECTION the polls will open at 7:00 a.m. and will close at 8:00 p.m., and polling places will be as

Cass, Center, Iowa & Rochester - Emergency Management Building, 1410 Cedar Street, Tipton. For all voters of Cass, Center, Iowa and Rochester Townships. Dayton/Fairfield - St. John's United Church of Christ, 320 9th Avenue, Clar ence. For voters in all of Davton & Fairfield Townships and the City of Clarence. Farmington/Sugar Creek – Community Center, 605 5th Ave., Durant, For voters in all of Farmington & Sugar Creek Townships and the City of Durant-Cedar City of Wilton-Cedar County portion. Fremont/Red Oak - Masonic Hall, 215 E.

Broadway St., Stanwood. For voters in all of Red Oak & Fremont Townships and the City of Stanwood. Gower/Springdale - Bethany Lutheran Church, 235 South 2nd Street, West

Branch. For voters in all of Gower & Springdale Townships.

Inland – Bennett Community Hall, 242 Main St., Bennett, For voters in all of Inland Township and the City of Bennett. Linn/Pioneer - Memorial Building. 102 N John St., Mechanicsville. For voters in all of Linn & Pioneer Townships and the City

of Mechanicsville Massillon/Springfield – City Hall, 501 Main Street, Lowden. For voters in all of Massillon & Springfield Townships and the City of Lowden

Tipton 1, 2, 3 - Cedar County Courthouse, 400 Cedar Street, Tipton. For voters in the

Tipton city precincts.

West Branch 1 – Bethany Lutheran Church, 235 South 2nd Street, West Branch. For voters in the City of West Branch-Cedar County portion. NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, all qualified

voters are hereby notified to appear a the polling place for the precinct, in which they live, in order to vote in said election In accordance with Chapter 49.90 of the lowa Code that any voter who is physically unable to enter a polling place has the right to vote in the voter's vehicle. For further information, please contact the county auditor's office at 563-886-3168 or e-mail swiese@cedarcounty.iowa.gov fied voters are required to provide an applace before receiving and casting a balsuch as voters registering to vote on election day - and voters who have changed precincts will also be required to provide proof of residence. A voter who cannot their identity attested to by another voter registered in the precinct who has an approved form of identification. For more information about voter ID, visit http://sos. iowa.gov/voterid or call 563-886-3168. A person who is eligible to register to vote and vote, may register on election day by appearing in person at the polling place for the precinct in which the individual re-The voter must complete a voter registration application, make written oath and provide acceptable proof of identity and acceptable proof of residence. Acceptable documents which can be used as proof of identity and proof of residence are very specific and substitutes will not be accepted. To see all forms of approved ID visit http://sos.iowa.gov/voterid NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN, in accordance with Chapter 52.35 of the lowar Code that the duly authorized agents of the Cedar County Auditor and Commissioner of Elections shall publicly examine and test all voting machines to be used for

the November 5, 2024, General Election.

Public testing will commence on Friday, October 25, 2024 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. at

the Courthouse in the Board Room and continue until all voting machines have been tested.

Set forth herein is a copy of the Cass Township sample ballot which is the first rotation. This is a sample ballot only. Not all offices will be on the ballot in every precinct. A complete list of all candidates is listed below. Ballots issued to voters will reflect a similar layout as this sample but will contain only those offices the voter is eligible to vote for based on the voter's residence.

I hereby certify that this is a correct copy of the sample ballot to be voted at the General Flection to be held November 5, 2024, in the County of Cedar, State of

Stephanie Wiese Cedar County Auditor & Commissioner of

The following candidate races for the November 5th General Election DO NOT APPEAR on the published sample ballot Below are all other races and candidates on other ballot styles. The ballot being published contains the first rotation of names as prescribed by section 49.31. subsection 2 Code of lowa FOR NON-PARTISAN TOWNSHIP OF-FICES:

CASS TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE (ELECT TWO) Steve Agne No Candidate

CENTER TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE (ELECT Robert D. Langley

John A. Schott
DAYTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE (ELECT TWO) Kris Plueger Karen Bachman FAIRFIELD

TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE (ELECT TWO) Kevin L. Wright Gary Deerberg FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE Robert L. Timmsen

FARMINGTON TOWNSHIP CLERK TO

FILL VACANCY (ELECT ONE)

Greg Shuger FREMONT TOWNSHIP TRUSTER Rodney Von Muenster Mathew Tony Wagner GOWER TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE (ELEC

Barry Anderson INLAND TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE (ELEC

TWO) Dave Von Muenster Jerod Timmerman

IOWA TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE (ELEC

Cory Simpson
Bryan Regennitter
LINN TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE (ELEC-

Dan Driscol John Broulik TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE (ELECT TWO)

Yvonne Bright Chris W. Scheer MASSILLON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE TO FILL VACANCY (ELECT ONE)

Penny Vacek MASSILLON TOWNSHIP CLERK TO FILL VACANCY (ELECT ONE)

Brenda Hansen
PIONEER TOWNSHIP (ELECT TWO) Joel Brown

(ELECT TWO) Richard Paulser

Cass Township Trustee

Vote for no more than two

OFFICIAL GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT **Federal Offices Nonpartisan Offices**

United States Representative

District 1

Vote for no more than one

Cedar County, State of Iowa

Official Ballot **General Election** November 5, 2024

Candidate Name Candidate Name 2. Write-in Votes. To vote for a

person whose name is not on the ballot, write the name on the write-in line below the list of candidates and fill in the oval next to it.

4. Do not cross out. If you change your mind, exchange your ballot for a

retention questions: on the back of

6. Where to find the Constitutional Amendment questions: on the back of this ballot.

for president and vice president of the United States is considered to be cast for the slate of presidential electors nominated by the political party, nonparty political organization, or independent candidate

R. Jay Hartman RED OAK 7 (ELECT TWO) TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE Allan Haynes ROCHESTER TOWNSHIP TRUSTER Terry LeDoux SPRINGDALE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE

Steve Agne Mariannette Miller-Meeks Republican Cass Township Christina Bohannan (Write-in vote, if any) (Write-in vote, if any) (Write-in vote, if any) **State Offices** Soil and Water Conservation **District Commissioners** State Representative Vote for no more than three District 82 INSTRUCTIONS TO VOTER Vote for no more than one Randy Pedersen 1. Voting Mark. To vote, fill in the oval next to your choice. Bobby Kaufmann Republican Alan Weets Phil Wiese Democratic Rob Glick 3. Use only a black or blue ink pen. (Write-in vote, if any) (Write-in vote, if any) **County Offices** 5. Where to find the judicial (Write-in vote, if any) **County Board of Supervisors** Vote for no more than three (Write-in vote, if any) Bruce Barnhart Republican **Federal Offices County Agricultural Extension** Jon Bell **Council Members** A ballot cast for the named candidates Republican Vote for no more than four Michael T. Boyle Jeff Kaufmann Republican Devin Schroeder (Write-in vote, if any) President and Vice President Greta Bierman Vote for no more than one team (Write-in vote, if any) Donald J. Trump 0 Brian Boedeker Republican JD Vance (Write-in vote, if any) Kamala D. Harris Tim Walz (Write-in vote, if any) **County Auditor** Chase Oliver 0 Libertarian Vote for no more than one Mike ter Maat (Write-in vote, if any) Claudia De la Cruz Party For Socialism Nicolette Welch Republican 0 Karina Garcia (Write-in vote, if any) William P. Stodden 0 Socialist Stephanie H. Cholensky Party USA (Write-in vote, if any) (Write-in vote, if any) Robert F. Kennedy Jr We The People Nicole Shanahan **County Agricultural Extension County Sheriff** Shiva Ayyadurai Crystal Ellis Council Member Vote for no more than one To Fill Vacancy Vote for no more than one Warren M. Wethington Republican Jeffrey Lafrenz (Write-in vote for President, if any) 0 (Write-in vote, if any) (Write-in vote for Vice President, if any) (Write-in vote, if any)





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Cass-Center-Iowa-Rochester Cass Township

Precinct Official's Initials

TURN THE BALLOT OVER

Typ:01 Seq:0001 Spl:01



West Branch Times

Police

From Page 1

odometer.

Council member Jodee Stoolman agreed.

"It is true because work right along the river, and it is exactly 35 miles from my door to my work," she said. "I could see where there would be certain spots."

Laughlin called it a "miniscule chance" that someone would live in that area and work in West Branch.

Horihan said he only wanted to bring that possibility to the council's attention before passing the ordinance.

"It does get into the question about weapons permits, because while you can work around it, because other departments have, but it's typical that it's better to get a weapons permit in the state you enforce the laws in," he said. "I'm not going to make that an issue. I just threw it out to see what everyone else thought. Our newspaper guy, I value his opinion and I thought I would address that.'

Stoolman noted that the previous police chief asked to extend the residency limit, "but we never did that for him.'

"We need to think hard about what we did or didn't do," she said.

The climate is different than it was back then," Laughlin said.

"It didn't change in eight months," Stoolman said.

Horihan and Miller said it did.

"It took everybody leaving and us on the brink of not having a police department to show us the light," Miller said.

Stoolman voted no on the new residency requirement; all other council members voted in support.

The council then discussed raising the salaries of officers Brad Longlett and Ryan Dorsey.

Police Chief Greg Hall said Longlett was hired at the "certified" rate while Ofc. Daniel Cotterill was hired at the 10-year rate.

"They essentially had the same credential and we should have started Brad at that 10-year rate," he

The city hires officers under a six-month probationary period and Longlett is due for a salary bump in November. Hall said this adjustment would only cover two paychecks, "but two paychecks is better than zero."

"I want to right that wrong," he said.

Should the council take action to make the change, Longlett's pay would increase from \$66,560 per year to \$81,302 per year.

Hall noted that Longlett has 17 years of experience. The next pay bump on the salary schedule comes with 20 years of experience.

Hired in March, Dorsey previously worked

in law enforcement in Wilmington, Delaware, for just under eight years and then joined the U.S. Army Special Forces.

Hall wrote in a memo that Dorsey's experience in Delaware is not recognized in Iowa. However, Hall requested West Branch recognize that experience by placing him on the police officer pay scale for having the equivalent of seven years of experience.

Despite his experience, Dorsey had to go through Iowa's police academy training and West Branch started him at the "low rate, the beginning rate," and then moved him to the rate of pay for academy graduates.

Hall called Dorsey a "standout" officer who earned the higher pay rate. Otherwise, Dorsey would need to wait seven years for the next pay raise.

"He's a valuable officer," Horihan said. Miller agreed.

If formally approved, Dorsey's salary would increase from \$66,560 to \$78,845 per year.

Kofoed said the police budget will cover both increases, which come to about \$27,000 combined.

Laughlin said appeared the council reached an agreement to boost the salaries of both officers and directed the administration to prepare resolutions for the council to vote at the next meeting.

In other business, the council:

· approved the appointment of Keaton Norfleet to the West Branch Fire Department Cadet program. The WBFD approved the appointment on Sept. 4.

• updated the Urban Renewal Plan to add three projects: KBH Holdings LLC, parent company of West Branch Family Dentistry, which may receive up to a 25-percent rebate for up to \$101,000 or 10 years; Cedar-Johnson Road improvements, which could run up to \$8 million; and Main Street improvements, which could cost up to \$15 million.

Council member Jodee Stoolman asked about Cedar-Johnson Road improvements costing \$8 million.

City Administrator Adam Kofoed said the city would not improve the entire street.

City attorney Kevin Olson said the city should include a dollar amount high enough to ensure it can fund the project. If the number is too low, the city cannot do the work.

 approved limiting parking outside of City Hall to 30 minutes from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, the city's normal working hours.

They would not apply during holidays.

City vehicles, emergency vehicles, and those with disability parking permits may be exempted, according to a memo from Police Chief Greg Hall.

approved paving Impact7G about \$2,900 for its work on the Wapsi Creek widening project.

The city contracted with Impact7G for \$164,300 to help Veenstra & Kimm with design and construction. With this payment, the city has given nearly \$132,000 to the company.

Council member Colton Miller noted that the Impact7G contract started paying out in June 2022 for data collection, planning, design, and now public outreach.

"When are we going to quit paying and start doing?" he asked.

"No kidding," council member Jerry Sexton added. "Are they going to milk this out until they get the full amount?"

The city did cut down trees along the creek, but the widening work has yet to begin.

City Administrator Adam Kofoed said Impact7G's work will taper off once construction begins.

"There will be some monitoring by Impact7G, but I thought the biggest portion of their contract was trying to get a 'toolkit' design ready," he said.

City engineer Dave Schechinger with V&K said the project includes government requirements and compliances.

"It seems like it might be a bit excessive, but they have to go through the steps," he said. "There are a number of hoops to jump through to be eligible to use (State Revolving Fund) money.'

Kofoed said Impact7G must host two public meetings. One took place at the Dog Fair in September, and another will take place in a formal setting.

"As a side note, this is the six-year anniversary of the last time downtown flooded," council member

Tom Dean said. approved changing the employee handbook to redefine the "work week" for public safety employ-

ees, mostly police officers. With the change, officers would get paid overtime if they exceed 80 hours over two weeks, rather than 40 hours over one week.

 approved the revised final plat for Heritage Hill, the development on the northwest corner of Main and Fourth streets.

This version includes re-platting "Lot 1" into 54 residential lots "so that when the residential units are constructed, they can receive secondary mortgage backed (Federal Housing Authority) loans," according to a memo from City Clerk Leslie Brick.

The memo states that this would not change the number of units nor the private homeowners association, "it just allows new buyers to access better interest rates for more attainable/affordable hous-

 reviewed the franchise fee revenue purpose statement and agreed to use the money for park debt and improvements, public safety, and public infrastructure projects.

Kofoed said he would forward the language to Alliant Energy and Linn County Rural Electric Cooperative.

The city will then publish a notice about the implementation of the fee and host a public hearing.

The proposed 1-percent franchise fee would not increase residents' electric and gas bills.

Constitutional Amendment

NOTICE TO VOTERS: Vote on all names by filling in the appropriate oval below each name.

Judicial Offices

Supreme Court Justice Shall the following Supreme Court Justice be retained in office?

David May

O Yes O No

Court of Appeals Judge Shall the following Court of Appeals Judges be retained in office?

Mary Ellen Tabor

Yes

O No Tyler J. Buller

O Yes O No

Mary Elizabeth Chicchelly

Yes

O No

Samuel Langholz

Yes O No

District 7 Judge
Shall the following District 7 Judge be retained in office?

Thomas Reidel

Yes O No

> District 7 Associate Judge Shall the following District 7 Associate Judge be retained in office?

Gary Patrick Strausser

Yes O No

Notice to voters. To vote to approve any question on this ballot, fill in the oval in front of the word "Yes". To vote against a question, fill in the oval in front of the word "No".

Constitutional Amendment

Shall the following amendment to the Constitution be adopted?

Summary: Provides for only U.S. citizens aged 18 or older and meeting state and county residency requirements to vote in all elections. Further provides that 17-year-olds who will be 18 years old by the General Election are eligible to vote in the primary election, subject to the same citizenship and residency requirements.

Full Text: Section 1 of Article II of the Constitution of the State of lowa, as amended by the amendment of 1970, is repealed and the following adopted in lieu thereof:

Section 1. Electors. Only a citizen of the United States of the age of eighteen years, who shall have been a resident of this state for such period of time as shall be provided by law and of the county in which the citizen claims the citizen's vote for such period of time as shall be provided by law, shall be entitled to vote at all elections which are authorized by law. However, for purposes of a primary election, a United States citizen must be at least eighteen years of age as of the next general election following the primary election. The required periods of residence shall not exceed six months in this state and sixty days in the county.

○ Yes

O No

Notice to voters. To vote to approve any question on this ballot, fill in the oval in front of the word "Yes". To vote against a question, fill in the oval in front of the word "No".

Shall the following amendment to the Constitution be adopted?

Summary: Provides that the lieutenant governor will act as the governor if there is a temporary disability of the governor. Further provides that the lieutenant governor or lieutenant governor-elect will be the governor or governor-elect in the case of the resignation, death, or permanent disability of the governor or governor-elect thus creating a vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor or lieutenant governor-elect, as appropriate.

Full Text: Section 17 of Article IV of the Constitution of the State of lowa is repealed and the following adopted in lieu

Sec. 17. Lieutenant governor or lieutenant governor-elect to become or act as governor or governor-elect. If there is a temporary disability of the governor, the lieutenant governor shall act as governor until the disability is removed, or the governor dies, resigns, or is removed from office. In case of the death, resignation, or removal from office of the governor, the lieutenant governor shall become governor for the remainder of the term, which shall create a vacancy in the office of lieutenant governor. This section shall also apply, as appropriate, to the governor-elect and the lieutenant governor-elect.

O Yes

O No

SPORTS BRIEFS

8th volleyball wins it all

West Branch Middle School's eighth-grade volleyball team finished their season without a single loss in seven games.

In its last game on Oct. 8, the Bears went up against another undefeated team, Wilton, and came out on top: 23-21, 21-10, and 15-13

"The season came to an end against a strong, upto-date undefeated Wilton team. Both teams coming into the game at 6-0 meant for a great competitive night," Coach Lynette Poula said. "Our girls knew it was going to be a tough night as they lost to the undefeated Wilton team last year in three sets. The girls wanted some revenge and to end the season with a victory that would mean an undefeated season and first place in the South-River Valley Conference.

"We started off strong with some great serve-receiving led by Kai Senio, Layla Hamilton and Sawyer Rushton. With a great pass to start usually meant some good executions and kills from our (outside hitter) Ava Lacina with great hands of sets from Sophia Petrin.

"We closed strong by winning all three sets. We had to stay at the top of our game as Wilton was pushing us to play well the entire match. The key to tonight's win came with some fantastic serving and defensive plays."

The Bears ended the night with a total of 16 ace serves, 16 kills and 3 blocks.

Kai Senio went 15 for 16 with 5 ace serves; Sophia Petrin went 10 for 10 with 4 ace serves; Sage Horgan went 6 for 8 with 2 ace serves; Layla Hamilton-4 for 4 with 1 ace serve; Sydney Nash went 4 for 4 with 1 ace serve; Harper Jeffries went 3 for 3 with 1 ace serve; and Kinsley Jennings went 2 for 3 with 2

Kia Senio and Ava Lacina led the team with a combined 13 kills. Sophia Petrin had 15 assists. "These girls will be a fun group to follow in the next four years," Poula added. "Many of them will be playing on club teams and attending camps to improve their skills in the off season."

FS football struggles against Wilton

West Branch High School's freshman-sophomore football team suffered a 40-0 loss to Wilton on Monday night at the Little Rose Bowl.

The Beavers picked up 321 yards to collect seven touchdowns compared to the Bears' 89. Passing: Dillan Schenkel 3-11; Jackson Nestor 1-3. Rushing: Dillan Schenkel 11-17; Jackson Nestor 2-(-3); Gabe Depoorter 14-48; Spencer Green 8-28 Receiving: Gabe Depoorter 2-9; Spencer Green 2-5. Tackling: Dillan Schenkel 4; Jackson Ellyson 1, 2 pass deflections; Ty Stout 3; Spencer Green 6, 1 TFL; Clayton Gates 0.5; Arik Marsh 1; Hunter Christoffel 0.5; Shay Kinsinger 3, 0.5 TFL; Garrett Tisinger 2.5; Seth Hosier 2, 0.5 TFL; Cooper Hartz 1.5. Kick return: Gabe Depoorter 1-14; Ty Stout 4-57; Clayton Gates 1-0

Punting: Dillan Schenkel 3-63, 1 fair catch; Cooper

Hartz 2-55.

TURN THE BALLOT OVER