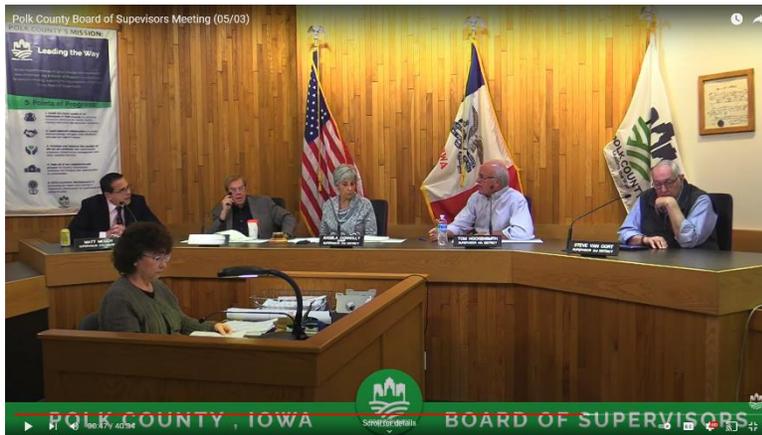


- Civility
- The numbers behind Mother’s Day
- “PT-101”: Assessments
- Broadlawns to purchase a YMCA?
- Capital Crossroads – *“a bold but achievable vision”*
- In the Legislative Hopper
- The TACI In-Basket
- Next town Hall: Property Assessments

Wednesday, May 11, 4:30 PM [Zoom link](#)

Civility



“Frankly, you’re totally ineffective, Supervisor. You couldn’t muster a second vote on your best day.”

Tom Hockensmith, Polk County Supervisor

Polk County Board of Supervisors Meeting (5/3) [Livestream](#)

“Festering animosity between two long-feuding Polk County leaders boiled over Tuesday when Supervisor Tom Hockensmith lambasted fellow supervisor and frequent nemesis Matt McCoy in a discussion over whether the county should provide a loan to the YMCA of Greater Des Moines... Hockensmith began to lob insults at McCoy after the fellow Democrat asked a series of questions about a \$6.5 million bridge loan the YMCA requested so it could refinance long-term debt.” ... [Des Moines Register, May 3, 2022:](#)

The personal issues are [deeply rooted](#). In January, McCoy was [relieved of all committee and board](#) seats. **Nevertheless**, has this “festering animosity” become so intense that Polk County taxpayers’ interests are not being served. **Should appropriate questions ever be greeted by “lobbed insults?”** Do the individuals in Polk County’s Fifth District, which currently includes the majority of Des Moines’ south side, west side, and a portion of the north side, still have a voice?

Recent redistricting put Supervisors Hockensmith and Connolly in the same new District 5 (northwestern Des Moines and Beaverdale). Hockensmith is moving to new District 4, on Des Moines’ east side where no incumbent lives. Redistricting also put Supervisors Brownell and McCoy in the same district. Brownell is moving to new District 2 (Urbandale, Johnston, Sheldahl and Mitchellville) and McCoy will remain in new District 1 (areas of West Des Moines and Des Moines.) Supervisor Van Oort will remain in new District 3 (it includes Ankeny).

The numbers behind Mother's Day



“The first Mother’s Day was organized by Anna Jarvis on May 10, 1908, in Grafton, West Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. It was such a success across the country that Jarvis asked Congress to set aside a day to honor mothers. In 1914, Congress made the second Sunday in May Mother’s Day.”

In addition to this bit of history, this week the United States Census Bureau also offered these statistics:

Out of every 10 women aged 15 to 50, approximately...

- 4 out of 10 (44%) have no children**
- 2 out of 10 (17%) have one child
- 2 out of 10 (22%) have two children
- 2 out of 10 (17%) have three or more children

What are the future implications?

“PT-101”: Assessments



As a result of feedback following recent TACI Town Halls regarding school and municipal financing, and efforts to “limit” property tax increases, the Association is putting together “PT-101.” The program will focus, step by step, on the complete property tax cycle beginning with property assessments.

The chart to the left indicates **the median sale price of single family homes in Polk County (2009: \$145,000; 2021: nearly \$200,000).**

At next Wednesday’s TACI Town Hall, **Randy Ripperger, Polk County Assessor**, will provide information regarding how assessments are determined, **the first step in determining the ultimate property tax bill.**

See the presentation and join the dialog, via Zoom:

Wednesday, May 11, 2022, 4:30 PM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81427781652?pwd=aURVY2tRUUd3WnZRS3ltTWtWfHhNzZ09>

Meeting ID: 814 2778 1652 | Passcode: 051332 | Dial in: 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Broadlawns to purchase a YMCA?



Through a lease agreement executed in October 2020, Genesis Health Clubs took over the operations of the South Suburban YMCA. It was an unprofitable venture, Genesis is out, and the “Y” is now working to sell the facility. A potential buyer?

As reported by *Axios Des Moines* on May 5: **“Broadlawns Medical Center is in exploratory discussions to purchase the property...”**

*“Broadlawns Medical Center has a longstanding history of attending to the medical needs of Polk County residents. With its origins dating back to 1903, **the hospital was established to provide medical care for the indigent**, and the same mission of service drives the hospital today.” ... Broadlawns Medical Center Website*

At one time, “medical care for the indigent” was the responsibility of local citizens and was paid for through property taxes. According to the [latest financial audit](#) dated June 30, 2021: **“Property tax revenue is \$73,224,440**, which is \$3,931,557 more than last fiscal year.” “Self Pay, Including **Charity Care** and Bad Debts” for year ending June 30, 2021” was **3%**.

Questions:

1. Today, with federal and state programs in place, is property tax support still justified?
2. What other unmet community priorities might benefit from this annual investment?
3. Should Broadlawns Medical Center be using taxpayer funds to purchase the “Y”?

In future “TACI Topics” the Association plans to take a deeper dive into the Broadlawns financial operations.

Capital Crossroads – *“a bold but achievable vision”*



“In 2011, regional leaders laid out a bold but achievable vision for Central Iowa, a vision pushing residents to dream big and not settle for good enough, to think long term and work together. This vision is known as Capital Crossroads.

Capital Crossroads aims to provide positive opportunities for development in our neighborhoods, local businesses, agriculture, education system, health programs, community engagement, culture, infrastructure, local and state government, and environment.” ... [Capital Crossroads website](#)

The overarching goal of one of the “capitals”, the Governance Capital, is **to create and sustain partnerships that foster intergovernmental coordination and cooperation**. Mayor Bob Andeweg (Urbandale), Mayor Courtney Clarke (Waukee), and Art Wittmack (Taxpayers Association of Central Iowa) are the tri-chairs.

As Capital Crossroads starts to refresh its vision for Greater Des Moines and Central Iowa, **what opportunities for intergovernmental coordination and cooperation would you like to see be considered?**

Simply “respond” to this email with your comments, thoughts, and suggestions.

In the Legislative Hopper



This picture pretty well captures the debate on the hill this week.

Apparently, the Senate and House Leadership, and the Governor are having “backroom discussions.”

The TACI In-Basket



Re: Civility:

How about a Town Hall series devoted to the topic. "Reclaiming Civility in the Public Square: 10 Rules That Work" could be a guide. [Link](#)

Re: PK-12 Education in Iowa:

What should be the desired outcome of PK-12 education in Iowa?

- Be able to make change without using a cell phone. (Calculator in cell phone)
- Be able to read and comprehend a classic book like War & Peace.
- Be able to write a book report.
- Be able to read an analog clock.

To become a tax paying citizen, not a tax using citizen

Re: Zoning, Annexation and ADUs

Plan and Zoning issues, usually unreported, have hit the popular press and blogs... Although seemingly unrelated, the emails below all deal with an urban planning principal. That is, avoiding creating "islands" in jurisdictions and comprehensive zoning plans, and the challenges of "amending" both.

The "Suite Shots" driving range is a study on poor urban planning. Maybe the property taxes on a \$26 million project justifies the **bait and switch to the adjacent property owners.**

We bought our house in a wonderful neighborhood. All we need are more cars and traffic.
ADUs – not in my back yard!

Why should a majority of affected landowners who want [Ankeny] city services **be denied annexation** by the 10 owners that own just 4% of the acreage involved?

Re: Inflation

The recent estimates on the **proposed new airport terminal**, and the **water trails project** through Des Moines, are budget busters! Be prepared to experience inflation not only at the gas pumps but also in your property tax bills.

If you like these communications and what the Association is doing:

...[Join here](#)

... and a referral is the best compliment

*Please forward this notice to your friends, colleagues and neighbors who share your interest in
"Vibrant, just, and safe Central Iowa communities."*



If you wish to be removed from the "TACI Town Hall" distribution list, please reply with "Unsubscribe" in the subject line.

