

WOODBURY COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS AGENDA ITEM(S) REQUEST FORM

Date: 02/05/2026 Weekly Agenda Date: 02/10/2026

ELECTED OFFICIAL / DEPARTMENT HEAD / CITIZEN: Laura Sievers, PE, Woodbury County Engineer

WORDING FOR AGENDA ITEM:

Consideration of City of Merville utility permit and permanent easement request

ACTION REQUIRED:

Approve Ordinance

Approve Resolution

Approve Motion

Public Hearing

Other: Informational

Attachments

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

The City of Merville is requesting a utility accommodation and permanent easement for their watermain project

BACKGROUND:

Work in county ROW requires permit by Board of Supervisors per section 318.8 of the Code of Iowa. I have reviewed the site and the use requested. The permanent easement encompasses the fuel tank for the Merville shop. This is concerning and I have asked the City to address this. I am assuming I will hear from the City of Merville before the Tuesday meeting and that this concern will be addressed.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

None.

IF THERE IS A CONTRACT INVOLVED IN THE AGENDA ITEM, HAS THE CONTRACT BEEN SUBMITTED AT LEAST ONE WEEK PRIOR AND ANSWERED WITH A REVIEW BY THE COUNTY ATTORNEY'S OFFICE?

Yes No

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to approve the utility permit and permanent easement for the City of Merville

ACTION REQUIRED / PROPOSED MOTION:

Motion to approve the utility permit and permanent easement for the City of Merville



Woodbury County Secondary Roads Department

759 E. Frontage Road • Merville, Iowa 51039
Telephone (712) 279-6484 • (712) 873-3215 • Fax (712) 873-3235

WOODBURY COUNTY SECONDARY ROAD DEPARTMENT PERMIT & AGREEMENT TO PERFORM WORK WITHIN WOODBURY COUNTY RIGHT OF WAY

Name of Permittee: City of Merville Phone No.: 712-732-7745

Mailing Address: 21 Main Street, Merville, IA 51309

Township: 89 Section: SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Sec 29 & 30

Woodbury County, State of Iowa, and City of Merville (hereinafter referred to as property owner, organization or authorized representative) do hereby enter into the following permit and agreement:

1. Woodbury County hereby consents to and grants permission to the property owner, organization or authorized representative, to conduct the following described construction or activities within the right-of-way:

Placement of watermain in an easement on property located along Humbolt Ave & 160th Street.

2. In consideration of Woodbury County granting said permission and consent, the property owner, organization or authorized representative hereby promises and agrees to the following:

A. The applicant shall carry on the construction, repair and maintenance with serious regard to the safety of the traveling public and adjacent property owners.

B. The property owner, organization or authorized representative, at his/her own expense, shall provide all safety measures and warning devices necessary to protect the traveling public such as but not limited to, signs, lights, and barricades during the day and at night if the roadway will be obstructed. Traffic protection shall be in accordance with Part VI of the current Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways. The Department will loan the required signs to the applicant who shall be responsible for placing the signs and covering or removing when not in use, removal after the work has been completed, and return of the Department owned signs to the Department maintenance facility from which obtained. The applicant shall be responsible for correctly using signs as needed while work is in progress. Flagging operations are the responsibility of the applicant.

C. In placing any drainage structure, no natural drainage course will be altered or blocked.

D. The finished project shall be left in a satisfactory condition subject to the approval of the County Engineer. The traveled portion of the roadway shall not be damaged or disturbed. The property owner, organization or authorized representative assumes all liability and agrees to reimburse Woodbury County for any damage to the roadway or ditch caused by placement of this structure. Permittee is to call County Engineer for upon completion for final inspection.

E. The property owner, organization or authorized representative shall notify all appropriate telephone and utility companies in advance of any excavation and shall check for underground electric or telephone lines.

F. Woodbury County will not assume any of the cost of the construction of the said improvement or structure nor will Woodbury County assume any future costs for maintenance or replacement of said improvement or structure. If in the best interest of Woodbury County, the said improvement or structure may be removed by the County, or may be caused to be removed, without any obligation by Woodbury County to pay damages or cost of replacement.

G. Property owner, organization or authorized representative will reseed and mulch the disturbed areas. Property owner, organization or authorized representative will be responsible for seed, mulch, and labor unless otherwise provided in section L.

H. The property owner, organization, or authorized representative hereby agrees to hold Woodbury County and the Woodbury County Secondary Road Department, its employees and agents harmless against any and all claims for damages and personal injury arising out of work performed or actions taken by the applicant related to the construction or maintenance of the facility. The applicant further agrees to reimburse the County or the Department for any expenditures that the County or Department may have to make on said highway rights of way on account of said applicant's construction or maintenance activity or other activities or lack thereof. The applicant shall also save Woodbury County and the Woodbury County Secondary Road Department harmless of any damage or losses that may be sustained by the traveling public on account of such construction, repair or maintenance operations, or other activities.

I. **FAILURE TO CONFORM TO OR TO ACQUIRE A PERMIT IS A VIOLATION OF SECTION 318.8, 2009 CODE OF IOWA.** This permit is subject to any laws now in effect or any laws that may be hereafter enacted and all applicable rules and regulations of local, state and federal agencies. This permit is subject to all the rules and regulations of Woodbury County and the Woodbury County Secondary Road Department.

J. This permit is subject to revocation by the Department at any time and at no cost to the Department, when in the judgment of the Department it is necessary in the improvement or maintenance of the highway or for other reasonable cause.

K. All proposed work covered by this permit shall be at the applicant's expense. The applicant shall reimburse the Woodbury County Secondary Road Department for any materials removed from the highway right of way described as follows:

L. Woodbury County agrees to provide the following contribution toward completion of this project:

M. All work done by property owner, organization or authorized representative pursuant to this agreement shall be completed prior to the _____ Fall 2027.

Entered into this _____ 22nd day of January, 2026.

Signed by:
 1/23/2026
D9754922958748F...
Signature of Property Owner or Authorized Representative

Woodbury County Engineer

Chair, Woodbury County Board of Supervisors

Woodbury County Permit No. _____

**PERMIT FOR USE OF COUNTY ROAD/HIGHWAY RIGHT-OF-WAY
FOR OVERHEAD AND/OR BURIED UTILITIES ACCOMMODATION**

REQUEST BY APPLICANT:

Name City of Merville

Highway 20

Township T-89-N

Address along Humbolt Ave & 160th St

City of Merville

Office Phone 712-732-7745 Local Phone _____

Section: SW 1/4 of SE 1/4 Sec 29 & 30

Type of Utility Installation Buried watermain

T 89 N, R 44 W

Plans Prepared By ISG, Inc.

Copy Enclosed Yes _____ No

Map Showing Location Enclosed Yes _____ No

Utility Location is _____ cross right-of-way _____ parallel to right-of-way
_____ overhead underground

Proposed Method of Installation

tunnel _____ suspend on poles _____ cased
_____ jack & bore _____ suspend on towers _____ trench
_____ open cut _____ plow

Estimated Starting Date spring 2026 Estimated Restoration Date Fall 2027

The Applicant understands and agrees that the permitted work shall comply with all permit provisions and conditions listed on the reverse side hereof, and special provisions listed below or attached hereto, and any and all plans, details, or notes attached hereto and made a part thereof. Applicant is to complete in triplicate and send all copies including plans and maps to Woodbury County Engineer, 759 E. Frontage Road, Merville, IA 51039. One executed copy will be returned to the Applicant.

By Michaela Peterson
D9754922958748F...
(Signature of Authorized Utility Representative)

Title City Clerk

Date 1/23/2026

PERMIT APPROVAL BY PERMITTING AUTHORITY

The forgoing application is hereby approved and permit issued by the Permitting Authority subject to full compliance by the Applicant with all provisions and conditions stated herein and on the reverse side hereof and all attachments hereto.

By _____
(Signature of Woodbury County Board Chairman)

Title _____

Date _____

By _____
(Signature of Woodbury County Engineer)

Title _____

Date _____

Other Special Provisions:

Permit Provisions and Conditions of Issuance

1. The County and/or the County Board of Supervisors will not be charged with any responsibility for damages to the Applicant's property occasioned by any construction or maintenance operations on said county roads, including new or additional right-of-way acquired in connection therewith, subsequent to the building of the Applicant's facilities. The Board will endeavor to give the Applicant sufficient notice of any proposed construction or maintenance work, on either existing or newly acquired right-of-way that is likely to expose, cover up, or disturb any facilities belonging to the Applicant, in order that the Applicant may arrange to protect the facilities. The Board will inform contractors, and others working on the job of the location of the facilities so that reasonable care may be taken to avoid damaging the facilities, however the County and the Board of Supervisors will assume no responsibility for failure to give such notice.

2. The Applicant shall take all reasonable precaution during the construction of said facilities to protect and safeguard the lives and property of the adjacent property owners and the traveling public and shall save the County and the Board of Supervisors harmless of any damages or losses that may be sustained by adjacent property owners and the traveling public on account of such construction operations.
3. Operations in the construction and maintenance of said facilities shall be carried on in such a way as to not interfere with, or interrupt traffic on said roads. However, should the performance of work called for in this permit in any way interfere with or obstruct traffic on said roads, the Applicant shall provide the necessary flagmen as required by the Statutes when one-way traffic is involved and/or otherwise mark said work so as to protect the traveling public.
4. The Applicant shall hold the County and the Board of Supervisors harmless from any damages that may result to said highway because of the construction or maintenance of said facilities and shall reimburse the County or the Board of Supervisors for any expenditures that the County or the Board of Supervisors may have to make on said roads on account of replacement of surfacing gravel and bridge and culvert repairs.
5. Applicant shall lay, construct, operate and maintain said facilities so as not to interfere with natural drainage of the road and so as not to interfere with the construction or maintenance of said roads. When buried cable or wire lines are to be placed lengthwise with the roadway, they shall be placed in the County road shoulder or ditch near the toe of the fore-slope and parallel to centerline of roadbed at a depth of three (3) to four (4) feet by using specially designed plows or by trenching, whichever is appropriate. Plow slots and trenches shall be repacked as necessary to restore the disturbed area to its original condition. For buried line crossings of roadways not paved, an open trench may be dug and the lines placed therein, and the trench back-filled over the lines. Buried line crossings on paved roadways, lines may be placed through the sub-grade by jacking, or by boring a hole just large enough to take the lines; or if the County Engineer approves, a tunnel may be dug through and the cable or wire lines placed therein. All backfill of tunnels and trenches shall be thoroughly compacted in layers of 6" or less in depth. Back-filling of trenches within the right-of-way by not under the traveled roadway shall be tamped sufficiently to avoid settlement. When crossing an existing roadway, all buried facilities shall be placed a minimum of three (3) to four (4) below the bottom of the existing adjacent ditches. Overhead lines, where practical, shall be placed adjacent to and with two (2) feet of the Road/Highway Right-of-Way Line.
6. The Applicant will at any time subsequent to placing the facilities, and at the Applicant's expense, relay, replace, alter, change, reconstruct, or relocate its overhead and/or buried facilities and appurtenances thereto as may become necessary to conform to new grades, alignment, or widening right-of-way, resulting from maintenance or construction operations by the County Board of Supervisors irrespective of whether or not additional right-of-way is acquired in connection with such road improvements. The Applicant agrees to do this within ninety (90) days written notice from the Board of Supervisors, and without cost to the County. If the Applicant is unable to comply within said ninety (90) days, the Board of Supervisors may cause the work to be done and the Applicant will pay the cost thereof upon receipt of statement.
7. All work shall be done in a workmanlike manner; the surrounding ground, slopes, and ditch bottoms shall be reshaped to conform to the area and left in a neat condition satisfactory to the County Engineer. All areas where sod has been damaged or destroyed shall be re-seeded.
8. The Applicant shall notify the County Board of Supervisors at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of the Applicant's intention of starting work covered by this permit on the road right-of-way. Said notice shall be in writing to the County Engineer.
9. Applicant, its' successors, grantees and assigns shall and hereby agrees to assume all responsibility, risks and liabilities for all accidents and damages that may occur to persons and/or property on account of the work done under this permit, and to this end, indemnify and hold the County and all authorized representatives thereof harmless from any and all claims, damages, losses, and expense including judgements, costs and including attorney's fees, for personal injuries (including death) or property damage arising or resulting from the activities of the Applicant in connection herewith, now and at all times in the future.
10. It is understood that this permit is issued only insofar as Woodbury County has jurisdiction and does not presume to release the Applicant from fulfilling any existing statutes relating to the installation, construction and operation of said facilities.
11. It is further understood that the facilities covered by this permit shall be constructed or installed within one (1) year after the date of approval of this permit, unless otherwise extended in writing by Woodbury County.
12. Engagement in the operations as herein applied for by the Applicant shall be considered and constitute an acceptance of all the terms and conditions herein set forth.