Reynolds makes property tax bill law

BY CHUCK VANDENBERG  
PCC EDITOR

DES MOINES – Iowa govern- or Kim Reynolds signed a bill into law today that makes local government clear an additional hurdle in approving budgets with more than 2% revenue growth.

Senate File 634 was signed Thursday morning and Reynolds says the new law will add a layer of transparency to local budgeting processes.

“This bill creates an additional public hearing prior to the approval of a city or county’s bud- get, allowing more public input and transparency in the budgeting process and Iowa taxpayers.”

But Fort Madison City Manag- er David Varley said it’s just more of the state tying the hands of city staff across the state.

“It is ridiculous, they tie our hands behind our back. You govern the state and we’ll run the cities and if the people like how we’re doing they’ll elect different people,” Varley said.

The bill requires local governments to add an additional public hearing in the annual budgeting process of proposed budgets indicate a revenue growth of more than 2%. A two-thirds majority vote on a resolution by the elected official of the governmental agency would permit the budget be approved after the additional public hearings and posting took place.

State school districts have a different state funding formula and are not affected the bill.

Lee County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom said it’s extra work and could be impacted by the election cycle.

“I’m not looking forward to this. It’s going to limit us to 2% and what we can do,” she said.

She acknowledged the process into law today that makes local government clear an additional hurdle in approving budgets with more than 2% revenue growth.

Senate File 634 was signed Thursday morning and Reynolds says the new law will add a layer of transparency to local budgeting processes.

“This bill creates an additional public hearing prior to the approval of a city or county’s bud- get, allowing more public input and transparency in the budgeting process and Iowa taxpayers.”

But Fort Madison City Manag- er David Varley said it’s just more of the state tying the hands of city staff across the state.

“It is ridiculous, they tie our hands behind our back. You govern the state and we’ll run the cities and if the people like how we’re doing they’ll elect different people,” Varley said.

The bill requires local governments to add an additional public hearing in the annual budgeting process of proposed budgets indicate a revenue growth of more than 2%. A two-thirds majority vote on a resolution by the elected official of the governmental agency would permit the budget be approved after the additional public hearings and posting took place.

State school districts have a different state funding formula and are not affected the bill.

Lee County Budget Director Cindy Renstrom said it’s extra work and could be impacted by the election cycle.

“I’m not looking forward to this. It’s going to limit us to 2% and what we can do,” she said.

She acknowledged the process.
Scott, Rashid earn P.E.O. scholarships

BY PCC STAFF
FORT MADISON — Two local scholars have been awarded scholarships from the local chapter of the P.E.O Sisterhood.

The group was formed in 1869 at Iowa Wesleyan College in Mt. Pleasant as an international philanthropic and educational organization, promoting educational opportunities for women.

Fort Madison High School senior LilliAnna Scott received a $400 Nancy Wagner Memorial Scholarship and Notre Dame High School senior Kassidy Rashid received the $2,500 P.E.O STAR Scholarship.

Scott is the daughter of Mary and Pat Scott and will be attending the University of Iowa where she plans to study business beginning this fall.

Rashid is the daughter of John and Kathy Rashid and plans to attend Creighton University where she plans to study biology this fall.

The scholarships are based on excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, academics and potential for future success.

The sisterhood has awarded more than $321 million on financial assistance to more than 105,000 individuals.

5K RUN - Continued from Page 1

at the finish line. Cars may be parked at the Fort Madison Middle School parking lot.

Sponsors for this year’s event include: Shottenkirk Automotive Group, Axalta, Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Lee County Bank, Randolph Dental, Fraise Auction & Real Estate (Carla McEntee), FMCH, MidWestOne Bank, Holtkamp Floor’s Decor & Furniture, Hope Associates Real Estate, Scott’s Miracle Grow, Sub Arena, Fareway, and Hy-Vee.

FMHS color run Thursday night at FMMS

Scott, Rashid earn P.E.O. scholarships

Scott is the daughter of Mary and Pat Scott and will be attending the University of Iowa where she plans to study business beginning this fall.

Rashid is the daughter of John and Kathy Rashid and plans to attend Creighton University where she plans to study biology this fall.

The scholarships are based on excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, academics and potential for future success.

The sisterhood has awarded more than $321 million on financial assistance to more than 105,000 individuals.

5K RUN - Continued from Page 1

at the finish line. Cars may be parked at the Fort Madison Middle School parking lot.

Sponsors for this year’s event include: Shottenkirk Automotive Group, Axalta, Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Lee County Bank, Randolph Dental, Fraise Auction & Real Estate (Carla McEntee), FMCH, MidWestOne Bank, Holtkamp Floor’s Decor & Furniture, Hope Associates Real Estate, Scott’s Miracle Grow, Sub Arena, Fareway, and Hy-Vee.

FMHS color run Thursday night at FMMS

Scott, Rashid earn P.E.O. scholarships

Scott is the daughter of Mary and Pat Scott and will be attending the University of Iowa where she plans to study business beginning this fall.

Rashid is the daughter of John and Kathy Rashid and plans to attend Creighton University where she plans to study biology this fall.

The scholarships are based on excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, academics and potential for future success.

The sisterhood has awarded more than $321 million on financial assistance to more than 105,000 individuals.

5K RUN - Continued from Page 1

at the finish line. Cars may be parked at the Fort Madison Middle School parking lot.

Sponsors for this year’s event include: Shottenkirk Automotive Group, Axalta, Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Lee County Bank, Randolph Dental, Fraise Auction & Real Estate (Carla McEntee), FMCH, MidWestOne Bank, Holtkamp Floor’s Decor & Furniture, Hope Associates Real Estate, Scott’s Miracle Grow, Sub Arena, Fareway, and Hy-Vee.

FMHS color run Thursday night at FMMS

Scott, Rashid earn P.E.O. scholarships

Scott is the daughter of Mary and Pat Scott and will be attending the University of Iowa where she plans to study business beginning this fall.

Rashid is the daughter of John and Kathy Rashid and plans to attend Creighton University where she plans to study biology this fall.

The scholarships are based on excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, academics and potential for future success.

The sisterhood has awarded more than $321 million on financial assistance to more than 105,000 individuals.

5K RUN - Continued from Page 1

at the finish line. Cars may be parked at the Fort Madison Middle School parking lot.

Sponsors for this year’s event include: Shottenkirk Automotive Group, Axalta, Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Lee County Bank, Randolph Dental, Fraise Auction & Real Estate (Carla McEntee), FMCH, MidWestOne Bank, Holtkamp Floor’s Decor & Furniture, Hope Associates Real Estate, Scott’s Miracle Grow, Sub Arena, Fareway, and Hy-Vee.

FMHS color run Thursday night at FMMS

Scott, Rashid earn P.E.O. scholarships

Scott is the daughter of Mary and Pat Scott and will be attending the University of Iowa where she plans to study business beginning this fall.

Rashid is the daughter of John and Kathy Rashid and plans to attend Creighton University where she plans to study biology this fall.

The scholarships are based on excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, academics and potential for future success.

The sisterhood has awarded more than $321 million on financial assistance to more than 105,000 individuals.

5K RUN - Continued from Page 1

at the finish line. Cars may be parked at the Fort Madison Middle School parking lot.

Sponsors for this year’s event include: Shottenkirk Automotive Group, Axalta, Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Lee County Bank, Randolph Dental, Fraise Auction & Real Estate (Carla McEntee), FMCH, MidWestOne Bank, Holtkamp Floor’s Decor & Furniture, Hope Associates Real Estate, Scott’s Miracle Grow, Sub Arena, Fareway, and Hy-Vee.

FMHS color run Thursday night at FMMS

Scott, Rashid earn P.E.O. scholarships

Scott is the daughter of Mary and Pat Scott and will be attending the University of Iowa where she plans to study business beginning this fall.

Rashid is the daughter of John and Kathy Rashid and plans to attend Creighton University where she plans to study biology this fall.

The scholarships are based on excellence in leadership, extracurricular activities, community service, academics and potential for future success.

The sisterhood has awarded more than $321 million on financial assistance to more than 105,000 individuals.

5K RUN - Continued from Page 1

at the finish line. Cars may be parked at the Fort Madison Middle School parking lot.

Sponsors for this year’s event include: Shottenkirk Automotive Group, Axalta, Pilot Grove Savings Bank, Lee County Bank, Randolph Dental, Fraise Auction & Real Estate (Carla McEntee), FMCH, MidWestOne Bank, Holtkamp Floor’s Decor & Furniture, Hope Associates Real Estate, Scott’s Miracle Grow, Sub Arena, Fareway, and Hy-Vee.
has an out, but she said when supervisors are up for election, it could become an issue.

“When you have three supervisors that are up for election, do you think they’ll be quick to vote for increased spending. If they don’t approve it, now your looking at spending cuts.”

Varley said the state doesn’t seem to be considering that personnel costs alone increase more than 2% over year, that means cuts have to be made on the back of the rest of the budgets if the council doesn’t approve the relief.

“It’s going to be difficult for us to cap at 2%. Our personnel costs go up 3 to 5% every year including health care and benefits,” he said.

“That means if you want to stay within that you have to cut or layoff. When 70-80% of your budget is personnel, you have to balance that on the 20-30% of the rest of the budget like supplies and equipment.”

Varley agreed that you can get around the cap with an extra majority vote of the council, but he said they aren’t always willing to do that. And since the bill requires a 2/3 majority, that means Fort Madison would require 5 of 7 councilmembers to approve the resolution.

“You can get around it, but it’s an added hurdle. Council is sometimes hesitant to do things. I don’t understand the thinking when they know that with health care salaries going over 2% how that even makes sense,” he said.

“This is taking away from local control. Instead of cities running cities, they are trying to run cities for us. This is Des Moines trying to run all the cities of the state. That’s the bigger issue. The bill also requires cities and counties to certify their budgets by March 31. State employees have said the bill is backdoor attempt to manipulate the state’s Iowa Public Employees Retirement System, or IPERS. State Rep. Jeff Kurtz (D-Fort Madison) said the bill throws IPERS funds and 411 funds, which are the police and fire department retirement funds, into the general fund that is now facing a 2% soft cap.

“That’s never happened before with a cap,” Kurtz said. “An amendment to take those two entities out of that bill was submitted by Monica Kurtz of Des Moines, and the Republicans defeated it. The bill was much worse in it’s original form, but that 2% softcap that can only violated with a super majority.”

Varley, who oversees the Fort Madison city budget, including all IPERS contributions, said he didn’t see the bill having an impact on the current IPERS structure.
We have a great selection. As life changes, so do your
needs. Let State Farm Bank help with a mortgage that fits
your life and your budget. Let us help you make the right move.
Our Rockford, IL, mortgage bank. Call a Good Neighbor.
CARE FOR TODAY. MORE INFORMATION.

State Farm Bank

Your dog deserves
to be pampered

While your dog is enjoying their spa day in our grooming area, shop our healthy selection of dog foods & treats, collars & leashes, super fun toys,
and other unique items and gifts you won’t find anywhere else!

This little piggy went to market
— AND NEVER LOST MONEY! —

Banking on the market to fund your retirement can be
risky. I can help you lock in solid gains and protect
yourself from downside risk. Call me today.

MAY POTHOLE SPECIAL
$159.95 SAVE $60
• Computerized Alignment
• Suspension Inspection
• Wheel Balance • Tire Rotation
• Brake Inspection

319-372-2478 • 535 Ave G • Ft Madison
www.griffinmuffler.com

The average person is on their device 3+ hours per day.

Reach your customers wherever they are with digital ads.

Call Brian today! (319)470.9151
NOTICE OF JOB OPENING
Victim Witness Coordinator
Lee County Attorney’s Office
Keokuk and Fort Madison

Lee County Attorney’s Office has an opening for a Victim Witness Coordinator position (40 hours per week) with a start date of July 1, 2019.

The Victim/Witness Coordinator position is responsible for managing, coordinating, monitoring, and providing case assistance for juvenile and criminal cases within the County Attorney’s Office. The Victim Witness Coordinator will establish communications with victims and witnesses and/or their advocates, notify victims of their rights, keep victims and witnesses informed of the status of files/cases, provide victims and witnesses with information, locate witnesses required for effective prosecution, and assist with case management.

The position’s successful applicant is preferred (but not required) to have the following:

1. Completion of some college level degree or in criminal justice, behavioral sciences, or related fields or any equivalent combination of training and experience.
2. Knowledge of legal terminology, legal format, and legal forms.
3. Knowledge of modern office practices, procedures, and equipment.
5. Knowledge of Iowa Courts Online.
6. Ability to prepare accurate and timely documents, correspondence, and reports, including documentation and data for grant funding.
7. Ability to learn and/or operate the County Attorney’s Office computer programs.
8. Ability to work in a fast-paced environment.
9. Ability to multi-task.
10. Must be a self-starter and motivator.
11. Ability to communicate with the public and act as a liaison for the victim to attorney staff in order to facilitate the communication of the victim as the case progresses.
12. Ability to provide emotional and educational support to victims and witnesses of crimes.
13. Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with supervisors, attorneys, co-workers, and the public, as well as law enforcement personnel and Clerk of Court.
14. Ability to maintain a large case load.
15. Must be able to travel all over the County.

Please send resume to Ross Braden, Lee County Attorney
25 N. 7th St., PO Box 824, Keokuk, IA 52632
or e-mail rbraden@lee-county.org
by May 28, 2019.

For more information about duties email request to rbraden@lee-county.org

The position is a grant-funded position with a salary of $30,000 annually plus benefits.

EEO
Big innings continued to be the theme for Fort Madison, as the Bloodhounds started the game with a seven-run first inning despite collecting just two singles. The rest of the base runners reached on walks and errors.

Fort Madison extended the lead to 8-0 in the top of the second on a Nate Johnson single, before West Burlington responded with three runs in the bottom of the second, trimming the lead to 8-3.

Only two more runs were scored over the final five innings.

Johnson led the way for the Bloodhounds, knocking in two RBIs, while Lakesides Williams and Reed Fekseke each collected two walks. Jason Thurman had the best day at the plate overall for Fort Madison, going 3 for 5 with a run scored. Brandon Reichelt picked up the win, coming on in relief for Jason Thurman. Thurman threw 5 1/3 innings, giving up 10 hits and two earned runs while striking out three. Reichelt allowed one hit and no earned runs over his 1 2/3 innings striking out one batter.

The Hounds are 2-1 on the year with one win qualifying but pending completion in a six-inning affair with Burlington that was called due to rain. They host Washington in twinbill on Friday at 5:30 p.m.

Through three games junior Jace Burgher is leading the Bloodhounds at the plate hitting .333 with a homer and leads FM with 5 RBI.

Kylee Cashman grounded into a double play following the strikeout, but not before Golowach crossed the plate to bring in Johnson for a 6-3 lead.

The Bloodhounds added to their lead in the top of the seventh inning. Golowach walked to start the inning, before Geerdes singled to move Golowach over to third with no outs. Bass struck out for the first out the next at bat, but Neely Rehm (who came into run for Geerdes) was able to steal second base during the same at bat.

Kylee Cashman grounded into a double play following the strikeout, but not before Golowach crossed the plate to bring in Johnson for a 6-3 lead.

Despite being down four runs with just one inning left to play, West Burlington was far from done. The Falcons started the home half of the seventh with back-to-back singles before the Hounds recorded the first out of the inning on a pop out. With two runners on base, the Falcons delivered with a home run over the left field fence to bring them back within one run of the lead.

Fort Madison was able to put an end to the threat, collecting another pop out followed by a groundout to shortstop. The rest of the base runners reached on walks, striking out five batters, allowing seven hits and giving up five earned runs.

Fort Madison’s next game is scheduled for Friday against Washington at home.

### Burlington Youth Triathlon

**Sunday, June 23, 2019**

**Sam Race Start • Dankward Park Pool**

Register as an individual or a team!

**Distances based on age group**

- **Age 7-8**
  - Swim 50 yd.
  - Bike 1.7 mi.
  - Run 1/4 mi.

- **Age 9-11**
  - Swim 100 yd.
  - Bike 3.3 mi.
  - Run 1/2 mi.

- **Age 12-14**
  - Swim 200 yd.
  - Bike 4.9 mi.
  - Run 1 mi.

**Click this ad to register online!**

---

### 5-Day Weather Forecast

**FRI 24 May**

- **Light Rain**
  - High 80.0º F | Low 72.3º F

**SAT 25 May**

- **Heavy Intensity Rain**
  - High 79.8º F | Low 70.7º F

**SUN 26 May**

- **Moderate Rain**
  - High 72.3º F | Low 65.6º F

**MON 27 May**

- **Heavy Intensity Rain**
  - High 71.7º F | Low 70.1º F

**TUE 28 May**

- **Heavy Intensity Rain**
  - High 80.0º F | Low 71.2º F

---

### LEARN. GROW. THRIVE.

FREE 4-Year Old Pre-School 2019-2020 Enrollment Open

Call or click for details!

---

### Burlington Youth Triathlon

**Online registration at www.getmeregistered.com**

More race info at www.facebook.com/BurlingtonYouthTriathlon