

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021**

At 9:03 a.m. Chairperson Jack Seward Jr. called to order in regular session a meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors which took place in the Washington County Courthouse. Items on the agenda included the following: approval of agenda; public comment related to agenda items; appointment of 2021 Board of Supervisors Chairperson; appointment of 2021 Board of Supervisors Vice-Chairperson; Workplace Learning Connection report and FY22 funding request; Washington County Recycling update; election to fill unexpired District 3 term ending December 31, 2022 on the Washington County Board of Supervisors; appointment of Bill Nickel to five-year term beginning January 1, 2021 on the Washington County Conservation Board; appointment of various commission, board, and committee members; acknowledgement of donations to K-9 fund; personnel change request – County Attorney; personnel change request – Auditor; proposed improvements to county-owned farm ground; application for renewal of Class C Native Wine Liquor License from Wooden Wheel Vineyards, LLC, Keota, IA; COVID-19 update; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Richard Young, Bob Yoder, Stan Stoops, and Abe Miller were also present.

Others attending were: Marissa Reisen, Emergency Management Coordinator; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director, Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA Waste Management; and Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant. Various other individuals listened and/or watched remotely by way of electronic means.

All motions were passed unanimously by those Supervisors in attendance unless noted otherwise.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve the agenda after the agenda item “COVID-19 update” was moved to an earlier point on the agenda.

There was no public comment.

Miller moved to nominate Young for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors for calendar year 2021 and Yoder seconded the motion. There was no discussion and hearing no other nominations the Board voted to appoint Young as Board of Supervisors Chairperson for calendar year 2010. The vote on the motion was as follows: Aye-Stoops, Miller, Seward, Yoder; Abstain-Young.

Young assumed the duties of Chairperson.

Miller moved to nominate Yoder for the position of Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors for calendar year 2021 and Stoops seconded the motion. There was no discussion and hearing no other nominations the Board voted to appoint Yoder as Board of Supervisors Vice-Chairperson for calendar year 2021. The motion passed as follows: Aye-Stoops, Miller, Seward, Young; Abstain-Yoder.

Washington County Public Health Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski shared that in Washington County as of 8:45 a.m. on January 4, 2021, a total of 9,658 tests had been conducted to detect for COVID-19 with such tests yielding 1,907 positive results. Positive results in the last seven days have totaled 67 while the total for the last 14 days is 148. Meanwhile, a total of 1,346 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 according to Pettit-Majewski. A total of 472 serology tests have been conducted in Washington County with such tests yielding 59 reactive cases. The Return to Learn percent positivity rate for Johnson County and Jefferson County is 10.9% and 13.5% respectively while the Washington County rate is 13.5%. A total of 28 deaths in Washington County have been attributed to COVID-19 while statewide the total is 3,946. At the present time a total of seven individuals in Washington County are hospitalized while statewide the total is 571. The Board took no formal action.

Workplace Learning Connection (WLC) Director Laurie Worden provided background information about WLC and explained that WLC, working in partnership with Kirkwood Community College and Grant Wood Area Education, serves as an intermediary between all school districts and all employers in a six county area which includes Washington County. According to Worden the mission and purpose of WLC is to better prepare students to make informed education and career decisions, to support students and educators as they navigate from awareness to exploration to high quality work-based learning, to provide communication and coordination in order to build and sustain relationships, to provide a one-stop contact point, to develop work-based capacity with employers, and finally to provide core service programming. She explained that her objective is to provide classroom speakers, workplace tours, job shadows, and unpaid internships for students as well as staff development for teachers. She distributed a report showing a total of 1,216 student career exploration experiences in FY20 for Washington County which consisted of 1,041 event participants, 51 internship participants, and 124 job shadow participants. For FY22 Worden asked the Board for funding assistance in the amount of \$2,225.00 (\$.10 per capita) which is unchanged from the amount of county funding assistance for the current fiscal year. Worden commented that WLC’s diverse funding model depends on each of its partners supporting its work proportionately so that entities both large and small contribute at the same level in order that the financial burden does not fall on any one group of stakeholders but is shared throughout the system. In summary, Worden stated that WLC is a tool for career development, future workforce development, and economic development as well as serving as a model for other similar such organizations across the state. The Board took no formal action.

The Board reviewed a report prepared by Lynn Whaley of WEMIGA Waste Systems detailing activity at the Washington County Recycling Center for calendar year 2020. During the year WEMIGA processed a total of 911.51 landfill tons, 59.83 tons of paper, 35.13 tons of plastic, 78.94 tons of cardboard, 73.73 tons of tin and aluminum, 247.63 recyclable tons, 199 appliances, 191 televisions and other electronic devices, 137 tires, and 89 gallons of used oil. Another report that was provided showed monthly landfill tons for the calendar years of 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020. Total landfill tons for 2020 were 911.51 which compared to 895.72 in 2019 and 882.59 in 2018. Total recycling tons for 2020 were 247.63 which compared to 288.02 in 2019 and 379.91 in 2018. On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge the monthly report for the Washington County Recycling Center provided by Lynn Whaley of WEMIGA Waste Systems. Both reports are available for review in the Auditor's office.

With regard to filling the upcoming vacancy on the Board of Supervisors caused by the resignation of Miller, Auditor Dan Widmer shared that per Iowa Code a meeting of the Recorder, Treasurer, and Auditor had taken place and that the three individuals voted to hold an election in order to fill the vacancy. He added while more information would be coming in the near future such an election would take place no earlier than March 2, 2021.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to appoint Bill Nickel to a five-year term ending December 31, 2025, on the Washington County Conservation Board.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to appoint Yoder to a one-year term ending December 31, 2021, as the Washington County representative on the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Correction Board and to appoint Stoops to a one-year term ending December 31, 2021 as the alternate Washington County representative on the 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Correction Board. The vote on the motion was as follows: Aye-Stoops, Miller, Seward, Young; Abstain-Yoder.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Ann C. Williams to a six-year term, ending December 31, 2026, on the Judicial Magistrate Appointing Commission.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to appoint Dr. Paul Towner to a two-year term, ending December 31, 2023, as Washington County Medical Examiner.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to appoint Joan Sieren, Daniel Stigers, and Marion Hayes to separate two-year terms, ending December 31, 2022, as Washington County Medical Examiner Investigators.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Larry Love to a three-year term, ending December 31, 2023, on the Crawford Township Benefitted Fire District.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to appoint Jeremy Peck and Michael Huston to separate five-year terms ending December 31, 2025, on the City of Wellman Board of Adjustment.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to acknowledge K-9 Fund donations of \$130.00 from Issak Kleese, Washington, and \$50.00 from Donna Proudfit, Washington.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign on behalf of the Board, a personnel change request for County Attorney John Gish whose rate of pay will change from \$0.00 bi-weekly to \$4,670.50 bi-weekly on January 4, 2021. Gish recently returned from an overseas military deployment.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign on behalf of the Board, a personnel change request from the County Auditor for Deb Seale whose last day of employment occurred December 31, 2020.

Stoops recommended completion of a project that would improve drainage on real estate owned by Washington County and located along the Kewash Nature Trail. The project would involve clearing of timber and brush which would significantly decrease the chance of existing field tile becoming plugged by tree roots. The cost of the project would be approximately \$1,000.00 and Stoops remarked from discussions with staff at the Washington County Extension office he learned there may be some funding assistance available since the project does not involve terracing or tiling. While no formal action was taken Stoops stated that he will continue to take steps to complete the project.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve an application for renewal of a Class C Native Wine (WCN) Liquor License from Wooden Wheel Vineyards, LLC, Keota, Iowa, for the period of February 15, 2021 to February 14, 2022. Sheriff Jared Schneider expressed no issues with the application.

There was no comment from County Department Heads.

At 10:16 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:  
January 4, 2021

RICHARD L. YOUNG  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER

County Auditor