

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2026

At 9:00 a.m., Chairperson Jack Seward, Jr. called to order in regular session a meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors which took place at Orchard Hill. Items on the agenda included the following: Pledge of Allegiance, approval of agenda, public comment related to agenda items, Washington Economic Development Group (WEDG) report and FY27 funding report, Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) report and FY funding report, General Assistance report and FY27 funding request, Washington County Fairgrounds report and FY27 funding request, personnel change request – Ambulance Services, personnel change requests – Sheriff's Office, approval of employment agreement between Blake Honeycutt and Washington County, Treasurer's semi-annual report, Recorder's quarterly report, Auditor's quarterly report, designating of Board of Supervisor chairperson as Washington County Title VI Administrative Head, Discussion and appointment of members to the Courthouse and Public Building Security Committee, Department Head comment, adjourn.

Supervisors Marcus Fedler, Bob Yoder, and Richard Young were also present. Stan Stoops was absent.

Other individuals in attendance included Mary Audia with Washington Economic Development Group (WEDG), RenElla Crawford and Matt Majeski with Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP), Nick Shelman and Jared Waters with Washington County Fairgrounds, County Attorney Nathan Repp, County Treasurer Jeff Garrett, County Recorder Teresa Mangold, Sheriff Jared Schneider, Chief Deputy Sheriff Chad Ellis, Ambulance Director Jordan Wright, EMA Coordinator Nathan Schmuecker, and Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant Amber Williams. Various other individuals listened and/or watched remotely via Zoom.

Yoder led the individuals assembled in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

All motions were passed unanimously unless noted otherwise.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment.

On behalf of Washington Economic Development Group (WEDG), Executive Director Mary Audia provided a report of various projects that WEDG was involved with during FY26. Those projects included work with business retention and expansions, housing, childcare, and community support in many programs. WEDG has been active in the creation of a solar installation near Ainsworth among many other new developments and will be partnering with Habitat for Humanity. Audia requested \$23,000.00 in funding assistance from Washington County for FY27 which is the same as FY26. The Board took no formal action. The complete WEDG report is available for review in the Auditor's office.

On behalf of Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP), Director RenElla Crawford and Chief Executive Officer Matt Majeski addressed the Board and described some of the various programs in Washington County that HACAP provides which include local housing assistance, emergency social services, Head Start early childhood education, and energy assistance. Majeski and Crawford provided the Board with a variety of statistics that demonstrated the scope and effectiveness of HACAP efforts. Before concluding their remarks Crawford and Majeski requested financial support from the county in the amount of \$140,000.00 for FY27 in order to maintain HACAP's Washington County base of operations. This amount is an increase to the annual amount of funding assistance provided by Washington County for the past several fiscal years. The Board took no formal action. The HACAP report is available in the Auditor's office.

General Assistance did not present to the Board at this time and will be at a later date.

On behalf of the Washington County Fair Association (WCFA), Nick Shelman and Jared Waters provided a WCFA 2025 Year-in-Review report and funding request for FY27. Dallmeyer stated Washington County's 4-H enrollment is in the top five in Iowa, currently ranking third. In 2025, the

Fairgrounds hosted 270 events. Receipts for 2025 included fair income of \$287,675.00, non-fair income of \$118,558.00, county funding of \$41,000.00, grants of \$250.00, and state funding of \$10,323.00 for a total of \$457,806.00. Total fair expenses for the 2025 edition of the fair were \$544,016.00. Total attendance at the 2025 Fair was estimated at 19,000. Capital plans included building a new handicapped accessible restroom. There was no change in the amount of county funding requested from the current fiscal year which is \$24,000.00 for the fairgrounds and \$17,000.00 for 4-H support. The Board took no formal action. The complete report is available for review in the Auditor's office.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Ambulance Services for EMT Kasey Chown, effective January 13, 2026. Chown is now a Level 2 EMT at the rate of \$26.70 hourly from Level 1 at \$26.18 hourly.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Sheriff's Office for the termination of Jailer Victor Rico effective January 7, 2026.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Sheriff's Office for the termination of Jailer Haley Byrge effective January 13, 2026.

Chief Deputy Sheriff Chad Ellis provided information regarding an Employment Agreement between Washington County and Blake Honeycutt regarding training as Deputy Sheriff. This agreement states the estimated training expenses associated with the Iowa Law Enforcement Academy and the responsibility of the employee to complete said training. On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board acknowledged, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, the Employment Agreement with Blake Honeycutt.

Treasurer Jeff Garrett presented the Board with the Semi-Annual Statement of Accounts by Funds for the period of July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. Garrett also provided an apportioning summary which listed a total of \$30,458,092.10 in taxes apportioned as follows: \$12,750,965.90 (41.86%) to schools, \$9,881,211.77 (32.44%) to Washington County, \$5,081,968.62 (16.69%) to Cities, \$1,288,174.70 (4.23%) to Community Colleges, and \$1,455,771.11 (4.78%) to hospitals, townships, Agricultural Extension, Crawford Fire District, and Brucellosis/TB Eradication. The report also displayed a breakdown of the \$17,788,406.45 ending Treasurer's balance along with a summary of revenues and expenditures. On motion by Young, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the Semi-Annual Treasurer's Statement of Accounts by Funds for the period of July 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Treasurer.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, the Recorder's report for the fourth quarter of calendar year 2025. The report, presented by County Recorder Teresa Mangold, reflected revenues for the quarter in the amount of \$162,259.73 with the county retaining \$56,296.59. A total of 1240 documents were recorded during the quarter and Mangold added that her office processed 22 marriage applications, 120 passport applications, 146 passport photographs, and 761 boat, ATV and snowmobile renewals/registrations. Also, during the quarter, a total of 468 certified copies of birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage licenses were provided to various individuals. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Recorder.

Auditor Tammy Stewart presented the Board with the County Auditor's Report of Fees Collected for the quarter ending December 2025. Stewart reported the office collected a total of \$2,148.59, including \$2,085.00 in transfer fees and \$63.59 in miscellaneous fees for permits and copies. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, the Title VI Non-Discrimination Agreement and Assurances as the Washington County Title VI Administrative Head.

After much discussion, on motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board appointed the following individuals, or their designees, to the Courthouse and Public Building Security Committee:

Board of Supervisors – Richard Young
Chief Judge – Shawn Showers
Emergency Management Agency – Nathan Schmuecker
Sheriff – Jared Schneider
City Police Chief – Jim Lester
County Attorney – Nathan Repp
Clerk of Court – Mandy Schilb
Juvenile Court Services – Karen Dennler
District Court Administrator – Jennifer Runyon
County IT – Kyle Evans
County Engineer – Jacob Thorius
Outreach Director – Joe Williams
County Auditor – Tamera Stewart

There was no Department Head Comment.

At 10:05 a.m. on motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:


TAMERA S. STEWART
Washington County Auditor


JACK SEWARD, JR., CHAIRPERSON
Washington County Board of Supervisors