

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING TUESDAY,
JANUARY 20, 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 County Library Association report and FY27 funding request, East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) report and FY27 funding request, East Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund (ECIHTF) report and FY27 funding request, Community and Family resources FY27 funding request, personnel change request – Ambulance Services, appointment of Deputy to the Sheriff's Office, quarterly report – Sheriff's Office, acknowledgement of Riverboat Foundation Grant for Washington County K-9 project, quarterly report – Veterans Affairs, appointment of county representative to the Wellman Board of Adjustment, resignation and appointment of Jackson Township Trustee, review and approval of substantial completion document for Orchard Hill, review and approval of substantial completion document for Courthouse, review and approval of lease between Washington County and Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP), Department Head comment, adjourn.

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

Other individuals in attendance included Olivia Kahler, Cary Ann Seigfried, and Carrie Geno with Washington County Library Association, Karen Kurt with ECICOG, Deanna Robinson with ECIHTF, County Attorney Nathan Repp, Veterans Affairs Director Carrie Rich, Ambulance Director Jordan Wright, Civil Sheriff Deputy Bill Fiordelise, and citizens Owen Piette, Regina Schantz, and Alison Greiner. Various other individuals listened and/or watched remotely via Zoom.

Young 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.

Citizens Owen Piette and Regina Schantz spoke during public comment in support of the county fully funding the library request for FY27. Piette and Schantz praised the library for their services available to rural Washington County residents as well as city population.

Olivia Kahler with the Kalona Library, Cary Ann Siegfried with the Washington Public Library, and Carrie Geno with the Wellman Public Library provided the Board with a summary of the activities and programs conducted at each of their libraries that together comprise the Washington County Public Library Association (WCPLA). During FY26 the WCPLA circulated 29,784 physical materials to rural patrons with 2,076 library cards. There has been an increase in the number of users for all of Washington County's libraries this past year. For FY27 the group requested funding in the amount of \$156,750.00, as was received for FY26. The Board took no formal action. The complete report is available in the Auditor's office.

Karen Kurt with East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) presented information regarding the accomplishments of 2025, including facilitating the comprehensive planning process in Riverside, emergency repair assistance to three households, housing and transportation assistance, as well as grant administration totaling over \$4,300,000.00 in investment return. ECICOG is comprised of Benton, Iowa, Johnson, Jones, Linn and Washington Counties. Washington County's contribution to ECICOG for FY27 will be \$16,433.00, which is a 2% increase from FY26 amount of \$16,111.00. The Board took no formal action. The complete report is available in the Auditor's office.

East Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund (ECIHTF) Director, Deanna Robinson, presented statistics for FY25. The organization paid out \$23,022.00 in housing assistance and is partnered with ECICOG to provide assistance for lead abatement through the HUD Lead Hazard Reduction Grant.

In 2026, ECIHTF plans to partner with Washington Economic Development Group to provide community housing initiatives. The funding request for FY27 of \$5,282.00 remains consistent with last year. No formal action was taken. The full report is available at the Auditor's office.

Chairperson Seward presented information from Community and Family Resources, an organization that provides support for county residents without a funding source who need medically monitored intensive inpatient treatment for substance abuse disorders, commonly referred to as "detox". Yearly funding of \$3,850.00 is requested to assist those as necessary. This request shows no increase from FY26. There was no formal action taken.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Ambulance Services for Nicole Stout, for a change in pay rate from \$29.82 hourly as a Level 4 EMT to \$33.76 hourly as a Level 4 EMT/Billing Coder, effective January 20, 2026.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Young, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a Certificate of Appointment for Blake Honeycutt as Deputy Sheriff, effective January 12, 2026, for a 3-year period.

On motion by Young, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the Washington County Sheriff's Office Quarterly Cash Report for the second quarter of FY26. The report, presented by Civil Sheriff Deputy Bill Fiordelise, included a beginning balance of \$30,795.45, total receipts including unallocated funds in the amount of \$72,034.14, total disbursements of \$78,572.16, and an ending balance of \$24,257.43. Fiordelise stated that there was approximately \$3,500 more in revenue this quarter. He also noted that this report includes \$4,655.55 in direct payments made to the Treasurer by the State. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

The Board acknowledged a Riverboat Foundation Grant, in the amount of \$10,000.00, for Washington County's K-9 program.

On motion by Young, seconded by Yoder, the Board approved the quarterly report for Veterans Affairs. Director Carrie Rich presented information to the Board indicating a total of three approved assistance items, including one for rent, one for utilities, and one for provisions, resulting in \$624.40 of assistance given for the second quarter. While this quarter shows a decrease, the trend is moving back up with ten claims started for the third quarter. She reported a \$87,765.00 growth of federal funds resulting in approximately \$832,274.00 coming into the county for Veterans and their families. The full report is available at the Auditor's Office.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board appointed Mandi Miller as the County Representative to the Wellman Board of Adjustment. Supervisors Fedler and Yoder stated Miller would be a great addition to this board.

On motion by Young, seconded by Yoder, the Board acknowledged the resignation of Larry Applegate as Jackson Township Trustee after 42 years of service. The Board then appointed Tork Whisler as the Jackson Township Trustee on motion made by Fedler, seconded by Young.

Supervisor Fedler presented information regarding a Certificate of Substantial Completion from Carl A. Nelson for the Orchard Hill Buildings 2 and 3 remodel projects. The document shows substantial completion dates of July 10, 2025, for Building 2 and February 10, 2025, for Building 3, which is the effective dates of warranty. On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, the Certificate of Substantial Completion.

Supervisor Fedler also presented information regarding a Certificate of Substantial Completion from Carl A. Nelson for the Courthouse remodel project. The document shows substantial completion dates of October 1, 2025, which is the effective dates of warranty. On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, the Certificate of Substantial Completion.

On motion by Young, seconded by Fedler, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a lease between Washington County and Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP) for a 2-year period beginning January 1, 2025. This lease was backdated to accommodate the previous lease ending December 31, 2024. Discussion was had regarding future leases including a consistent escalation of fees.

During Department Head comment, Auditor Stewart informed the Board of the City of Washington Planning and Zoning Commission granting approval of completion of the maintenance building constructed north of the courthouse.

At 10:08 a.m. on motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:



TAMERA S. STEWART
Washington County Auditor



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