

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING TUESDAY,
JANUARY 27, 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, Wemiga Waste year-end report, PAWS and More report and FY27 funding allocation, Main Street Washington report and FY27 funding request, Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP) report and FY27 funding request, General Assistance report and FY27 funding request, approval of Washington County Bridge Inspection and Rating Program Agreement for Calendar Years 2026 & 2027, personnel change request – Sheriff's Office, quarterly report – Ambulance Services, discussion and approval of contract between Washington County Hospitals and Clinics and Washington County Ambulance, discussion and approval of Washington Community Ambulance Services handbook, personnel change request – Communications, personnel change requests – Public Health, Department Head comment, adjourn.

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

Other individuals in attendance included citizens Jeff Batterson and Chuck Clifton, Lynn Whaley with Wemiga Waste, Amber Talbot, Sara O'Donnell, and Elaine Moore with PAWS and More, Cara Sorrells as representative for PAWS and More and Washington County Dispatch, Samantha Meyer with Main Street Washington, Mollie McKibben and Allison Tippe with DVIP, General Assistance Director RenElla Crawford, Ambulance Director Jordan Wright, Public Health Director Jenifer Roberts, County Attorney Nathan Repp, County Engineer Jacob Thorius, Chief Deputy Sheriff Chad Ellis, Emergency Management Coordinator Nathan Schmuecker, and Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant Amber Williams. Various other individuals listened and/or watched remotely via Zoom.

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

All motions were passed unanimously unless noted otherwise.

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

There was no public comment.

Lynn Whaley of WEMIGA Waste, Inc. presented a report that detailed WEMIGA activities for the fourth quarter of 2025. To date, WEMIGA processed 841.57 landfill tons, 12.65 tons of glass, 22.96 tons of paper, 29.19 tons of plastic, 85.36 tons of cardboard, 77.25 tons of tin and aluminum, 227.41 tons of recyclable material, 208 appliances, 153 televisions and other electronic devices, 113 tires, 244 batteries, and 134 gallons of used oil. Members of the Board commended Whaley on his good work. The complete report is available for review in the Auditor's office.

PAWS and More Animal Shelter Director Amber Talbot and Board Chairperson Cara Sorrells shared various activities and accomplishments of the shelter as well as various challenges that were successfully met. According to Talbot during FY26 her organization took in 202 animals, including 152 cats and 50 dogs, which was 80 more animals than last year and over 300 animals went out to foster during the year. Talbot also provided an update on the progress being made regarding the construction of a new facility stating construction is still on schedule. For the coming fiscal year that begins July 1, 2026, the County will provide funding assistance in the amount of \$32,954.00 according to the terms of a 28E agreement between PAWS and More and Washington County. Such County financial support will be used to support basic operational costs of PAWS and More. The Board took no formal action.

Main Street Washington (MSW) Executive Director Samantha Meyer addressed the Board and shared that there has been incredible growth in the number of members. Since 2008 MSW has reported 55 business starts, 128 building projects, and a total of 25,682 volunteer hours. During the same period of time \$32,299,993 has been invested in building projects in Washington by private and public entities and \$100,000.00 in Downtown Investment Grants (DIG) have been

awarded. In closing Meyer requested funding from the County in the amount of \$6,834.00 for FY27. The Board took no formal action. The complete report is available in the Auditor's office.

Allison Tippe, Director of Community Engagement for the Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP), shared with the Board that the purpose of DVIP is to ensure immediate and lasting safety, empowerment, dignity, and hope for individuals impacted by domestic violence. According to Tippe, DVIP has served 120 individuals, and provided 1,241 hours of services to 793 victim-survivors of domestic violence in Washington County. DVIP experienced a 10% increase in victim-survivors served in Washington County during the year, largely due to the addition of sexual assault services to their programming. Tippe requested \$2,500 in funding support for FY27. The Board took no formal action.

RenElla Crawford presented the General Assistance report for the 2nd quarter of FY26. Crawford reported that two applications for funeral assistance were approved in the 2nd quarter, and two requests for funeral assistance were denied. Crawford also requested funding in the same amount as previous years of \$1,200.00. The Board took no formal action.

On motion by Young, seconded by Fedler, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a proposal for Washington County Bridge Inspection and Rating Program 2026 and 2027. County Engineer Thorius explained that this is a process that occurs approximately every two years, depending on need. In 2026, nine structures are to be inspected at a cost of \$4,500.00. For 2027 there are 127 structures needing inspected at a cost of \$32,650.00.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Rescue for the termination of Tammy Gingerich effective December 31, 2025.

Ambulance Director Jordan Wright presented the Ambulance Services quarterly report. Wright cited an average number of call volume in comparison to previous quarters. The Ground Emergency Medical Transport (GEMT) program match funding of approximately \$26,000.00 created gross revenues of \$74,266.35 with \$55,596.15 net. Wright stated there have been issues with GEMT billing creating a higher match funding than usual. On motion by Young, seconded by Yoder, the Board acknowledged the Ambulance Services quarterly report.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board approved an Ambulance Services Agreement with Washington County Hospitals and Clinics (WCHC) for ambulance transportation and services. Ambulance Director Wright stated this has been in the works for a while and an agreement has now been made that works for both parties. The services and fee schedule is based on Medicare allowable rates and WCHC reimbursement rates.

Wright then presented changes to the Washington County Ambulance Services Handbook. Many changes involved correcting grammatical and spelling errors as well as employee reimbursement for uniform costs. Overtime pay was amended to state all paid time including vacation, sick, bereavement, personal time, and compensatory time shall no longer count toward hours worked for purposes of computing overtime, unless otherwise stated in the handbook. On motion by Young, seconded by Fedler, the Board approved changes to the Washington County Ambulance Services Handbook.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Communications for the termination of Issak Kleese effective September 28, 2025.

On motion by Young, seconded by Fedler, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Public Health for the termination of Registered Nurse Shelby Hill effective January 7, 2026.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Public Health for the termination of Home Health Aide Bonnie Lins effective January 7, 2026.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Public Health for the change of status of Maxine Hervey as 32-hour full-time to 24-hour regular part-time support staff.

There was no department head comment.

At 10:00 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