

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 2022**

At 9:02 a.m. Chairperson Richard Young 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 approval of agenda; public comment related to agenda items; building feasibility study; WEMIGA recycling report; approval of Washington County Bridge Inspection and Rating Program Agreement for calendar years 2022 & 2023; personnel change request – Conservation; approval of FY23 law enforcement contracts with various cities in Washington County; appointments to various commissions, boards, and/or committees; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Bob Yoder, Marcus Fedler, and Stan Stoops were also present.

Other individuals in attendance included Sam McIntosh, KCII Radio; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Jared Schneider, County Sheriff; and Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA Waste Systems. Various other individuals listened and/or watched remotely by way of electronic means.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve the agenda.

There was no public comment.

The Board began discussing a feasibility study currently underway that will assist them in solving physical space needs for county staff. Auditor Dan Widmer began what ultimately evolved into a lengthy discussion by recapping progress made to date. He stated that at its October 19, 2021, meeting the Board approved a contract with Martin Gardner Architecture, P.C. (MGA) to conduct a study, which is nearly complete, as to the feasibility of remodeling Orchard Hill Building #3. Specifically, the study, at a cost of \$7,400.00, is focused on remodeling the south hallway of the building in order to provide space for Supervisor meetings as well as offices for the Supervisors. Widmer added that the study does not include any other areas or buildings. Fedler commented he understood the study was to include additional areas and/or buildings occupied by County staff. Stoops confirmed his understanding that at the present time the offices of the Assessor, Recorder, Treasurer, Auditor, GIS, and Public Health are being considered as candidates to move from their current locations to a location at Orchard Hill and also that Secondary Roads offices would be relocated from their present location in the McCreedy Building to the Secondary Roads Maintenance facility located at 821 East 7<sup>th</sup> Street in Washington. Such moves would eliminate monthly rent payments totaling approximately \$75,000.00 per year to Federation Bank and would enable the County to pursue the sale of other County-owned property that surrounds the Courthouse. Kyle Martin, with MGA, participated by telephone and requested guidance on how to proceed in the future and described the process for providing information for additional feasibility studies and what information would be needed. Young and Fedler voiced support for enlarging the scope of the feasibility study with Fedler stating that a recent department head meeting indicated overwhelming support for construction of a new building at the Orchard Hill complex. Martin was unable to provide a cost estimate for the expanded study. Seward questioned whether it would be prudent to proceed at the present time with remodeling just Orchard Hill Building #3 and moving the Supervisors to that location. Martin replied in the affirmative but also cautioned that doing so could create problems later on if not all information was available at the present time. Fedler warned that some expenses would likely be duplicated should the project be completed in multiple phases. Martin suggested that the County step back and look at the large picture instead of just looking at relocating the Supervisors and he added that COVID relief funds present a very unique dynamic for such a decision. Widmer stressed that all departments would need to move at the same time and not individually in order to continue to provide the high level of service expected by the public. Discussion continued with regard to a timeline for county officials to provide the necessary data that MGA will need in order to complete its feasibility study for all county buildings. On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to explore the opportunity from Martin Gardner and Associates to analyze all the space from department heads as described today so that the Board can come up with an idea as to the additional cost of having Martin Garner and Associates add that additional responsibility to the contract that is already in place.

Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA Waste Systems (WEMIGA), presented a report detailing their activities for calendar year 2021. During the year WEMIGA processed 919.34 landfill tons, 38.91 tons of paper, 34.32 tons of plastic, 69.39 tons of cardboard, 68.65 tons of tin and aluminum, 211.27 tons of recyclable material, 144 appliances, 143 televisions and other electronic devices, 161 tires, and 44 gallons of used oil. Whaley also provided a report detailing WEMIGA activity for each calendar year beginning with 2015 and ending with 2021. Whaley noted that the data indicated, among other things, that in general landfill tons are at their highest levels during the summer months and that overall annual recycling tonnage is decreasing. The Board took no formal action. The complete report is available for review in the Auditor's office.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius presented the Board with documents related to annual bridge inspections of various county bridges scheduled for calendar years 2022 and for 2023. Thorius stated that his department lacks the staffing and expertise to perform state-required inspections and thus he proposed using the firm of Calhoun-Burns and Associates, Inc., located in West Des Moines, to complete the inspections. He added that Washington County has relied on Calhoun-Burns and Associates, Inc. to perform such inspections for over 20 years and Calhoun-Burns and Associates, Inc. presently performs a majority of the required inspections for counties throughout Iowa. The bridges will be inspected for safety and useful life expectancy. Terms of the contract include a lump sum fee of \$3,000.00 for the inspection of 11 structures scheduled for completion in 2022 and a lump sum fee of \$27,400.00 for the inspection of 135 structures scheduled for completion in 2023.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Conservation for the hiring of Sherrie Hazen as a part-time non-exempt Center Coordinator Substitute at the rate of \$15.00 per hour effective February 4, 2022. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve a law enforcement contract with the City of Ainsworth at an annual cost of \$28,017.00 for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of Washington County.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve a law enforcement contract with the City of Brighton at an annual cost of \$37,316.00 for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of Washington County.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve a law enforcement contract with the City of Crawfordsville at an annual cost of \$13,635.00 for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of Washington County.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve a law enforcement contract with the City of Kalona at an annual cost of \$224,898.00 for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of Washington County.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve a law enforcement contract with the City of Riverside at an annual cost of \$144,128.00 for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of Washington County.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve a law enforcement contract with the City of Wellman at an annual cost of \$108,991.00 for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of Washington County.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve a law enforcement contract with the City of West Chester at an annual cost of \$9,335.00 for the period of July 1, 2022, through June 30, 2023, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of Washington County.

The Board made no appointments to various commissions, boards, and/or committees.

There was no department head comment.

Before the meeting was adjourned Young encouraged individuals to participate in the upcoming 2022 Iowa Caucuses which will take place on Monday, February 7, 2022, beginning at 7:00 p.m. Also, the Board determined to hold a work session on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, at 10 a.m. regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds.

At 10:01 a.m. on motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:  
FEBRUARY 1, 2022

RICHARD L. YOUNG  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor