

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021**

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 the following: approval of agenda; public comment related to agenda items; public hearing regarding proposed animal confinement feeding operation - B&K Bell Farms LLC, Keota, Section 8, Seventy Six Township; acknowledgment of animal confinement feeding operation - B&K Bell Farms LLC, Keota, Section 8, Seventy Six Township; acknowledgement of K-9 fund donations; discussion and action regarding proposed contract with Tree Town Consultants LLC, Forest City, Iowa, (Tree Town Kennels LLC) for the purchase and training of police dog; Washington County Fair Board Annual Report and FY22 funding request; discussion and action regarding approval of FY22 law enforcement contracts with various cities in Washington County; discussion and action regarding Resolution 21-02 and 28E Agreement both related to contracting of consultant services for the preparation and submittal of the 2021 BUILD grant application; COVID-19 update; discussion and action regarding proposed changes to Washington County Employee Information Handbook; designation of location for February 17, 2021, public hearing regarding proposed Ordinance 21-01 related to wind energy; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Bob Yoder, and Stan Stoops were also present.

Others attending were: Pat Curl, County Ambulance Service; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Jared Schneider, County Sheriff; Rachel Rinner, Knee Deep Solutions; Ryan Schlabaugh, Kalona City Administrator; John Wagner and Kurt Dallmeyer, Washington County Fair Board; Mary Audia, Washington Economic Development Group; and citizen Brandon Bell. 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 Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment related to agenda items.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to open a public hearing related to an application for a confinement feeding operation from B&K Bell Farms LLC, Keota, to be located in Section 8, Seventy Six Township. The completed project will add an additional 2,499 head of swine to the existing 7,398 head at the location and will include construction of a 51'2" x 405'4" confinement building with an 8' below-ground pit. There was no public comment. Auditor Daniel Widmer stated that notice of the public hearing had been published as required and added that his office had received no public comment prior to the hearing. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to close the public hearing.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge an animal confinement feeding operation for B&K Bell Farms LLC, Keota, located in Section 8, Seventy Six Township.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge a donation to the Washington County Sheriff's K-9 fund in the amount of \$75.00 from Ryan and Stephanie Schlabaugh as well as a \$2,500.00 donation from the City of Kalona.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve a contract with Tree Town Consultants LLC, Forest City, Iowa, (Tree Town Kennels LLC) for the purchase and training of a police dog at a price of \$10,500.00. Such training will include 200 hours of handler training for Deputy Nolan Burke as well as lifetime maintenance training and quarterly training for the first year.

On behalf of the Washington County Fair Association (WCFA), Fair Board officers John Wagner and Kurt Dallmeyer provided an annual WCFA update and funding request for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021. They stated COVID-19 produced many challenges related to the 2020 fair which resulted in a down-sized event with attendance limited to exhibitors and their parents. Also, livestock was not housed on site and there was no midway, food stands, grandstand events, etc. However, despite all of the challenges, the 2020 fair was deemed a success by Wagner and Dallmeyer. There were a total of 254 livestock exhibitors, 943 animal exhibits and 425 non-animal exhibits. Receipts for 2020 included fair income of \$24,931.00, non-fair income of \$180,103.00, county funding of \$41,000.00, grants of \$77,000.00, and state funding of \$10,159.00 for a total of \$333,172.00. In comparison, total receipts for the 2019 fair were \$400,731.00. Total fair expenses for 2020 equaled \$511,767.00 which included \$22,456.00 in general fair expenses, \$77,449.00 in non-fair expenses, and \$411,862.00 in capital improvements. Total fair expenses equaled \$412,347.00 in 2019. A major portion of the 2020 capital improvements expense was attributed to the completion of a new cattle barn. Due to the limited scope of the 2020 fair, attendance figures were not maintained. The Washington County 4-H program, for individuals in grades 4 through 12, is the 10<sup>th</sup> largest such program in the state with 381 members from 17 clubs. The Clover Kids program, for individuals in grades K through 3, is the 6<sup>th</sup> largest such program in the state with 190 members among 10 clubs. A total of 104 volunteers were involved with the 2020 Fair. Presently plans are in place to hold a full fair in 2021 complete with traditional attractions as well as some new attractions. Capital improvement plans for 2021 include replacement of the roof and poles on the sheep barn and electrical updates to the hog barn. Wagner and Dallmeyer shared that individuals that exhibit production swine at the 2021 Washington County Fair will no longer have the option of selling their pigs to Tyson Foods (Tyson) after the fair as fair officials have recently learned that due to international trade issues Tyson

will no longer purchase pigs from fair participants. The issue is due to the fact that much of the pork processed by Tyson is exported to China which has placed a commercial ban on the feed additive Ractopamine which promotes muscle growth in swine. Dallmeyer said that the Ractopamine ban has been in place for about a year and that most commercial swine operations have adjusted and become certified. However such certification is not practical for a 4-H swine exhibitor who markets only a small number of swine. County fair officials from across Iowa are working on a solution to the problem. Appreciation was expressed to the many volunteers who assist before, during, and after the fair. Wagner and Dallmeyer requested no change in the amount of county funding for FY22 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 Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve a law enforcement contract with the City of Ainsworth at an annual cost of \$24,364.00 for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of Washington County.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve a law enforcement contract with the City of Brighton at an annual cost of \$32,321.00 for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, 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 Crawfordsville at an annual cost of \$11,028.00 for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, 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 Kalona at an annual cost of \$196,541.00 for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, 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 \$131,640.00 for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of Washington County.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve a law enforcement contract with the City of Wellman at an annual cost of \$94,675.00 for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of Washington County.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve a law enforcement contract with the City of West Chester at an annual cost of \$8,172.00 for the period of July 1, 2021, through June 30, 2022, and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of Washington County.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius explained to the Board the U.S. Department of Transportation makes available, through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant program, federal grant funding for surface transportation infrastructure that provides significant local or regional impact. Thorius is working with the Iowa County Engineers Association Service Bureau (ISCEASB) who has identified eight proposed county projects across Iowa, including one in Washington County, as the best candidates for a total of \$25 million in BUILD grant funding assistance. Thorius stated that competition for the grant funding is very keen and thus the eight counties plan to enlist the assistance and share the approximate \$108,000 cost of a consultant who will prepare the grant application. If the grant application is successful Thorius plans to use the funding to offset costs of a project that would include reconstruction of a bridge located where Dogwood Avenue spans the Skunk River in Clay Township (McKains Access) as well as reconstruction of a portion of Dogwood Avenue connected to the bridge. The estimated total cost of the project is \$6.5 million with Thorius hoping for BUILD grant funding in the amount of 75% of the project cost. Thorius shared that while the entire project could be financed solely with local county funds he was reluctant to do so because it would result in no county funding being available for road projects for approximately five years into the future. In order to formalize the agreement between the eight counties and ICEASB, Thorius shared a proposed 28E Agreement for Board consideration. According to the terms of the agreement ICEASB would contract with HDR Engineering, Inc., Omaha, Nebraska, to develop and prepare the necessary grant application documents. Thorius added that the proposed 28E agreement had been reviewed by not only the Washington County Assistant Attorney but also by legal staff from the Iowa State Association of Counties. Stoops thanked Thorius for his efforts in pursuing a financing method for the project. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve a 28E Agreement between the Iowa County Engineers Association Service Bureau and the following eight county bridge owners: Buchanan, Cedar, Delaware, Hamilton, Jones, Monroe, Scott, and Washington for the contracting of consultant services for the preparation and submittal of the 2021 BUILD Grant application and also for the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 21-02 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 21-02 on behalf of the Board.

**28E AGREEMENT FOR CONTRACTING OF CONSULTANT SERVICES  
FOR THE PREPARATION AND SUBMITTAL OF THE 2021 BUILD GRANT APPLICATION**

**WHEREAS**, the US Department of Transportation typically makes available, through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grants program or BUILD funding, to qualifying transportation agencies for planning and capital investments in surface transportation infrastructure, such funds are awarded on a competitive basis for projects that will have a significant local or regional impact;

**WHEREAS**, the Iowa County Engineers Association Service Bureau (ICEASB) desires to enter into a 28E Agreement to select potential county bridge replacement candidates, make application for up to \$25 million in BUILD Grant funding, and to contract Consultant Services to assemble and submit a grant application for the purpose of acquiring said BUILD Grant funding; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors has determined it is in the County's best interest to sign the 28E Agreement with ICEASB related to the contracting of consultant services for the preparation and submittal of the 2021 BUILD Grant Application.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Supervisors of Washington County that Washington County desires to enter into the attached 28E Agreement; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Washington County Board of Supervisors hereby approves and adopts the 28E Agreement.

Public Health Director Danielle Pettit-Majewski shared that in Washington County as of as of 9:15 a.m. on February 2, 2021, a total of 10,559 tests had been conducted to detect for COVID-19 yielding 2,288 positive results. Positive results in the previous seven days totaled 42 while positive results in the previous 14 days totaled 95. Meanwhile, a total of 1,986 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 according to Pettit-Majewski. A total of 536 serology tests have been conducted in Washington County with such tests yielding 81 reactive cases. The Return to Learn percent positivity rate for Johnson County and Jefferson County is 7% and 6% respectively while the Washington County rate is 9%. A total of 39 deaths in Washington County have been attributed to COVID-19 while statewide the total is 4,906. Presently one individual in Washington County is hospitalized while statewide the total is 390. Long-term care outbreaks in the state total 390 which includes three in Washington County. The statewide number of vaccines administered is 256,096 which includes 1,947 in Washington County. Young stated representatives from three first responder groups in the county have contacted him inquiring when such staff would be receiving the COVID-19 vaccine since first responders, firefighters, and law enforcement personnel are included in Phase 1B. In response Pettit-Majewski explained that Washington County Public Health will hold its first public vaccination clinic for those 65 years and older on Saturday, February 6, 2021, at Wellman Parkside Activities Center located in Wellman. Such individuals are being prioritized due to the fact that they are more susceptible to serious health effects that may be caused by COVID-19. She added coordinating such a mass clinic is a significant amount of work and that Washington County Public Health wants to make certain there is enough vaccine available to justify the effort. WCPH has reached out to all first responder groups in Washington to request roster information in order to facilitate future point-of-distribution clinics for such groups when the vaccine becomes available. She emphasized that Phase 1B covers a larger population of Iowans than what the state is allocated for vaccines. The Board took no formal action.

After discussion the Board took the following action regarding changes to the Employee Handbook to take effect February 11, 2021. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to add "except Compensatory time" to page 11, Section 3.2, regarding "Overtime" of the Washington County Employee Information Handbook. As a result of the Board's action the new and complete wording in Section 3.2 shall be as follows: "All paid time, *except Compensatory time*, shall count toward hours worked for purposes of computing overtime, unless otherwise indicated in this handbook."

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to add "Employees should refer to specific departmental policy on this issue, if applicable" to page 12, section 4.1, re "Pay For Holidays Not Worked" of the Washington County Employee Information Handbook. As a result of the Board's action the following language will appear directly following Pay for Holidays Not Worked: "*Employees should refer to specific departmental policy on this issue, if applicable.*"

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to hold a public hearing regarding proposed Ordinance 21-01 related to wind energy on February 17, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. at the Washington County Conservation Center, Ainsworth.

There was no comment from department heads.

At 10:37 a.m. on motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:  
February 2, 2021

RICHARD L. YOUNG  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor