

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 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, Celebrate Recovery Brighton presentation and funding request, quarterly report – Outreach, personnel change request (amended) – Sheriff's Office, appointment of Melanie Bimson as Washington County representative to East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG), review and approval of RFP for Courthouse fire escape evaluation, Department Head comment, adjourn.

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

Other individuals in attendance included Brian Simmons, Anne and Rick Zickefoose, Mitchell Vine and Chuck Clifton with Celebrate Recovery, Melanie Bimson with Washington Economic Development Group (WEGD), County Attorney Nathan Repp, County Engineer Jacob Thorius, Chief Deputy Sheriff Chad Ellis, Outreach Director Joe Williams, Public Health Fiscal Administrator Peggy Wood, and citizen Mary Audia. Various other individuals listened and/or watched remotely via Zoom.

Seward 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.

Pastor and Co-Director Rick Zickafoose and Assistant Pastor and Washington Director Chuck Clifton, of Celebrate Recovery at Brighton, Iowa, provided information about the 12-step Christian recovery program for alcohol and substance abuse. The program assists 20-50 participants weekly at their Brighton Community Church location through lessons, testimonies, and group meals each Thursday, as well as providing recovery materials to Washington County inmates. Clifton stated they have a long-term success rate of 85% and there are groups starting all over southeast Iowa. Counselor Brian Simmons addressed the Board stating that research shows that faith-based recovery leads to increased spirituality and confidence, along with better sobriety outcomes. Anne Zickefoose also spoke, stating that they have a goal of breaking the cycle of abuse within families. Education and programs are also offered to children. Celebrate Recovery is requesting funding of \$500.00 per month from Washington County opioid settlement funds to add to the free-will donations the program currently operates on. The Board took no formal action.

The quarterly report for Outreach was presented by Director Joe Williams. In the second quarter of FY26 there was a total of 129 probationers. Williams also reported 21 successful discharges and no unsuccessful discharges, three Department of Correction transfers, three warrants, four pre-trial releases, and a total of \$2,550.00 in supervision fees. Statistics for the year, from March to December, include \$14,000.00 in supervision fees, 71 successful discharges with 18 unsuccessful, one transfer, and one reconviction. Currently 55% of probationers are on track to successfully complete probation. Outreach updates were reported to the Board and included collection of data for recidivism with Tac-10, the certification of Williams for DNA collection, and the beginning stages of use of the IGNITE jail program to provide education to inmates while incarcerated and potentially after release. On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board acknowledged the quarterly report for Outreach.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign an amended personnel change request from the Sheriff's Office for Deputy Blake Honeycutt, to correct the hourly rate from \$33.97 to \$33.94, effective January 12, 2026.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Melanie Bimson as the Washington County representative to the East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG). Bimson is the Executive Director of Washington Economic Development Group (WEDG) upon the resignation of Mary Audia. The Board gave thanks to Audia for her service to ECICOG and WEDG over the years.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius presented a proposal from VJ Engineering for evaluation of the fire escape at the Courthouse. VJ Engineering would perform the evaluation for a cost of \$4,000.00 to determine the current condition of the structure in March of 2026. The evaluation will be for the structure only and will possibly exclude full evaluation of the connection between the brackets supporting the fire escape and the wall of the existing building, as the anchors may not be fully visible. On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board approved the proposal and authorized Thorius or Auditor Tamera Stewart to execute necessary documents.

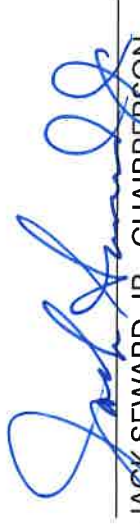
There was no Department Head comment.

At 9:53 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