

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

At 9:01 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 – Nathan Tinnes, Keota, Section 16, Seventy Six Township; Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) Award Presentation to Washington County; personnel change request – County Attorney; acknowledgment of proposed animal confinement feeding operation – Nathan Tinnes, Section 16, Seventy Six Township; Quarterly Report – Washington County Ambulance Service; COVID-19 update; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Bob Yoder, and Stan Stoops were also present.

Others attending were: Jeremy Peck, County Ambulance Service Director; John Gish, County Attorney; Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Coordinator; Rachel Rinner, Knee Deep Solutions; Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant; and citizens Marcus Fedler and Nathan Tinnes. 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 Yoder, seconded by Stoops, 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 confined feeding operation from Nathan Tinnes, Keota, Section 16, Seventy Six Township. The completed project will add an additional 2,599 head of swine to the existing 2,400 head capacity at the location and will include construction of a 51'2" x 418'1" swine confinement building with an 8' below-ground pit. There was no public comment from those gathered. 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 Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to close the public hearing.

The Board welcomed County Attorney John Gish who returned to his duties on Monday, February 5, 2021 after deploying on a U.S. Army Reserve tour of duty in the Middle East (Kuwait) in March of 2020. Gish, a major in the U.S. Army Reserve, presented "The Seven Seals Award" to Washington County with military veterans Stoops and Seward accepting the award on behalf of the County. Gish, who nominated Washington County for the award, stated he did so as a token of appreciation for the support that he and his family received during his most recent time of service. According to the group's website, "The Seven Seals Award" is presented in recognition of significant individual or organizational achievement, initiative, or support that promotes and supports the mission of the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) which is to promote cooperation and understanding between Service members and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from the employee's military commitment. Jim Freese, who is with the Iowa chapter of the ESGR, stated that employer support is key to the success of service members in the National Guard and Reserve. He also stated that the award is one of the highest awards authorized by the Department of Defense and that only a small number of organizations receive the award. The Board took no formal action.

On motion Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Washington County Attorney for Assistant County Attorney Anthony Janney whose employment classification will change from full-time exempt to on-call non-exempt and whose rate of pay will change from \$3,502.87 bi-weekly to \$43.79 per hour with both changes taking effect on February 11, 2021.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge an animal confinement feeding operation proposed by Nathan Tinnes, Keota, Section 16, Seventy Six Township.

Washington County Ambulance Director Jeremy Peck provided a Washington County Ambulance Report for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of calendar year 2020. Highlights of the report included a total of 747 calls for service with 530 transports for the three months of October, November, and December. Overall call time (response time) averaged 13.29 minutes for the month of October, 9.84 minutes for November, and 12.41 minutes for December. On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge the Washington County Ambulance Report for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of calendar year 2020. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

Washington County Public Health (WCPH) Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski shared that in Washington County as of 8:45 a.m. on February 9, 2021, a total of 10,684 tests had been conducted to detect for COVID-19 with such tests yielding 2,314 positive results. Positive results in the previous seven days totaled 21 while positive results in the previous 14 days totaled 68. Meanwhile, a total of 2,081 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 according to Pettit-Majewski. A total of 550 serology tests have been conducted in Washington County with such tests yielding 91 reactive cases. The Return to Learn percent positivity rate for Johnson and Jefferson County is 7% and 3% respectively while the Washington County rate is 7%. A total of 40 deaths in Washington County have been attributed to

COVID-19 while statewide the total is 5,110. At the present time no individuals in Washington County are hospitalized while statewide the total is 327. Long-term care facility outbreaks in Iowa total 35 which includes two in Washington County. The current statewide number of vaccines administered is 348,032 which includes 2,248 in Washington County. Pettit-Majewski shared that the first mass vaccination clinic for people age 65 and older will be held on Thursday, February 11, 2021, at Parkside Activities Center, Wellman. She also stated that WCPH had received word that Washington County will be receiving 300 vaccine doses per week throughout the current month which will allow WCPH to schedule future clinics effectively and to organize logistics for administering the vaccine. Washington County Hospitals and Clinics (WCHC) CEO Todd Patterson, who participated via remote means, informed the Board that WCHC was able to administer 30 vaccines during the previous week to area law enforcement officers and also stated that planning was underway that would result in WCHC providing vaccination clinics for firefighters and emergency medical service personnel. The Board took no formal action.

There was no comment from department heads.

At 9:28 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:  
February 9, 2021

RICHARD L. YOUNG  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor