

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 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; personnel change request – Conservation; consulting engineering contract for design services for Bridge No. 336060 which spans the Skunk River at McKains Access; discussion and possible action regarding February 17, 2021, public hearing related to proposed Washington County Ordinance 21-01 for special valuation of wind energy conversion property (Iowa Code Chapter 427B.26); appointment of individuals to various commissions, boards, and committees; COVID-19 update; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward and Bob Yoder were present. Supervisor Stan Stoops participated by telephone.

Others attending were: Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant; and Citizen Marcus Fedler. 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 Seward, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment related to agenda items.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Conservation for Skyler Juhl whose rate of pay will change from \$11.00 per hour to \$15.00 per hour effective February 15, 2021. Juhl is a seasonal worker who will be returning for his 3<sup>rd</sup> summer of employment with Washington County Conservation.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve a consulting engineering contract for design services with Calhoun-Burns and Associates, West Des Moines, Iowa, for completion of design services for Bridge No. 336060 which spans the Skunk River at McKains Access and to authorize the Board Chairperson or the County Engineer to sign documents related to the project.

The Board took no formal action regarding the format of the February 17, 2021, public hearing related to draft Washington County Ordinance 21-01 for special valuation of wind energy conversion property (Iowa Code Chapter 427B.26). No Board members took exception to Young's suggestions that public comment be limited to a maximum of two minutes per person with only residents of Washington County being allowed to speak. Individuals residing outside of Washington County will be allowed to speak if permission is granted by the Board Chairperson.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Jean Stout to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2022, as Franklin Township Clerk.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to appoint Nancy Roth to a term ending December 31, 2022, as the Washington County representative to the Eastern Iowa Tourism Association and to appoint Michelle Redlinger to a term that ends December 31, 2022, as the Washington County alternate representative to the Eastern Iowa Tourism Association.

Washington County Public Health (WCPH) Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski shared that at the first County-wide COVID-19 mass vaccination clinic approximately 350 individuals age 65 and older were vaccinated. The clinic took place Thursday, February 11, 2021, at Parkside Activities Center, Wellman. On Friday, February 12, 2021, notice was received from the Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) indicating that WCPH would not receive the 300 COVID-19 vaccine doses that were initially allocated for the week of February 15, 2021, with the reason being that Washington County had not met the 80% usage threshold (burn rate) of its COVID-19 vaccine doses. Pettit-Majewski explained the issue arose when the Wellman mass clinic scheduled for February 6, 2021, in Wellman was postponed until February 11, 2021 due to extreme winter weather conditions. She in turn stated that after conversing with IDPH staff the issue had been resolved and she had no concerns about meeting the 80% usage threshold level in the future and she had been assured there will be no delays with future shipments of the COVID-19 vaccine. Pettit-Majewski reported that in Washington County as of 8:45 a.m. on February 16, 2021, a total of 10,906 tests had been conducted to detect for COVID-19 with such tests yielding 2,354 positive results. Positive results in the previous seven days totaled 30 while positive results in the previous 14 days totaled 61. Meanwhile, a total of 2,159 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 according to Pettit-Majewski. A total of 566 serology tests have been conducted in Washington County with such tests yielding 100 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 41 deaths in Washington County have been attributed to COVID-19 while statewide the total is 5,237. At the present time one individual in Washington County is hospitalized while statewide the total is 327. Long-term care facility outbreaks in Iowa total 28 including one in Washington County. The current statewide number of vaccines administered is 487,281 which includes approximately 3,520 in Washington County. The Board took no formal action.

During the department head comment portion of the meeting County Engineer Jacob Thorius asked motorists to be aware, and stay clear, of road maintenance equipment. He also requested patience from the public regarding the clearing of snow from rural roads.

At 9:30 a.m. on motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:  
February 16, 2021

RICHARD L. YOUNG  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor