

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021**

At 9:00 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; acknowledgement of letter of support for Hospice of Washington County successful grant application; acknowledgement of letter of support for Washington County Fair Association successful grant application; acknowledgement of quote for a modular bridge (Bridge # 337940) on Elm Avenue northwest of Wellman; acknowledgement of personnel change requests – Secondary Roads; appointment of individuals to various commissions, boards, and committees; approval of revisions to Washington County Ambulance Service Employee Handbook; approval of departmental policy related to holiday pay - Sheriff; COVID-19 update; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Stan Stoops and Bob Yoder were also present.

Others attending were: Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Pat Curl and Jeremy Peck, County Ambulance Service; Michelle Hyman and Amber Armbruster, Deputy Auditors; Mary Audia, WEDG Director; Shawn Ellingson, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Coordinator; 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 Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve the agenda after it was amended to include the following: public comment related to agenda items.

There was no public comment related to agenda items.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Aureon Charity Grant expressing its thanks to the Washington County Board of Supervisors for providing a letter of support for Hospice of Washington County and its application for a grant in the amount of \$1,000.00. Seward shared that the grant application was successful.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of a letter from Aureon Charity Grant expressing its thanks to the Washington County Board of Supervisors for providing a letter of support for the Washington County Fair Association, Inc. and its application for a grant in the amount of \$1,500.00. Seward shared that the grant application was successful.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge a quote from TrueNorth Steel, Missoula, Montana, for a modular bridge #337940 at a cost of \$40,128.00 to be located on Elm Avenue northwest of Wellman and to authorize the County Engineer to sign pertinent documents. County Engineer Jacob Thorius shared that the total price of the project will be approximately \$70,000.00 which includes not only the cost of the bridge components but also the cost of prep and grading work etc. which will be completed by County staff. The existing structure, located on a dead-end portion of Elm Avenue, is weight-restricted and is used primarily by local farmers. Thorius stated that the project is included in the Washington County 5-Year Road Plan and that it is a rehabilitation of the existing bridge structure that will utilize prefabricated components and thus the project is expected to be completed in two days.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the County Engineer for the termination of employment for Laurie Kauffman, effective February 23, 2021.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the County Engineer for the termination of employment for Julie Messer, effective February 23, 2021.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to appoint Leon Simon to fill an unexpired term as Iowa Township Trustee that will end December 31, 2024.

Washington County Ambulance Service Director Jeremy Peck provided a brief overview of proposed modifications to the Washington County Ambulance Service Employee Handbook. The changes involve the rate of compensation for call-back time for non-exempt employees, holiday compensation for full-time employees, scheduling of part-time employees, overtime, work-related injuries, and exposure control plan. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve the revised ambulance policies as presented with an effective date of February 11, 2021, for such policy changes. The complete revisions are available for review by contacting the Auditor's office.

Chief Deputy Shawn Ellingson presented proposed departmental compensation changes for jail and law enforcement personnel with the changes related to compensation for holidays worked as well as compensation for holidays not worked. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve the revised policies for the Sheriff's Office as presented with an effective date of February 11, 2021, for such policy changes. The complete revisions are available for review by contacting the Auditor's office.

Washington County Public Health (WCPH) Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski reported that in Washington County as of 8:45 a.m. on February 23, 2021, a total of 11,038 tests had been conducted to detect for COVID-19 with such tests yielding 2,377 positive results. Positive results in the previous 7 days totaled 18 while positive results in the previous 14 days totaled 51. Meanwhile, a total of 2,213 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 according to Pettit-Majewski. A total of 586 serology tests have been conducted in Washington County with such tests yielding 106 reactive cases. The Return to Learn percent positivity rate for Johnson and Jefferson County is 4.4% and 4.2% respectively while the Washington County rate is 3.4%. A total of 44 deaths in Washington County have been attributed to COVID-19 while statewide the total is 5,374. At the present time no individuals in Washington County are hospitalized while statewide the total is 227. Long-term care outbreaks in the state total 20 with none in Washington County. The statewide number of vaccines administered is 589,056 which includes approximately 4,200 in Washington County. The Board took no formal action.

At the close of the meeting Peck informed the Board that billing for the ambulance was completely caught up. Ellingson shared that Reserve Deputy Sheriff Nick Shelman had recently completed his 35th year of service to the individuals of Washington County.

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

ATTEST:
February 23, 2021

RICHARD L. YOUNG
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor