

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 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 FY22 Washington County Budget; Resolution 21-05 regarding FY22 Maximum Property Tax Dollars; Washington County Recycling update; Resolution 21-04 related to release of highway easement to The Dale Gonterman Estate; discussion and action regarding centerline rumble strips on W61 (Riverside Road); acknowledgement of equipment purchase by County Engineer; personnel change request – Ambulance; discussion and possible action regarding updates to Resolution 20-60; COVID-19 update; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Jr., Bob Yoder, Stan Stoops, and Abe Miller were also present.

Others attending were: Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Coordinator; Amber Armbruster, Deputy County Auditor; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Cyndie Sinn, County Budget/IT Director; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA Waste Systems; 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 Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to open a public hearing related to the proposed FY22 Washington County Budget. County IT/Budget Director Cyndie Sinn reminded that the public hearing was the first of two required public hearings that must take place prior to final budget approval. She went on to say that a super-majority vote by the Board is required to approve a budget that calls for a 2% or more increase in tax asking from that of the previous year. Sinn also informed the Board that the proposed general service levy for FY22, which begins July 1, 2021, is a 2.50% increase over the general services levy for current FY21. Meanwhile, the rural services levy for FY22 is a 26.8% reduction from the rural services levy for FY21. Sinn explained that the reduction is due in large part to the fact that by the end of FY21 the remaining amount due for the secondary road bond debt, which is funded through both the rural service levy as well as the debt service levy, will be paid in full. The debt associated with the new Communications building is being funded entirely through the debt service levy with such debt structured in such a way so as to minimize, if not eliminate, fluctuations in the County's tax asking. Auditor Dan Widmer informed the Board that notice of the public hearing had been published as required by Iowa Code and added that the Auditor's office had received no public comment. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to close the public hearing.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 21-05 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 21-05 on behalf of the Board.

**RESOLUTION 21-05
FY22 MAXIMUM PROPERTY TAX DOLLARS**

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Supervisors have considered the proposed FY22 county maximum property tax dollars for both General County Services and Rural County Services, and

WHEREAS, a notice concerning the proposed county maximum property tax dollars was published as required and posted on the county web site, and

WHEREAS, a public hearing concerning the proposed county maximum property tax dollars was held on March 2, 2021.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Washington County that the maximum property tax dollars for General County Services and Rural County Services shall not exceed the following:

General County Services \$8,890,219.00

Rural County Services \$1,523,812.00

The Maximum Property Tax dollars requested in either General County Services or Rural County Services for FY22 do represent an increase of 2% from the Maximum Property Tax dollars requested for FY21.

Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA Waste Systems, presented a report detailing activities for the months of January and February 2021 combined. During the two month period WEMIGA processed 131.09 landfill tons, 4.54 tons of paper, 4.77 tons of plastic, 3.74 tons of cardboard, 11.75 tons of tin and aluminum, 24.8 tons of recyclable material, 18 appliances, 18 televisions and other electronic devices, no tires, and no used oil. Landfill tonnage for the months of January and February of 2020 totaled 108.85. The Board took no formal action. The complete report is available for review in the Auditor's office.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to table action with regard to proposed Resolution 21-04 related to the release of highway easement to the Dale Gonterman Estate.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius presented plans for installing center-line rumble strips on County Highway W61 (Riverside Road) extending from its intersection with County Highway G36 to the English River Bridge near Riverside. The work would serve as the final component of a project involving the resurfacing and widening of the road along with the completion of shoulder improvements. The estimated total cost of the project is \$90,000.00. Thorius stated that Highway Traffic Safety Improvement Program funds in the amount of \$88,000.00 would be used to finance the project with County farm-to-market funds used to finance the remaining amount. According to Thorius center-line rumble strips have been proven to reduce highway crashes and in turn he advocated for completion of the project even if the county portion of the costs exceeds the \$2,000.00 that currently is projected. On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to authorize the County Engineer to take steps to install center-line rumble strips on County Highway W61 (Riverside Road).

Thorius shared his intent to purchase a new 2021 Caterpillar Model #140-15 all-wheel drive motor grader. The new unit would replace a 2009 Caterpillar grader purchased in 2009 for \$207,000.00 which currently has 12,400 hours and is, according to Thorius, "worn out". The purchase of the new motor grader is included in the FY22 secondary roads budget. While the new unit can be fitted with a wing designed to enable the clearing of a wider path, Thorius stated that the \$279,674.00 purchase price does not include a wing. Thorius has not yet determined the appropriate method of disposing of the 2009 model and he added that he expects delivery of the new unit to occur in August 2021. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge the purchase of a 2021 Caterpillar Model #140-15 motor grader.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Ambulance Services for paramedic Wesley Love whose rate of pay will change from \$21.55 to \$21.95, effective February 10, 2021. The change is related to Love reaching a six-month step raise.

The Board next took up discussion regarding updates, modifications, and/or revisions of the temporary changes to the Washington County Employee Manual established by the passage of Resolution 20-60 on November 17, 2020. The changes contained in Resolution 20-60 occurred as a direct result of the Coronavirus 2019 Pandemic. Deputy Auditor Amber Armbruster explained that with the passage of Resolution 20-60 Washington County chose to cover lost time as administrative leave at the 2/3rd level for employees who otherwise would have lost hours due to being sent home as a nonessential employee with no ability to work from home. Armbruster distributed a list of proposed updates to Resolution 20-60 and proposed that the updates be accomplished by passage of a new resolution. Armbruster expressed hope that the recent trend of employees using diminishing amounts of administrative leave would continue. She also confirmed Seward's understanding that the information presented did not require immediate action. The Board took no formal action.

Public Health Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski reported that in Washington County as of 8:45 a.m. on March 2, 2021, a total of 11,164 tests had been conducted to detect for COVID-19 with such tests yielding 2,385 positive results. Positive results in the previous 7 days totaled 7 which according to Pettit-Majewski is the lowest total since the previous summer. Positive results in the previous 14 days totaled 27. Meanwhile, a total of 2,257 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 according to Pettit-Majewski. A total of 597 serology tests have been conducted in Washington County with such tests yielding 114 reactive cases. The Return to Learn percent positivity rate for Johnson and Jefferson County is 3.9% and 2.1% respectively while the Washington County rate is 2.0%. A total of 47 deaths in Washington County have been attributed to COVID-19 while statewide the total is 5,472. 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 14 with none in Washington County. The statewide number of vaccines administered in Iowa is 710,675 which includes approximately 5,120 in Washington County. In closing Pettit-Majewski announced the schedule for mass clinics for individuals in need of their second of two shots. The Board took no formal action.

There was no comment from County Department Heads.

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

ATTEST:
March 2, 2021

RICHARD L. YOUNG
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor