

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 21, 2023**

At 9:00 a.m. Chairperson Bob Yoder 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 approval of agenda; public comment related to agenda items; personnel change request – Public Health; discussion and action regarding proposed contract between Washington County and Encite Architecture & Design; Proclamation naming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month; appointment of Deputy Sheriff; approval of Iowa DOT IA 92 Detour Agreement for May 2023 through December 2025; discussion and action regarding Zoom access to future meetings of the Board of Supervisors; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Marcus Fedler, Jack Seward, Jr. and Richard Young were also present. Supervisor Stan Stoops was absent.

Other individuals present at the meeting included Jennifer Wilkerson, KCII Radio; Kalen McCain, SE Iowa Union; Interim County Attorney Anthony Janney; Chief Deputy Sheriff Shawn Ellingson; Public Health Administrator Emily Tokheim; Recorder Teresa Mangold; Tammy Wetjen-Kesterson with Early Childhood Iowa; and citizens Virginia Bordwell, Melinda Lord, and Karen Bates Chabal. 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 Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

Citizen Karen Bates Chabal encouraged the Board to purchase and remodel the Federation Bank building located at 102 E. Main Street, Washington, as a solution to the problem of insufficient office space for Washington County employees. Citizen Virginia Bordwell spoke in favor of demolishing County-owned buildings, including the former Washington County Jail, located at 221 West 2nd Street, Washington.

Citizen Melinda Lord encouraged the Board to sell the empty lot located at 302 West Main Street, Washington. Finally, Public Health Administrator Emily Tokheim read, on behalf of Emergency Management Coordinator Marissa Reisen, a statement in support of public Zoom access to meetings of the Washington County Board of Supervisors.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Public Health for non-exempt full-time Program Manager Megan Waterhouse whose rate of pay will increase to \$40.78 per hour effective March 23, 2023.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve a contract between Washington County and Encite Architecture & Design, Washington, Iowa, for design work related to the renovation of Washington County office space and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the document on behalf of the Board.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to adopt a proclamation designating the month of April, 2023, as National Child Abuse Prevention Month. The proclamation is as follows:

**NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
APRIL 2023**

WHEREAS, child abuse and neglect is a serious problem that can be prevented; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that have lasting consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, protective factors are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the partnerships created between child welfare professionals, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses, law enforcement agencies, and families; and

WHEREAS, all members of a community benefit from creating conditions that support strong and healthy families; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that create strong and thriving children and families; and

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, and nurturing environment; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the best defense for our children and families.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert C. Yoder, Chairperson of the Washington County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim April as

NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH in Washington County and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.

On motion by Young, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge the appointment of Dreyson Robe as a Deputy Sheriff with such appointment ending December 31, 2024.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius, who participated in the meeting by way of Zoom, shared that on November 1, 2022, the Board passed a motion with regard to an Iowa DOT IA 92 Detour Agreement calling for Washington County Road G36 to serve as the official detour route for a portion of Iowa State Highway 92 east of its intersection with US Highway 218/IA Highway 27 and extending eastward to 2nd Street in Columbus Junction. Thorius continued by saying that since that time the project had encountered unanticipated delays and as a result the agreement needed to be revised in order to extend the ending date for the detour from June 30, 2024, to December 31, 2025. On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve an amended Iowa DOT IA 92 Detour Agreement for the period of time beginning May 31, 2023, and ending December 31, 2025, and to authorize the Washington County Engineer to sign pertinent documents as a representative of Washington County.

The Board took up discussion with regard to the future use of the Zoom communication product which provides individuals with video and audio access to Board meetings. Seward stated that since access to the “chat” feature of Zoom was curtailed Board meetings were less contentious. Young expressed agreement with Seward. Yoder responded by saying that while Zoom offers both positive and negative attributes he prefers to be physically present at the meetings of the boards, commissions, and committees on which he serves as it allows him to become better acquainted with those individuals with which he serves. The Board took no action.

There was no department head comment.

At 9:39 a.m. on motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
March 21, 2023

ROBERT C. YODER
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor