

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021**

At 9:00 a.m. Vice-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 the following: approval of agenda; public comment related to agenda items; Statement of Understanding with Louisa County and SEIL Region for the utilization of member county employees and/or SEIL Region employees; personnel change request – Sheriff; personnel change request – Ambulance Service; Washington County Procurement Policy review; COVID-19 update; department head comment, adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Jr., Marcus Fedler, and Stan Stoops were also present. Supervisor Richard Young was absent.

Others attending were: Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Jeremy Peck, County Ambulance Service Director; Bobbie Wulf, County Mental Health/Disability Services Director; and Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant. Citizens Cathy Buffington and Connie Larsen were also in attendance. 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 Stoops, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve a Statement of Understanding with Louisa County and the Southeast Iowa Link Region as well as to authorize the Vice-Chairperson to sign the Statement of Understanding on behalf of the Board. According to the agreement, the Southeast Iowa Link (SEIL) Region intends to utilize administrative staff of the member counties, including Washington County, to provide services to the SEIL Region and to staff the needs of the SEIL Region.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Vice-Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Sheriff for Victor Rico-Guerrero who will begin duties as a casual part-time non-exempt Jailer on March 30, 2021 at the rate of \$18.27 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Vice-Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance for EMT Nicole Stout whose employment classification will change from regular part-time non-exempt to full-time non-exempt on April 5, 2021. Stout's rate of pay will remain unchanged.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius informed the Board that in relationship to the County's request for reimbursement of funds to be used in response to the August 8, 2020, derecho event the Washington County Procurement Policy was in need of update. The update stems from a recent review of the current policy conducted by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (IDHSEM). Thorius provided a copy of the current policy with the suggested changes along with a copy containing suggestions made by County Attorney John Gish. The Board discussed the recommended changes and especially focused on possible modifications to wording related to dollar amounts included in the informal contracting procedure for public improvement projects. The Board also focused on the differences in the terms of "construction, reconstruction, and improvement" and the impact that each type of construction has on procedures for the bidding of public construction projects. A great deal of discussion ensued between Thorius and the Board. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, The Board voted to table formal action with regard to the Washington County Procurement Policy until its next regular meeting scheduled for Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at 9:00 a.m.

Public Health Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski reported that in Washington County as of 8:15 a.m. on March 30, 2021, tests had been conducted on 11,658 individuals to detect for COVID-19 with such tests yielding 2,443 positive results. Positive results in the previous 7 days totaled 14 while positive results in the previous 14 days totaled 27. Meanwhile in Washington County a total of 2,351 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 according to Pettit-Majewski. A total of 628 serology tests have been conducted in Washington County with such tests yielding 123 reactive cases. The Return to Learn percent positivity rate for Johnson and Jefferson County is 4.7% and 1.4% respectively while the Washington County rate is 2.9%. Statewide a total of 5,729 deaths have been attributed to COVID-19 which includes 49 in Washington County. At the present time no individuals in Washington County are hospitalized due to COVID-19 while statewide the total is 186. The statewide number of vaccines administered is 1,473,901 including approximately 10,144 vaccines administered in Washington County. Pettit-Majewski stated that while COVID-19 cases are decreasing there has been a slight increase in hospitalizations and percent positivity rates. She also noted that the increased level of travel due to spring break has resulted in an influx of new COVID-19 variants which could cause another surge and she reminded that individuals who have traveled out of the country must quarantine when returning to the U.S. regardless of vaccination status. The Board took no formal action.

There was no comment from County Department Heads.

At 9:51 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
March 30, 2021

ROBERT C. YODER, VICE-CHAIR
Washington County Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor