

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 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; public comment related to agenda items; proposed Amendment #5 to the City of Washington Unified Commercial Urban Renewal Plan; General Assistance Quarterly Report; Veteran Affairs Quarterly Report; appointment of Washington County Weed Commissioner; personnel change request - Ambulance; appointment of individuals to various commissions, boards, and committees; personnel change request - Sheriff; Auditor Quarterly report; COVID-19 update; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Jr., Bob Yoder, Marcus Fedler, and Stan Stoops were also present.

Others attending were: Sue Rich, County General Assistance/Veteran Affairs Director; Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Coordinator; Mary Audia, WEDG Director; Brent Hinson, Washington City Administrator; Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant. 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 Stoops, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment.

Washington City Administrator Brent Hinson informed the Board of a proposed amendment to the City of Washington's Unified Commercial Urban Renewal Plan. Pursuant to Iowa Code, Hinson presented the amendment for a 37,000 square foot expansion to the Bazooka-Farmstar, Inc. facility and to remove the YMCA property from the Urban Renewal Area. The plan would include a grant to Bazooka-Farmstar Inc. for installation of public sewer infrastructure at a cost not to exceed \$500,000. It is expected the expansion of the Bazooka-Farmstar facility will result in approximately 50 new jobs for the business. The City has agreed to relocate a sewer line for this project at a cost of \$230,000, for which they will use Tax Increment Financing (TIF) revenue from Bazooka-Farmstar resulting from the expansion. Hinson explained that the removal of the YMCA from the area plan is more procedural, as the YMCA needs to be in the redeveloped downtown TIF area to receive new market tax credits for their next phase of expansion. The Board took no formal action.

Washington County General Assistance Director Sue Rich presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Washington County General Assistance report for FY21. She reported that during the quarter \$175.00 in benefits was paid to one successful applicant to be used for assistance with rent. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the FY21 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter General Assistance report. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

Washington County Veteran Services Officer Sue Rich presented the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Washington County Veteran Affairs report for FY21. She reported that during the quarter all of the five applications received were denied. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the FY21 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter Veteran Affairs report. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Washington County Board of Supervisors for the appointment of Aaron Wulf as temporary Washington County Weed Commissioner for the period of May 16, 2021, through September 15, 2021, at the rate of \$485.00 per month. Wulf will serve as Washington County Weed Commissioner in addition to his full-time duties as an employee of the Washington County Buildings and Grounds Department.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Ambulance Department for Carrie Ornduff whose employee classification will change from regular part-time to full-time effective May 12, 2021. The change will result in Ornduff's rate of pay increasing from \$21.55 per hour to \$21.94 per hour.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Darren Dennler to a four-year term ending on December 31, 2024, as a Civil Process Server and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the pertinent certificate of appointment.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Sheriff for Sarah Garrett whose employee classification will change from regular part-time to full-time effective April 22, 2021. Garrett's rate of pay will not change.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the Auditor's report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY21 and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the report on behalf of the Board. The report, presented by Auditor Dan Widmer, reflected revenues for the quarter in the amount of \$1,732.00. Of this total, \$1,455.00 resulted from transfer fees, \$247.00 from the sale of plat books and \$30.00 for election services. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

Public Health Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski reported that in Washington County as of 8:15 a.m. on April 20, 2021, tests had been conducted on 11,988 individuals to detect for COVID-19 with such tests yielding 2,491 positive results. Positive test results in the previous 7 days totaled 12 while positive test results in the previous 14 days totaled 29. Meanwhile, in Washington County a total of 2,382 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 according to Pettit-Majewski. At the present time in Washington County there are a total of 59 active cases. A total of 650 serology tests have been conducted in Washington County with such tests yielding 133 reactive cases. The Return to Learn percent positivity rate for Johnson and Jefferson County is 4.5% and 4.5% respectively while the Washington County rate is 1.8%. A total of 5,886 deaths in Iowa have been attributed to COVID-19 which includes 50 in Washington County. A total of 215 Iowa residents are presently hospitalized due to COVID-19 including two Washington County residents. The statewide number of vaccines administered is 2,060,963 which includes approximately 14,000 vaccines administered in Washington County. The administration of Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine remains suspended at the present time due to 6 confirmed cases in the United State of a rare and severe blood clot among the 6.8 million doses that have been administered. Public Health staff is continuing to see a slight but consistent increase in hospitalizations and positivity rates. Pettit-Majewski stressed that the various vaccines currently available are effective against the United Kingdom variant known as B117. She also stated a case of the Brazilian variant P1 had been confirmed in Johnson County and that this variant was more contagious than other variants. The Board took no formal action.

There was no comment from County Department Heads.

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

ATTEST:  
April 20, 2021

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RICHARD L. YOUNG  
Chair, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor