

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021**

At 9:03 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 animal confinement feeding operation - Brant Greiner, Section 7, Dutch Creek Township; acknowledgment of proposed animal confinement feeding operation - Brant Greiner, Section 7, Dutch Creek Township; presentation regarding COVID-19 Relief Trail Grant; personnel change request – Sheriff; establish bid letting date for crane & rock work on the Elm Ave. Bridge Project; Secondary Road Use Permit application from American Legion Post 29; 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 Fedler, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to open a public hearing related to an application for a confined feeding operation from Brant Greiner, Section 7, Dutch Creek Township. The completed project will add an additional 2,499 head of swine to the existing 2,940 head capacity at the location and will include construction of a 71'2" x 285'4" swine confinement building with an 8' below-ground pit. There was no public comment from those gathered. Auditor Daniel Widmer stated that notice of the public hearing had been published as required and added his office had received no public comment prior to the hearing. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to close the public hearing.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge an animal confinement feeding operation proposed by Brant Greiner, Section 7, Dutch Creek Township.

Ryan Schlabaugh, Kalona City Administrator, Adam Kos, C.J. Moyna & Sons, and Zach Rozmus, Conservation Director, presented plans to apply for a COVID-19 Relief Trail Grant from the Iowa Department of Transportation. Rozmus shared that the state received \$5 million from the federal government to be used for trail improvements and enhancements. He continued by saying if the grant request is successful the funds would be used to offset the cost of paving approximately 2.5 miles of trails located in the Southtown area of Kalona. Rozmus stressed that county funding assistance for the project was not being requested nor would it be requested in the future. Schlabaugh added that the City of Kalona was committed to contributing funds towards to the project. C.J. Moyna & Sons will serve as the developer for the project and Kos stated that plans for trail enhancements were in place before the onset of COVID-19 and thus would provide a definite benefit in the competitive grant funding application process. The application is still being completed with the amount of funds being requested still undetermined. Schlabaugh agreed with the statement of Stoops that completion of the trail project would not only be a great thing for the City of Kalona but for all of Washington County as the completed project will provide various sources of recreation as well as opportunities for future trail projects. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to prepare a letter of support from the Board of Supervisors for a COVID-19 Relief Trail Grant funding application with such funds used to construct and enhance trails located at the Southtown Area in Kalona.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Sheriff for the hiring of Zachary Cornwell who will begin duties as a Jailer on April 27, 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.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius shared plans for a project involving replacement of a bridge located on Elm Avenue northwest of Kalona. While County funds will be used to construct the new bridge deck Thorius plans to enlist outside assistance for the rest of the project which includes among other things the removal of the existing deck, placement of the new deck into position, and the rock work. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to establish 10:00 a.m. on Monday, May 10, 2021, as the bid letting date for crane & rock work on the Elm Avenue Bridge Project.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a Secondary Road Use Request from American Legion Post 29, Washington, for May 31, 2021. On that date, American Legion Post 29 will hold a Navy/Marines Memorial Day tribute. The event will take place at the Crooked Creek Bridge on Old Highway 92 shortly after 8:00 a.m.

Public Health Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski reported that in Washington County as of 8:15 a.m. on April 27, 2021, tests had been conducted on 12,095 individuals to detect for COVID-19 with such tests yielding 2,508 positive results. Positive test results in the previous 7 days totaled 13 while positive test results in the previous 14 days totaled 27. Meanwhile, in Washington County a total of 2,401 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 according to Pettit-Majewski. At the present time in Washington County there are a total of 57 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 5.5% and 2.0% respectively while the Washington County rate is 2.0%. A total of 5,927 deaths in Iowa have been attributed to COVID-19 which includes 50 in Washington County. A total of 184 Iowa residents are presently hospitalized due to COVID-19 including two Washington County residents. The statewide number of vaccines administered is 2,238,291 which includes 15,060 vaccines administered in Washington County. Administration of Johnson & Johnson's single-dose COVID-19 vaccine has resumed after being suspended due to six confirmed cases in the United State of a rare and severe blood clot among the 6.8 million doses that were administered. According to Pettit-Majewski 30.2% of Iowans are fully immunized. Pettit-Majewski said that in order to reduce the spread of more resistant mutations like the U.K. and Brazilian variants which have been confirmed in Iowa, individuals should continue precautions such as maintaining a distance of at least six feet from individuals when outside the home, wearing a face mask, and frequent hand washing. The Board took no formal action.

There was no comment from County Department Heads.

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

ATTEST:
April 27, 2021

RICHARD L. YOUNG
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor