

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 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; Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week Proclamation; discussion and possible action regarding presentation from citizen Dale Torpey with regard to Washington County office space needs; discussion and possible action regarding change order to agreement with ENCITE Architecture to facilitate a design for two options with regard to Washington County office space needs; Washington County Secondary Roads Department FY23 Iowa DOT Budget Amendment; personnel change requests – Sheriff; Quarterly Report – Sheriff; personnel change requests – Ambulance; personnel change request – Board of Supervisors; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Jr., Stan Stoops, Marcus Fedler, and Richard Young were also present.

Other individuals present at the meeting included Jennifer Wilkinson with KCII Radio, Kalen McCain with SE Iowa Union, County Attorney Nathan Repp, Interim County Attorney Anthony Janney, County Treasurer Jeff Garrett, County Sheriff Jared Schneider, County Chief Deputy Sheriff Shawn Ellingson, County Civil Deputy Sheriff Bill Fiordelise, HACAP Operations Director RenElla Crawford, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Michelle Redlinger, Economic Development Group Director Mary Audia, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant Amber Williams, and citizens Karen Bates Chabal, Stanley Potratz, Dale Torpey, Jim Gorham, and Barb Simon. 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 Fedler, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board voted to adopt a proclamation designating the month of May, 2023, as Community Action Month. The proclamation is as follows:

**PROCLAMATION
Community Action Month 2023**

WHEREAS, Community Action has made essential contributions to individuals and families across this Nation by creating economic opportunities and strengthening communities; and

WHEREAS, Community Action is a robust state and local force connecting people to life changing services and creating pathways to prosperity in 99% of all American counties; and

WHEREAS, Community Action builds and promotes economic stability as an essential aspect of enabling and enhancing stronger communities and stable homes; and

WHEREAS, Community Action promotes community-wide solutions to challenges throughout our cities, suburbs, and rural areas; and

WHEREAS, Community Action delivers innovative services and supports that create greater opportunities for families and children to succeed; and

WHEREAS, Community Action insists on community participation and involvement ensuring that all sectors of the community have a voice and will be heard; and

WHEREAS, Community Action is celebrating 59 years of innovation, impact, and providing proven results for Americans.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Robert C. Yoder, on behalf of the Washington County Board of Supervisors, do hereby on this 2nd day of May, 2023, proclaim May 2023 as Community Action Month in recognition of the hard work and dedication of all Iowa Community Action Agencies.

Citizen Dale Torpey addressed the Board regarding the topic of office space needs for county employees and in particular with regard to the possible purchase of the five-story Federation Bank building located at 112 2nd Street in Washington. Washington County Public Health currently occupies the top three floors of the structure per a rental agreement while the bottom two floors are vacant for the most part. According to Torpey the building has been well-maintained and is in very good condition. He also reminded that maintenance costs are a part of property ownership no matter the age or condition of the property. Torpey expressed concern as to why expansion of county facilities was being considered when the population of Washington County has grown by 3,524 over the last 51 years which is approximately 70 individuals in each of the past 51 years or stated another way 1/3 of one percent in each of the past 51 years. Torpey, who is a former employee of Federation Bank, shared that in 2001 Federation Bank was an \$80 million bank with 43 employees operating on three floors of the building. At the present time Federation Bank has become a \$155 million bank with 32 employees which operates effectively with 2,000 square feet less than in 2001 which can be attributed, according to Torpey, to high capacity and a very sophisticated computer system. In turn Torpey opined that it is not necessary or reasonable for the County to increase operational square footage. Torpey recommended that the County negotiate a contract purchase of the Federation Bank building for \$800,000.00 calling for the County to make monthly payments in an amount similar in amount as the monthly rent payments of \$5,800.00 that the County currently makes. In doing so the total purchase price, including interest, would be fully paid in approximately 12 to 15 years.

Under such a scenario the \$4.3 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds that the County has received would not be used for the purchase of the Federation Bank Building and thus could instead be used for other purposes. Torpey also asked the Board to strongly consider relocating the offices of court services, which include among other things the offices of the County Attorney and various staff members as well as Court rooms, to Orchard Hill which according to Torpey would alleviate the space issues at the building that currently serves as the Washington County Courthouse. Torpey also questioned why the County was involved in agriculture and in turn urged the Board to sell the approximate 107 acres of farm ground owned by the County and currently rented out on a cash rent basis of \$207.00 per acre. Torpey also offered that the space on the first floor of the Courthouse, known as the Old Motor Vehicle room, could be better utilized than it is at the present time. In concluding his remarks Torpey again urged the Board to sell the County farm ground which when combined with the ARPA money would result in approximately \$5.5 million. In turn such funds could be used to finance the renovation of both the Courthouse and the Federation Bank building for an estimated cost of \$1 million as well as the \$2 million estimated cost to renovate Orchard Hill facilities in order to accommodate Court services. Torpey suggested the remaining ARPA funds in the amount of \$2.5 million could be used for road improvement projects, day care, and/or for the expansion of facilities at the Washington County Hospital and Clinics. The Board took no formal action.

Fedler shared that a request was made to ENCITE Architecture, Washington, Iowa, to facilitate designs for each of two additional options regarding Washington County office space needs. Plans call for Encite Architecture & Design to provide a test fit/study to explore relocating a smaller contingent of Washington County staff to Orchard Hill and to revise the previous Federation Bank plan for accommodating additional County staff. The study will be limited to test fit/space options and will not explore life/safety items or mechanical, electrical and plumbing items. Fedler emphasized that such designs are in no way deemed to be final designs. The fee for such services to be provided by Encite Architecture & Design would be in the amount of \$1,850.00. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve the change in the present contract agreement with Encite Architecture & Design in order to allow for continued work on the options that are available and also to authorize the Chairperson to sign necessary and applicable documents on behalf of the Board.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve an amendment to the Washington County Secondary Roads Department FY23 Iowa Department of Transportation Budget and to authorize the Chairperson to sign pertinent documents on behalf of the Board.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign on behalf of the Board, a personnel change request from the Sheriff for Timothy Padallia who will assume the duties of non-exempt full-time Jailer, effective May 8, 2023, at the rate of \$21.50 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign on behalf of the Board, a personnel change request from the Sheriff for Jill Duwa who will assume the duties of non-exempt full-time Jailer, effective May 8, 2023, at the rate of \$21.50 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the Washington County Sheriff's Quarterly Cash Report for the 3rd quarter of FY23. The report, presented by Civil Deputy Bill Fiordelise, included a beginning balance of \$15,699.81, total receipts including unallocated funds in the amount of \$82,770.79, total disbursements of \$73,148.47, and an ending balance of \$25,322.13. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign on behalf of the Board, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for non-exempt full-time EMT Michael Johnston whose rate of compensation changed to \$28.59 per hour effective February 8, 2023.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign on behalf of the Board, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for EMT Michael Johnston whose employee status changed to non-exempt part-time effective April 12, 2023.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign on behalf of the Board, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for Jack Flesner whose final date of employment occurred April 25, 2023.

On motion by Young, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign on behalf of the Board, a personnel change request from Washington County

Ambulance Services for Connor Tarvin who assumed the duties of non-exempt regular part-time Paramedic, effective April 21, 2023, at the rate of \$34.89 per hour. This action corrects an earlier personnel change request that included an incorrect rate of pay.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Washington County Board of Supervisors for the hiring of Aaron Wulf as temporary Washington County Weed Commissioner for the period of May 15, 2023, to September 15, 2023, at the rate of \$568.75 per month. Wulf will serve as Washington County Weed Commissioner in addition to his full-time duties as an employee of the Washington County Building and Grounds Department.

There was no department head comment.

At 9:42 a.m. on motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
May 2, 2023

ROBERT C. YODER
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor