

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 11, 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; public hearing regarding proposed amendments to FY21 Washington County Budget; discussion and action regarding proposed FY21 Washington County budget amendment; Resolution 21-19 related to adjustments to FY21 appropriations; Washington County Recycling update – Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA Waste Systems; “Workforce Challenges” presentation – Washington Economic Development Group (WEDG) Director Mary Audia; Resolution 21-17 related to amendments to the Washington County Veterans Affairs Manual; Resolution 21-18 related to amendments to the Washington County General Assistance Manual; Quarterly Report – Washington County Ambulance Service; acknowledgement of ambulance purchase – Washington County Ambulance Service; Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Cybersecurity Grant Agreement – Auditor; establish bid letting date for FY22 Fuel Contract – Secondary Roads; review and award bids for Crane Services and Delivered Roadstone (Elm Avenue Bridge Repair); personnel change request – Secondary Roads; Letter of Support for McKains Access Bridge Project – Secondary Roads; personnel change request – Sheriff; appointments to the Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission; Resolution 21-16 related to the Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission; appointment of Washington County Redistricting Commission Chairperson; determination of compensation for the Washington County Redistricting Commission membership; COVID-19 update; department head comment, adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Jr., Bob Yoder, Marcus Fedler, and Stan Stoops were also present.

Others attending were: Michelle Hyman, Deputy Auditor; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Sue Rich, County Veteran Affairs/General Assistance Director; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Jeremy Peck, County Ambulance Services; Mary Audia, WEDG Director; Amanda Russell, Bazooka Farmstar, Inc.; and 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 Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to open a public hearing related to proposed amendments to the FY21 Washington County Budget. Deputy Auditor Michelle Hyman and Auditor Dan Widmer highlighted the proposed amendments to the FY21 Washington County budget and Widmer verified notice of the public hearing had been published as required and the Auditor’s office had received no public comment prior to the hearing. There was no comment from those present or listening remotely. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to close the public hearing. Related documents are available for public viewing by contacting the Auditor’s office.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve budget amendments to the FY21 Washington County budget.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 21-19 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 21-19 on behalf of the Board.

RESOLUTION 21-19

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Washington County, Iowa, that the following adjustments of appropriations as a result of the budget amendment resolution dated May 11, 2021 are approved:

REVENUES				
	<u>DEPARTMENT</u>	<u>FUND</u>	<u>SERVICE AREA</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
	ADDITIONS:			
20	Secondary Roads	0020	79xx	264,500
				264,500
EXPENDITURES				
	ADDITIONS:			
20	Secondary Roads	0020	7100	130,000
20	Secondary Roads	0020	7110	88,471
20	Secondary Roads	0020	7210	31,000
99	Non Departmental	1530	0220	2,714,900
				2,964,371

Lynn Whaley of WEMIGA Waste Systems (WEMIGA) presented a report that detailed WEMIGA activities for the months of March and April 2021. For the month of March WEMIGA processed 82.78

landfill tons, no paper, 3.76 tons of plastic, 4.68 tons of cardboard, 8.32 tons of tin and aluminum, 16.76 tons of recyclable material, 25 appliances, 25 televisions and other electronic devices, 51 tires, and 7 gallons of used oil. For the month of April WEMIGA processed 78.38 landfill tons, 4.13 tons of paper, no plastic, 8.97 tons of cardboard, 6.78 tons of tin and aluminum, 19.88 tons of recyclable material, 16 appliances, 47 televisions and other electronic devices, 53 tires, and 5 gallons of used oil. Whaley also distributed a report showing monthly landfill tons for the past six calendar years. The average total landfill tons for the past six-year period is 1,350.09 while the average for the most recent four-year period is 898.28 which indicates a downward trend in landfill tonnage. The average total recycling tons for the past three-year period is 305.19 and in looking at annual amounts Whaley pointed out that annual tonnage has decreased each year. The Board took no formal action. Each report is available for review in the Auditor's office.

Washington Economic Development Group (WEDG) Director Mary Audia presented a report on the challenges facing county employers with regard to attracting and keeping quality employees. While unemployment is trending downward to pre-pandemic levels, Audia stated that approximately 500 individuals, out of a total Washington County workforce of approximately 11,300, are unemployed at the present time which equates to an unemployment rate of 4.2%. Audia cited child care, transportation, and language barriers as some of the challenges being faced by employers and individuals. In response to such challenges Audia announced that WEDG has commissioned a study to look closely at day care issues and how such issues might be addressed. With regard to transportation issues, she stated effort will be made to increase awareness of subsidies provided by the East Central Council of Governments as well as some employers for van pools that result in a lower cost for riders. Audia also described language courses and other resources offered by Kirkwood Community College and the Washington Public Library. In closing Audia shared that some employers are looking into the TN Visa Program that brings qualified workers into the United States from Mexico and added that if local workers can't be attracted and located then other sources of workers must be pursued. Seward responded by stating the present shortage of workers is a result of federal government decisions and policies that have resulted in the closure of businesses and the expansion of unemployment benefits which disincentivizes individuals from working. In response Audia replied that she was merely focusing on providing solutions to employers and individuals rather than assigning blame. The board took no formal action.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 21-17 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 21-17 on behalf of the Board.

RESOLUTION 21-17
Washington County Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Supervisors (hereinafter referred to as "Board") has adopted the *Washington County Veterans Affairs Manual*, and,

WHEREAS, the Board, under the direction of the Washington County Commission of Veterans Affairs (hereinafter referred to as "Commission") desires that the following Sections of the *Washington County Veterans Affairs Manual* be amended.

Section IV (G) Gross income shall not equal or exceed 125% of poverty as provided yearly by the federal government.

Section VI (A) Rent/mortgage – reasonable rent value not to exceed three hundred dollars (\$300.00) per month. Rent will only be payable for the current month and shall not be paid to relatives. Rent payments are limited to two (2) months in a fiscal year. This may be exceeded for a person who is awaiting approval and receipt of benefits or if a medical statement from a physician is provided stating that the person is unable to work. A landlord statement showing ownership may be required. If said landlord previously signed a landlord statement, a second statement is not required. Payment to the landlord must enable said tenant to remain at the property for the month. The applicant must be residing full time in the residence for which the rental assistance is required. If the expense of rent is being shared, the amount authorized will be prorated. Persons or household receiving rent subsidies, housing vouchers, or other financial assistance for rent are not eligible for rental assistance.

Section VI(B) Utilities – including payment for fuel for heat, cooking and heating water, electricity for light, heat, cooking, heating water, and for water. Sewer and garbage costs will be included as long as the main utility (gas, water) is being utilized. The amount authorized will be the total current month's utility bills or two hundred dollars (\$200.00) whichever is less. The utility bill must be in the name of the applicant or the landlord and the applicant must be residing full time in the residence for which the utility assistance is requested. If the expense of utilities is being shared, the amount authorized will be prorated. Payment, if eligible, must ensure utility service is not disconnected for that month. Utility assistance is limited to two (2) months in a fiscal year. This may be exceeded for a person who is awaiting approval and receipt of benefits or if a medical statement from a physician is provided stating that the person is unable to work. Not to exceed the maximum amount allowable for total assistance in a fiscal year. An applicant must show effort to have paid on any and all utility bills within the last three (3) months from the date of application. If no payments have been made, no assistance will be granted. In addition, if no payments are made during the period of moratorium (Energy Assistance time frame) no assistance will be granted. Persons or household receiving utility subsidies, utility vouchers, or other financial assistance for utilities may not be eligible for utility assistance.

This policy is to be effective July 1, 2021.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 21-18 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 21-18 on behalf of the Board

RESOLUTION 21-18
Washington County Board of Supervisors

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Supervisors (hereinafter referred to as "Board") has adopted the *Washington County General Assistance Manual*, and,

WHEREAS, the Board, in consideration with the Washington County General Assistance Director desires that the following Section of the *Washington County General Assistance Manual* be amended.

Section VI(A)(2) Rent—reasonable rental value not to exceed two hundred dollars (\$200.00) per month. Rent will only be payable for the current month and shall not be paid to relatives. Rent payments are limited to twice in a fiscal year. This may be exceeded for a person who is awaiting approval and receipt of benefits or if a medical statement from a physician is provided stating that the person is unable to work. Not to exceed the maximum amount allowable for total assistance in a fiscal year. A landlord statement showing ownership may be required. If said landlord has previously signed a landlord statement, a second statement is not required. Payment to the landlord must enable said tenant to

remain at the property for the month. Persons or households receiving rental subsidies, housing vouchers, or other financial assistance for rent are not eligible for rental assistance.

Section VI(A)(3) Utility payments—including payment for fuel for heat, cooking and heating water, electricity for light, heat, cooking, heating water, and for water. Sewer and garbage costs will be included as long as the main utility (gas, water) is being utilized. The amount authorized will be the total current month's utility bill or one hundred seventy five dollars (\$175.00) whichever is less. The utility must be in the name of the applicant or landlord and the applicant must be residing full time in the residence for which the utility assistance is requested. If the expense of utilities is being shared, the amount authorized will be prorated. Payment, if eligible, must insure utility service is not disconnected for that month. Utility assistance is limited to twice in a fiscal year. This may be exceeded for a person who is awaiting approval and receipt of benefits or if a medical statement from a physician is provided stating that the person is unable to work. Not to exceed the maximum amount allowable for total assistance in a fiscal year. An applicant must show effort to have paid on any and all utility bills within the last three (3) months from the date of application. If no payments have been made, no assistance will be granted. In addition if no payments are made during the period of moratorium (Energy Assistance time frame) no assistance will be granted. Persons or household receiving utility subsidies, utility vouchers, or other financial assistance for utilities are not eligible for utility assistance. *Increasing from \$150.00*

This policy is to be effective July 1, 2021.

Washington County Ambulance Director Jeremy Peck provided a Washington County Ambulance Report for the 3rd quarter of FY21. Highlights of the report included a total of 682 calls for service and 491 transports with an average response time of 11.58 minutes. Income for the period of July 1, 2020 through April 26, 2021 totaled \$676,383.55. Presently a total of \$556,061.25 in claims has been submitted to insurance companies and/or individuals with Peck estimating 45% of that dollar amount will be paid. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge the Washington County Ambulance Report for the 3rd quarter of FY21. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

Peck addressed the need to purchase an ambulance in the future and explained that while the actual purchase will occur during FY23 which begins July 1, 2022, because of production back logs the ambulance must be ordered within the next 30 days to ensure delivery during FY23. Peck shared two quotes received from Foster Coach Sales, Sterling, Illinois. One of the quotes was in the amount of \$254,826.00 for a Ford F550 4X4 while the other quote was in the amount of \$262,962.00 for an International CV515. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge the plans of the Washington County Ambulance Service to further investigate the two ambulance purchase quotations received from Foster Coach Sales.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve a Help America Vote Act (HAVA) Cybersecurity Grant Funding Agreement with the Office of the Iowa Secretary of State and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. Prior to the vote Widmer explained the maximum grant amount is \$10,000.00 with the funds to be used for preventing, preparing for, and responding to election-related cybersecurity threats.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to establish 9:00 a.m. on May 24, 2021 as the bid letting date for the FY22 Washington County Fuel Contract. County Engineer Thorius shared prior to the vote that the contract would be on a one-year basis with an option for a second year. He also stated the contract is for the delivery cost of fuel for all Washington County locations and not for the purchase price of the fuel itself. Bids are to be delivered to the Auditor's office located in the Washington County Courthouse and will be opened at the Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for May 25, 2021.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius reviewed plans for a bridge project located on Elm Avenue northwest of Wellman that will involve removal of the existing bridge deck, placing the new bridge deck into position, and hauling rock. County funds and county staff will be used to construct the new bridge deck itself but outside assistance will be needed for the other facets of the project. On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to accept a bid in the amount of \$200.00 per hour for bridge deck removal and bridge deck placement from Townsend Crane Service, LLC, of Wellman, Iowa. On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to accept a bid from Douds Stone, LLC, Douds, Iowa, in the amount of \$16.95 per ton for the cost of rock as well as the delivery cost of such rock. Both bids were the only responsible bids submitted.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Secondary Roads for the hiring of Paul C. Stumpf as a full-time non-exempt Equipment Operator, effective May 17, 2021, at the rate of \$23.33 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

Thorius reminded the Board that the U.S. Department of Transportation makes federal grant funding available for surface transportation infrastructure projects that provide significant local or regional impact by way of Rebuilding American Infrastructure (RAISE) funding which was formerly known as the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) funding program. The Iowa County Engineers Association Bureau has identified eight such proposed county projects across Iowa including a project in Washington County that would involve the reconstruction of a bridge located where Dogwood Avenue spans the Skunk River in Clay Township (McKains Access) as well as the reconstruction of a portion of Dogwood Avenue that is connected to the bridge. The project is estimated to cost \$6.5 million and Thorius is seeking \$4 million in RAISE funding to offset the total cost of the project. Thorius shared that while the entire project could be financed solely with local county funds he was reluctant to do so because it would result in absolutely no other county bridge funding being available for approximately 20 years into the future. In turn Thorius requested a letter of support for the grant funding request. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to prepare a letter of support for a RAISE grant funding

application from Washington County Secondary Roads for a bridge reconstruction project to be located where Dogwood Avenue spans the Skunk River in Clay Township (McKains Access) as well as the reconstruction of a portion of Dogwood Avenue that is connected to the bridge and also to authorize the Chairperson to sign the letter on behalf of the Board.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Sheriff for Jailer Dennis Boecker whose final day of employment occurred May 6, 2021.

The Board discussed appointments to the Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission (WCTRC) whose function is to recommend precinct boundaries for Washington County. Since the Board is made up entirely of one party (Republican), Iowa Code Section 331.210A states the Board is allowed to select a total of three members to serve on the WCTRC. The same section of Iowa Code also stipulates that in the same situation the chairperson of the county central committee for the party other than the party of the majority members of the Washington County Board of Supervisors shall select two members to the WCTRC. Widmer shared that Washington County Democratic Party Committee Chairperson Kim Davis had selected Lorraine Williams and Harold Frakes to serve on the WCTRC. On motion by Stoops, seconded Fedler, the Board voted to appoint Lorraine Williams, Harold Frakes, Chris Graber, Bill Poch, and Steve Swaffer to serve on the Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 21-16 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 21-16 on behalf of the Board.

RESOLUTION 21-16

WASHINGTON COUNTY TEMPORARY REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Commerce conducts the United States Census at 10-year intervals; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Commerce conducted such a census in 2020; and

WHEREAS, per Iowa Code Section 331.210A, a Temporary County Redistricting Commission shall be established for the purpose of recommending precinct boundaries for each county in the State of Iowa; and

WHEREAS, a Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission shall be convened for the purpose of utilizing the 2020 United States Census data, specifically with regard to the data for Washington County, to prepare and present a recommendation to the Washington County Board of Supervisors for county precinct boundaries; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Supervisors has determined that the Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission shall consist of 5 members; and

WHEREAS, the membership of the Washington County Board of Supervisors on this 11th day of May, 2021, consists entirely of individuals affiliated with one political party; and

WHEREAS, per Iowa Code section 331.210A, in the instance when the membership of the County Board of Supervisors consists entirely of individuals affiliated with one political party the County Board of Supervisors shall appoint 3 members (majority) to the Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission while the remaining 2 members (minority) of the Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission shall be provided by the chairperson of the county central committee for the party other than the party of the majority members of the Board of Supervisors.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington County Board of Supervisors does hereby appoint Chris Graber, Bill Poch, and Steve Swaffer to serve as members of the Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission with the appointment of each individual ending 20 days after the Iowa Secretary of State grants approval of the Washington County Board of Supervisors precinct boundary plan for Washington County, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Washington County Board of Supervisors does hereby also appoint Lorraine Williams and Harold Frakes to serve as members of the Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission as provided by the chairperson of the county central committee for the party other than the party of the majority members of the Washington County Board of Supervisors with the appointment of each individual ending 20 days after the Iowa Secretary of State grants approval of the Washington County Board of Supervisors precinct boundary plan for Washington County.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to appoint Bill Poch as Chairperson of the Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve compensation for the members of the Washington County Temporary Redistricting Commission as follows: 1) \$25.00 per diem rate, 2) mileage reimbursement at the rate of \$0.39 per mile, and 3) reimbursement for other necessary expenses pertinent to serving on the Commission.

Public Health Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski reported that in Washington County as of 8:45 a.m. on May 11, 2021, tests had been conducted on 12,310 individuals to detect for COVID-19 with such tests yielding 2,539 positive results. Positive results in the previous seven days totaled 15 while positive results in the previous 14 days totaled 30. Meanwhile in Washington County a total of 2,437 individuals have recovered from COVID-19 according to Pettit-Majewski. A total of 655 serology tests have been conducted in Washington County with such tests yielding 135 reactive cases. The Return to Learn percent positivity rate for Johnson and Jefferson County is 3.7% and 3.8% respectively while the Washington County rate is 2.9%. A total of 50 deaths in Washington County have been attributed to COVID-19 while statewide the total is 5,985. At the present time no individuals in Washington County are hospitalized while statewide the total is 163. The statewide number of vaccines administered is 2,515,113 which equates to 36.5% of the statewide population. In Washington County a total of 16,687 vaccines have been administered which is 35.8% of the county population. The Board took no formal action.

There was no comment from County Department Heads.

At 10:54 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
May 11, 2020

RICHARD L. YOUNG
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor