

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 18, 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; Mental Health Month Proclamation; public hearing regarding proposed animal confinement feeding operation – William L. Huber, Section 7, Highland Township; acknowledgment of proposed animal confinement feeding operation – William L. Huber, Section 7, Highland Township; personnel change request – Conservation; approval of Iowa DOT FY21 Washington County Budget Amendment; acknowledgment of Living Roadway Trust Fund Grant application; personnel change request – Secondary Roads; department head comment, adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Jr., Bob Yoder, Marcus Fedler, and Stan Stoops were also present.

Others attending were: Bobbie Wulf, County Mental Health/Disabilities Services Director; Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Coordinator; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Mary Audia, WEDG Director; Rachel Rinner, Knee Deep Solutions; and citizen William L. Huber. 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 Yoder, 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 approve and adopt a Mental Health Month 2021 Proclamation for Washington County and to authorize the chairperson to sign the proclamation on behalf of the Board. The complete proclamation is as follows:

**Mental Health Month 2021**

**WHEREAS**, mental health is essential to everyone's overall health and well-being; and

**WHEREAS**, Mental Health America reports that 9.7% of youth have severe major depression. This rate is highest among youth who identify as more than one race, at 12.4%. Even before COVID-19, the prevalence of mental health illness among adults was increasing, an increase of 1.5 million people over last year's data. In addition, Mental Health America, from January 2020 to September 2020, there was a reported 93% increase in anxiety screenings and 62% increase in depression screenings; and

**WHEREAS**, education is an effective way to reduce the stigma of mental health illnesses; and

**WHEREAS**, mental health illnesses are real and prevalent in our county regardless of socioeconomic boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, we encourage our citizens to get help for mental health illnesses and to understand it is as important to treat as any other illness, such as diabetes or heart disease; and

**WHEREAS**, each business, school, government agency, healthcare provider, organization, and citizen shares the burden of mental health illnesses and has a responsibility to promote mental wellness and support prevention efforts; and

**WHEREAS**, through increased awareness, we can achieve our goal to abandon negative stigmatism and reinforce our acceptance of individuals seeking treatment; then

**THEREFORE**, I, Richard L. Young, Chairperson of the Washington County Board of Supervisors, do hereby proclaim May 2021 as Mental Health Month in Washington County, Iowa. As the Chairperson, I also call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools of Washington County to recommit our community to increasing awareness and understanding of mental health, the steps our citizens can take to protect their mental health, and the need for appropriate and accessible services for all people with mental illnesses at all stages.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to open a public hearing regarding an animal confinement feeding facility proposed by William L. Huber to be located in Section 32, Highland Township. Plans call for the construction of two 2,499 head swine finishing confinement buildings measuring 71'2" x 285'4" with 75' halls connecting the buildings and 8' pit below-ground pits. The addition of the buildings will result in a new site total of 7,497 head of swine. After construction is completed the Animal Unit Capacity will be 2,998.8 animal units. Auditor Dan Widmer confirmed notice of the hearing had been properly published and the Auditor's office had received no public comment prior to the hearing. There were no comments from those assembled. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to close the public hearing.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge a confinement feeding operation proposed by William L. Huber to be located in Section 32, Highland Township.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Conservation for Ranger Cody Smith whose rate of compensation will increase from \$24.50 per hour to \$25.00 per hour on May 18, 2021 due to Smith obtaining a pesticide applicator license.

With regard to the Iowa Department of Transportation Living Roadway Trust Fund grant, County Engineer Jacob Thorius informed the Board that such grant funding is to be used for such things as roadside management programs, seeding, equipment, education programs, and training equipment. He stated his intent to apply for funding assistance in the amount of \$3,000.00 to offset the \$4,798.00 purchase price of a 20' steel shipping container as well as the costs of insulation for the container, electrical wiring, and air conditioner. When the project work is completed the container will be used for seed storage. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve an application from Washington County for an Iowa Department of Transportation Living Roadway Trust Fund grant and to authorize the County Engineer to sign pertinent documents.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve a Washington County Secondary Roads Department FY21 Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) budget amendment and to authorize the County Engineer, the Board Chairperson, and the Auditor to sign the necessary document. Thorius explained to the Board that when the Secondary Roads Department amends its County budget it also becomes necessary to amend its IDOT budget. The various amendments to the IDOT budget mirror those made recently to the County budget. The complete IDOT budget amendment is available in the office of the Washington County Engineer.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Secondary Roads for John Wagner. Effective May 20, 2021, Wagner will assume the duties of Assistant Maintenance Superintendent at the bi-weekly rate of \$2,338.40.

Thorius provided an update with regard to the road project informally known as the Premier 1 Supplies paving project by stating that the paving portion of the project is underway but efforts have been slowed by recent rain.

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

ATTEST:  
May 18, 2021

RICHARD L. YOUNG  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor

