

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020**

At 9:00 a.m. Chairperson Jack Seward Jr. 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; personnel change request – Environmental Health; appointment of Veterans Affairs Commissioner; Quarterly Report – County Engineer; Resolution 20-49 related to Disaster Relief Following August 10, 2020 Severe Weather; COVID-19 update; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Stan Stoops, Richard Young and Bob Yoder were also in attendance. Supervisor Abe Miller was absent.

Others attending were: Mary Zielinski, The News; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Jennine Wolf and Jason Taylor, County Environmental Health; and Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Coordinator. 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 related to agenda items.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Young, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Environmental Health for Cindy Chavez who will begin employment as a Food Specialist on August 18, 2020, at the rate of \$17.00 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Young, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to re-appoint Terry Phillips to a three-year term on the Washington County Veteran Affairs Commission, effective July 1, 2020.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius presented the Secondary Roads Quarterly Report for the 2nd quarter of calendar year 2020 and began by stating that the quarter was fairly normal except for the unique challenges presented by COVID-19. During the quarter 51,236 tons of road rock was hauled by county employees which was approximately 11,000 tons more than the same quarter in 2019. A total of 490 feet of 24-inch cross road pipe was replaced along with 100 feet of 30-inch pipe, 40 feet of 42-inch pipe, and 180 feet of 36-inch pipe at a total of 17 locations. A total of 3,000 feet of road ditch was cleaned out at the same time.

Thorius also shared that his department began working on Level B Roads across Washington County which included the reshaping of roads to improve drainage and to eliminate vegetation overgrowth. The work was done in order to make improvements to county roads while at the same time minimizing the negative impact to the budget due to less travel which in turn decreases the amount of fuel purchased by travelers which results in less road tax revenue received by the Secondary Roads Department. Such projects included Palm Avenue south of 135th Street, 295th Street east of Ginkgo Avenue, Kiwi Avenue south of 250th Street, Larch Avenue south of 315th Street, and 310th Street west of Louisa-Washington Road. Thorius shared that staff responded to one snowfall during the 2nd quarter which totaled approximately 2 inches and resulted in \$6,034.42 in expenses. Snowfall expenses for the entire winter season of 2019-2020 totaled \$311,443.26 which was approximately 50% of the total costs for the winter of 2018-2019. Thorius also provided project updates on road and/or bridge projects in various stages of completion at the current time. Such projects included replacing a bridge on 130th Street east of Hickory Avenue with a reinforced concrete box culvert, a pavement grinding project on 285th Street west of Ivy Avenue, and pavement patching projects on the Wellman Road, Riverside Road, County Road G-36, and the Wayland Road. Also, plans were finalized for projects involving culvert extension and slide repair work on Old White Way and Vine Avenue as well as a bridge replacement project on 130th Street. Thorius coordinated two super-load moves that utilized county roads, finalized the FY21 Five Year Road Plan, finalized an agreement with Alliant Utilities for the leasing of tower space for radio equipment, worked on an agreement with the Iowa Department of Transportation for paving four intersections along Highway 22, worked jointly with Iowa State University staff on testing the use of concrete grinding residue in shoulder stabilization operations, and the letting of an approximate \$1.6 million project that will involve the paving of approximately three miles of county roadway leading to Premier Sheep Supplies at 2031 300th Street, Washington. Thorius concluded his remarks by stating that in his role as Subdivision Coordinator he reviewed 11 new subdivision applications, addressed issues regarding the correct understanding and application of the subdivision ordinance, worked with surveyors and landowners on potential splits, and continued to review the ordinance and process. Thorius shared that all the work described in his report, and more, was accomplished during the quarter with an average of three staff members, out of a total of 31 members, being gone each day due to illness or vacation. He complimented his staff for their dedication and desire to not only maintain but to improve roads in Washington County. Emergency Management Director Marissa Reisen thanked Thorius for the assistance that the Secondary Roads Department provided with regard to unloading COVID-19 relief supplies. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to acknowledge the 2020 2nd Quarter Report of Activities presented by County Engineer Jacob Thorius. The complete report is available in the Auditor's office.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted by roll call vote to approve Resolution 20-49 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 20-49 on behalf of the Board.

**RESOLUTION 20-49
DISASTER RELIEF FOLLOWING AUGUST 10, 2020 SEVERE WEATHER**

WHEREAS, on Monday, August 10, 2020, a strong storm system known as a derecho traveled over 700 miles across the Midwest and caused widespread damage due to strong winds. Washington County was in the path of this storm and caught the edge of the most destructive portion of the storm, seeing winds in excess of 60 miles per hour; and

WHEREAS, this storm caused severe damage to public and private property, disruption of utility services, and endangerment to the health and safety of the citizens of Washington County; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds has issued a disaster declaration for affected counties, which activates the Iowa Individual Assistance Grant Program as well as the Disaster Case Management Program for residents of said counties; and

WHEREAS, further assistance may become necessary and available for the citizens and public entities of Washington County, and in order to ensure the eligibility of the residents and public entities of Washington County who were negatively affected by the August 10, 2020 severe weather for any and all State and Federal Aid that may become available.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Washington County Board of Supervisors to Proclaim that a Disaster has occurred in Washington County, Iowa, and the above and foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Washington County Board of Supervisors on this 18th day of August, 2020.

Washington County Public Health Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski shared that to date in Washington County there have been 3,344 tests conducted to detect for COVID-19 and such tests have yielded 311 positive tests. Of the positive tests there have been 289 recoveries. A total of 11 deaths in Washington County have been attributed to COVID-19. The Board took no formal action.

There was no comment from County Department Heads.

At 9:35 a.m. on motion by Young, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
August 18, 2020

JACK SEWARD JR.
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor