

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 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; documents related to an application for Community Development Block Grant Housing Funds from the Iowa Economic Development Authority including Contract for Community Development Block Grant Services, Equal Opportunity Policy, Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, Prohibition of the Uses of Excessive Force Policy, Public Notice regarding Affirmative Fair Housing Policy, Code of Conduct, Signature Authorization, and Procurement Policy; approval of IA DOT Agreement No: 5-20-STBG-SWAP-046 for project STBG-SWAP-C092(114)--FG-92 on County Road W61 (Riverside Road) from G26 (190th Street) to Spruce Avenue; acknowledgement of equipment quote – County Engineer; personnel change request – County Engineer; Resolution 20-53 regarding application from Washington County Ambulance Services for Washington County Riverboat Foundation grant; personnel change request – Conservation; personnel change request – Sheriff; Resolution 20-52 regarding National Voter Registration Month; COVID-19 update; department head comment; adjourn. Supervisors Stan Stoops, Abe Miller, and Bob Yoder were also in attendance. Supervisor Richard Young was absent.

Others attending were: Mary Zielinski, The News; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Zach Rozmus, County Conservation Director; Jeremy Peck, County Ambulance Service; Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Coordinator; Tracey Achenbach, Community Development & Housing Director for East Central Iowa Council of Governments; and citizen Shelly Gardner. 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 Miller, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment related to agenda items.

East Central Iowa Council of Governments (ECICOG) Housing Director Tracey Achenbach shared with the Board that another step in the process of completing a successful application for Community Development Block Grant Housing Funding for expansion of affordable housing opportunities included approval of a number of documents. She shared a brief description of each of the documents which included Contract for Community Development Block Grant Services, Equal Opportunity Policy, Anti-Displacement and Relocation Assistance Plan, Prohibition of the Uses of Excessive Force Policy, Public Notice regarding Affirmative Fair Housing Policy, Code of Conduct, Signature Authorization, and Procurement Policy. On motion by Yoder, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to approve all documents related to application for CDBG Housing funds as presented and to authorize the Chairperson to sign such documents on behalf of the Board.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to approve Iowa Department of Transportation (IDOT) Agreement No. 5-20-STBG-SWAP-046 for Project No. STBG-SWAP-C092 (114)--FG-92 on County Road W61 (Riverside Road) from G26 (190th Street) to Spruce Avenue and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the document on behalf of the Board. The agreement pertains to a project that will involve resurfacing and widening County Road W61 (Riverside Road) from G26 (190th Street) north to Spruce Avenue. According to County Engineer Jacob Thorius the project will include construction, engineering, inspection, and right-of-way acquisition. Per the agreement, IDOT will reimburse Washington County a maximum of \$2,250,000.00 for the cost of authorized and approved construction costs by way of Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) Federal-Aid Swap funds. The portion of the project costs reimbursed by the STBG funds shall be no more than \$2,250,000.00. Thorius anticipates that the bid letting for the project will occur in January 2021 with the project to take place during the 2021 construction season.

With regard to Board acknowledgement of a quote for an equipment purchase County Engineer Jacob Thorius informed that Board that the quote was not yet finalized. The Board took no formal action.

On motion by Young, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the County Engineer for Asst. County Engineer David Patterson whose employee class will change from temporary non-exempt to full-time exempt and whose rate of compensation will change from \$42.31 per hour to \$43.31 per hour effective September 24, 2020.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Miller, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 20-53 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 20-53 on behalf of the Board.

RESOLUTION 20-53

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, IOWA, ACKNOWLEDGING THE APPLICATION FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING BENEFITS FROM THE WASHINGTON COUNTY RIVERBOAT FOUNDATION.

WHEREAS, the Washington County Riverboat Foundation has grant funds available that target Community Development and Beautification, Economic Development, Art and Education, Human and Social Needs, and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Riverboat Foundation has a grant application cycle that ends September 25, 2020, and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Supervisors is supportive of these targets for improvements to the community and County, and

WHEREAS, one or more applications from Washington County and/or from organizations with projects that will take place on County property, will be submitted to the Washington County Riverboat Foundation by the September 25, 2020 deadline,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Supervisors of Washington County, Iowa, that Washington County acknowledges the following grant application will be submitted to the Washington County Riverboat Foundation for the September 25, 2020 application cycle:

Purchase of portable ventilators

On motion by Miller, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Conservation for Conservation Naturalist Megan Jorgensen whose rate of compensation will change from \$22.22 per hour to \$22.97 per hour effective September 16, 2020.

At 9:30 a.m. Young joined the meeting in person.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Sheriff for Jailer Ellie Todd whose rate of compensation will change from \$17.52 per hour to \$18.27 per hour effective August 25, 2020.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Miller, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 20-52 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 20-52 on behalf of the Board.

RESOLUTION 20-52

National Voter Registration Month

WHEREAS, registering to vote empowers eligible citizens to exercise their right to vote on Election Day; and

WHEREAS, 2020 marks the centennial anniversary of women gaining access to the ballot box through the passage of the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, one of the national leaders of the women's suffrage movement was Iowan Carrie Chapman Catt; and

WHEREAS, Iowa consistently ranks among the top 10 states in the nation for voter registration and voter participation, with more than two-million residents currently registered to vote; and

WHEREAS, 17-year-olds are now eligible to register to vote in Iowa; and

WHEREAS, Iowa's voter registration process is easier and more convenient than ever before, with online voter registration, Election Day registration, and applications available through government agencies across the state; and

WHEREAS, the State of Iowa's online voter registration system enables citizens to register to vote and update their registration status quickly and easily, any time of day; and

WHEREAS, we encourage all interested citizens and all appropriate media outlets and civic organizations to participate in this non-partisan voter registration awareness campaign to encourage the maximum participation of qualified voters in Iowa.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Washington County Board of Supervisors that the month of September 2020 is hereby designated as National Voter Registration Month and Tuesday, September 22, 2020 be designated as National Voter Registration Day.

Washington County Public Health Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski shared to date in Washington County there have been 4,326 tests conducted to detect for COVID-19 yielding 401 positive tests. Since September 1 there has been an uptick in the number of COVID-19 cases, especially with individuals 8 to 30 years of age. Also, a total of 338 serology tests have been conducted resulting in 26 individuals with reactive results. A serological test, which is conducted on a sample of blood serum, indicates whether various disease conditions, including COVID-19, are present. In response to a question from Seward regarding recoveries Pettit-Majewski stated that 323 of the 401 individuals that tested positive have recovered leaving 78 active cases at the present time. A total of 11 deaths in Washington County have been attributed to COVID-19. The Board took no formal action.

Emergency Management Coordinator Marissa Reisen shared that the United States Department of Agriculture has designated 18 Iowa counties as primary natural disaster areas which enables producers in those counties who suffered losses due to the Derecho on August 10, 2020 to be eligible for emergency loans. While Washington County is not among the 18 counties it is a contiguous county and as such residents are eligible to apply for partial benefits. Reisen also stated that low-interest Small Business Administration federal disaster loans are now available to certain private nonprofit organizations in 7 Iowa counties, including Washington County for assistance as a result of the Derecho.

Washington County Ambulance Service (WCAS) Director Jeremy Peck shared that WCAS has recently acquired a Medicare provider number which in turn will enable WCAS to receive Medicare reimbursement. Peck shared that during July and August WCAS responded to 471 calls for service and the third WCAS ambulance was utilized for a total of 260 hours.

At 10:58 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Young, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
September 15, 2020

JACK SEWARD JR.
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor