

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 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; Quarterly Report – Recorder; Quarterly Report – Auditor; contract agreement between Public Consulting Group (PCG) and Washington County Ambulance Services; personnel change requests – Washington County Ambulance Services; compensation for employees of Washington County Ambulance Services; appoint Supervisor representative to Washington County Emergency Services Advisory Council; update regarding American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; open discussion; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Jr., Marcus Fedler, Bob Yoder, and Stan Stoops were also present.

Other individuals in attendance included Kalen McCain, SE Iowa Union; Jeremy Peck, County Ambulance Services Director; and Jo Greiner, County Recorder were also in attendance. 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 Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the Recorder's 1st quarter report for FY22 and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the report on behalf of the Board. The report, presented by County Recorder Jo Greiner, reflected revenues for the quarter in the amount of \$158,988.57 with the county retaining \$54,007.19. A total of 1,598 documents were recorded during the quarter and Greiner added that her office processed 55 marriage applications, 108 passport applications, and 212 boat, ATV and snowmobile renewals/registrations. Also during the quarter a total of 465 certified copies of birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage licenses were provided. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Recorder.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the Auditor's report for the 1st quarter of FY22 and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the report on behalf of the Board. The report, presented by Auditor Dan Widmer, reflected revenues for the quarter in the amount of \$1,795.00.

Of this total, \$1,690.00 resulted from transfer fees, \$60.00 from the sale of plat books, \$20.00 for election services, and \$25.00 for GIS services. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

While the Board discussed a proposed contractual agreement between Public Consulting Group (PCG) and Washington County Ambulance Services (WCAS) it took no action. Under the proposed agreement in situations when a Medicaid claim is rejected by the Department of Human Services, PCG will work jointly with WCAS to make the necessary corrections and/or modifications to resolve the issue in order that the claim can be successfully resubmitted for payment. WCAS Director Jeremy Peck shared that PCG works on a contingency basis (9%) and he estimated that the assistance provided by PCG could potentially triple the amount of revenue that would have been received otherwise. Board members expressed concern with paying a 9% contingency fee to obtain revenue which ultimately belongs to the County. However, in spite of their criticism the Board informally agreed that contracting with PCG was the best available option at the present time.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for Paramedic Kasey Wieland whose rate of pay, effective October 7, 2021, will increase to \$21.77 per hour as a result of Wieland passing the Paramedic exam.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for EMT Dakota Connolly whose employment status will change from regular part-time non-exempt to casual part-time non-exempt effective October 7, 2021. Connolly's rate of pay will not change.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for Paramedic Joan Sieren whose employment status will change from regular part-time non-exempt to casual part-time non-exempt effective October 7, 2021. Sieren's rate of pay will not change.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for EMT Bruce Murphy whose employment status will change from regular part-time non-exempt to casual part-time non-exempt effective October 7, 2021. Murphy's rate of pay will not change.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for EMT Aimee Buol whose employment status will change from regular part-time non-exempt to casual part-time non-exempt effective October 7, 2021. Buol's rate of pay will not change.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for EMT Steven Ebersole whose employment status will change from regular part-time non-exempt to casual part-time non-exempt effective October 7, 2021. Ebersole's rate of pay will not change.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for the hiring of Stephen Swaffer who began duties as a regular part-time EMT at the rate of \$18.92 per hour on October 7, 2021. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

Peck advocated for a change in the manner in which WCAS employees are compensated in an effort to both retain present employees and also to attract new employees. According to Peck at the present time a severe shortage of Paramedics exists across the country and in an effort to combat the problem he presented a solution that would increase the compensation of present employees and would also give new employees credit, with regard to compensation, for their prior ambulance experience. The Board took no formal action.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Marcus Fedler as its representative on the Washington County Emergency Services Advisory Council.

The Board received an update from Stoops regarding how approximately the \$4.4 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds received by Washington County should best be utilized. Stoops stated he has begun to compile a list of possible uses for the funding as suggested by various individuals including County Department Heads. Discussion took place with Fedler warning against making hasty decisions in the absence of final rules and guidelines. The Board took no formal action.

There was no comment from County Department Heads.

At 10:02 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
October 12, 2021

RICHARD L. YOUNG, CHAIRPERSON
Washington County Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor