

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 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; contract agreement between Public Consulting Group (PCG) and Washington County Ambulance Services; Quarterly Report – General Assistance; Quarterly Report – Veteran Affairs; Quarterly Report – Treasurer; Personnel change requests – Ambulance; Agreement with Martin Gardner Architecture, P.C. to conduct feasibility study regarding remodeling of Orchard Hill Building #3; discussion and action regarding County Attorney Office remodeling; paving project for a portion of Vine Avenue (Old Highway 218) beginning in Crawfordsville and extending south; open discussion; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Jr., Marcus Fedler, Bob Yoder, and Stan Stoops were also present.

Other individuals in attendance included the following: Kalen McCain, SE Iowa Union; Jeremy Peck, County Ambulance Services Director; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; John Gish, County Attorney; Sue Rich, County General Assistance/Veteran Affairs Director; and Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer. 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.

The Board took no action regarding a proposed contract agreement between Public Consulting Group (PCG) and Washington County Ambulance Services due to unresolved questions with regard to the content of the proposed agreement.

Washington County General Assistance Director Sue Rich presented the 1st Quarter Washington County General Assistance report for FY22. She reported that during the quarter \$665.08 in benefits were paid to four successful applicants for rent and utility assistance. Six applications for assistance were denied. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the FY22 1st Quarter General Assistance report. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

Washington County Veteran Affairs Director Sue Rich presented the 1st Quarter Washington County Veteran Affairs report for FY22. She reported that during the quarter \$2,700.00 in benefits were paid to four successful applicants for rent, utility, and funeral expenses. Three applications for assistance were denied. On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the FY22 1st Quarter Veteran Affairs report. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge the Treasurer's Quarterly Report of Fees Collected for the 1st Quarter of FY22 and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the report on behalf of the Board. Highlights of the report, presented by Treasurer Jeff Garrett, included total motor vehicle fees of \$2,188,286.46 collected during the quarter with Washington County retaining \$71,185.75 (3.25%) of that total. Garrett provided the following fee retention schedule: 4% of registration fees, \$2.50 per certificate of title, 60% of security interest notation fees, \$1.00 or 100% if greater than \$1.00 for new registrations, 5% of organ donor fund donations, \$15 per suspension, \$3.00 for postage necessary to mail license plates, and \$7.00 for each driver's license issued. Garrett also stated other fees of \$70.00 were collected which results in a total of \$71,255.75 in fees retained for the quarter. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Treasurer.

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 the hiring of Jeffery Lavrenz who began duties as a non-exempt regular part-time EMT at the rate of \$21.77 per hour on October 13, 2021. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Seward, 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 Doug Sanders whose employment status changed from regular part-time non-exempt to casual part-time non-exempt on October 7, 2021. There was no change in Sanders's rate of pay.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve a contract agreement with Martin Gardner Architecture, P.C. to conduct a study pertaining to the feasibility of remodeling Orchard Hill Building #3 and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board.

County Attorney John Gish updated the Board regarding plans for a possible remodel of space in the Courthouse presently occupied by his department. Gish stated that he had recently met with Auditor Dan Widmer and County Engineer Jacob Thorius to review and discuss floor plans prepared by Thorius. As a result of that meeting it was the recommendation of the three individuals that the services of a general contractor/project manager be obtained to oversee the project due to the time commitment and knowledge level that would be required. Discussion next focused on possible remodeling plans for various other County spaces, including Orchard Hill Building #3 and the Board of Supervisors room, and the need to sequence such projects in order to minimize disruptions and expenses. Seward suggested that a general contractor/project manager to oversee one combined overall project be considered. According to Thorius while combining the projects would likely make the job more appealing to prospective general contractor/project managers it would also likely create the need for formal bids rather than quotes. Seward suggested that steps be taken to proceed with remodeling the County Attorney area if the work could be completed in the next two to three months. Otherwise, Seward recommended that the County Attorney project be combined at a later date with the remodeling of Orchard Hill Building #3 and the Board of Supervisors office. There was general agreement among the Board with regard to Seward's suggestion. The Board took no formal action.

The Board took up discussion of a completed project that involved the re-paving of a two-mile portion of Vine Avenue (Old Highway 218) extending southward from the intersection of Vine Avenue and Columbus Street in Crawfordsville. The project was completed under an arrangement outlined under an existing 28E agreement between the City of Crawfordsville and Washington County. Board discussion centered on a 200' portion of Vine Avenue in Crawfordsville extending north of the intersection of Vine Avenue and Columbus Street which was not included in the project which in turn triggered telephone calls from constituents in the Crawfordsville area. County Engineer Jacob Thorius expressed that in his professional opinion the 200' portion of roadway was not in need of re-paving and he also shared that the terms of the contract for completion of the project called for the re-paving to begin at the intersection of Vine Avenue and Columbus Street and from that point south. He also opined that County staff had gone "above and beyond" the terms of the contract and voiced that he had been on-site nearly every day while work was taking place yet no one contacted him with concerns until after the project was completed. When questioned about the cost of having the paving company return and re-pave the portion of the road Thorius was reluctant to provide a cost estimate but he did state that the cost would be relatively expensive when mobilization costs and other such fixed costs were taken into consideration. Young reminded that the Board answers to all taxpayers in Washington County and he noted that re-paving the 200' portion of Vine Avenue under discussion was not a high priority based on the professional opinion of Thorius. Fedler expressed frustration with the responses of Thorius and Young and noted that the failure to re-pave the section results in a 200' gap between the new pavement to the south and new payment to the north. A lengthy discussion ensued but ultimately the Board took no formal action.

There was no comment from County Department Heads.

At 10:38 a.m. on motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
October 19, 2021

RICHARD L. YOUNG, CHAIRPERSON
Washington County Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor