

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 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; Resolution 21-41 regarding Notice of Property Tax Suspension; compensation for employees of Washington County Ambulance Services; Workplace Learning Connection presentation and FY23 funding request; Washington County Ambulance Services Staff Pay Scale; Letter of Intent with ISG for County Inspection services related to the Heartland Greenway System Pipeline; Sub-Award Agreement between Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management and Washington County for a Flood Mitigation Project on Dogwood Avenue; acknowledgment of K-9 donation; appointment of EMS Educator for the Washington County EMS Advisory Council; appointment of Board of Supervisors liaison to the Washington County Ambulance Services Department; designation of "The News" for publication of official 2022 Washington County proceedings; open discussion; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, 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; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Cyndie Sinn, County Budget/IT Director; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Kristine Bullock, Workplace Learning Connection Director; Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant. Various other individuals listened and/or watched remotely via 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 by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 21-41 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 21-41 on behalf of the Board.

**RESOLUTION 21-41
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Notice of Property Tax Suspension**

WHEREAS, Linda L. Fall is the owner of record of parcel WACWS 11-08-453-003 located at 1402 N 6th Ave, Washington, Iowa, and,

WHEREAS, Linda L. Fall is a recipient of financial assistance through the Iowa Department of Human Services as verified by the "Notice of Action" filed with the Washington County Treasurer, and,

WHEREAS, Section 427.9 of the Code of Iowa requires the county board of supervisors to suspend unpaid property tax, interest, and costs on parcels owned by persons who are recipients of federal supplementary security income, state supplementary assistance, or are residents of a health care facility which is receiving payment from the department of human services for their care until such time that the recipients no longer own the parcel, and,

WHEREAS, Linda L. Fall has filed a request for property tax suspension with the Washington County Treasurer affirming compliance with the policy approved by the Washington County Board of Supervisors on March 24, 2009.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Washington County Board of Supervisors, to suspend the unpaid property tax liability on parcel WACWS 11-08-453-003 until such time that the parcel is no longer owned by Linda L. Fall or until the Iowa Department of Human Services ceases to affirm continued eligibility. If continued eligibility is not confirmed by DHS, prior taxes will remain suspended, but current taxes will become due and payable. Any accrued penalty and/or costs remaining unpaid are hereby abated.

The Board chose to revisit action taken at its meeting held on October 26, 2021 when a motion was made and passed unanimously regarding pay rate increases for employees of Washington County Ambulance Services. Auditor Dan Widmer opined that the motion needed clarification. Seward recapped the Board's discussion and voiced that the motion passed by the Board was intended to adopt the pay rate increases as proposed by Washington County Ambulance Director Jeremy Peck for ambulance staff. On motion by Seward, seconded Stoops, the Board voted to authorize various pay rate increases, including the Director, Administrative Assistant, and the Billing Coder, for individuals currently employed by the Washington County Ambulance Services Department.

Workplace Learning Connection (WLC) Director Kristine Bullock provided background information about WLC and explained that WLC, working in partnership with Kirkwood Community College and Grant Wood Area Education, serves as an intermediary between all school districts and all employers in a six county area which includes Washington County. According to Bullock the mission and purpose of WLC is to better prepare students to make informed education and career decisions, to support students and educators as they navigate from awareness to exploration to high quality work-based learning, to provide communication and coordination in order to build and sustain relationships, to provide a one-stop contact point, to develop work-based capacity with employers, and finally to provide core service programming. Bullock distributed a report showing a total of 766 student career exploration experiences in FY21 for Washington County which consisted of 708 event participants, 22 internship participants, and 36 job shadow participants. Due to the impact of the Coronavirus these totals were less than the totals for FY20. However, Bullock stated that the Coronavirus required new and creative ideas which can be used again in the future with or without the threat of the Coronavirus. Bullock asked the Board for funding

assistance in the amount of \$2,256.50 (\$.10 per capita) which is a \$31.80 increase from the amount of funding assistance for the current fiscal year. Bullock commented that WLC's diverse funding model depends on each of its funding partners supporting its work proportionately so that entities both large and small contribute at the same level in order that the financial burden does not fall on any one group of stakeholders but is shared throughout the system. In summary, Bullock stated that WLC is a tool for career development, future workforce development, and economic development as well as serving as a model for other similar such organizations across the state. The Board took no formal action.

The Board next turned its attention to a proposed Washington County Ambulance Services (WCAS) wage matrix. The proposal, presented by Ambulance Director Jeremy Peck, included five levels of compensation for the positions of Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT), Paramedic, Field Supervisor, Office Assistant, Billing Coder, and Administrative Assistant. As proposed under the plan, upon approval of the Board of Supervisors the Ambulance Director would have the discretion to start a new employee at any of the five levels with the decision based in large part on related experience. Advancement to other levels would also be at the discretion of the Ambulance Director with the Board of Supervisors authorizing any additional funding needed upon approval of a personnel change request and/or during the budget process. Also, per the proposal, WCAS employees would receive an annual cost-of-living adjustment per the directive of the Board of Supervisors beginning July 1, 2023. Finally, in addition to any cost-of-living adjustment, WCAS employees would be eligible for a longevity pay increase of \$.20 per hour after reaching 10 years of service with WCAS. A lengthy discussion took place in order for Peck to provide clarification on the proposal. Young voiced that if approved, the wage matrix would result in WCAS employees receiving some of the highest wages among ambulance employees in Iowa. Young added that the Board will expect an explanation from WCAS if the new wage matrix does not resolve the present staffing issues. Young also pointed out that the proposed WCAS wage matrix includes a longevity pay increase of \$.20 per hour the longevity pay increase is presently only \$.10 per hour for Courthouse employees. Peck responded by saying that the proposed \$.20 per hour was intended only as a discussion starting point. In answer to Seward's question regarding whether individuals have been inquiring about becoming a WCAS employee Peck answered in the affirmative but added that he wanted to finalize and gain Board approval of the WCAS pay matrix before moving forward with new hires. On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve the Washington County Ambulance Services Ambulance Staff Pay for FY22 which includes a pay increase of \$.10 per hour at the beginning of each succeeding fiscal year after reaching Level 5 on the Washington County Ambulance Services wage matrix and that the wage matrix will become effective for FY23.

The Board took no action regarding a letter of Intent with ISG for County Inspection services related to the Heartland Greenway System Pipeline.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve a Sub-award Agreement between Washington County and the Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency for a Flood Mitigation Project on Dogwood Avenue. The total sub-award is \$308,517.00. The federal share shall not exceed \$231,387.75 or (75%) of actual allowable sub-award costs, whichever is less. The state share shall not exceed \$30,851.70 or (10%) of actual allowable sub-award costs, whichever is less. Finally, Washington County shall provide at least \$46,277.55 or (15%) through local non-federal (cash or in-kind) sources for actual allowable sub-award costs. Such funds are to be used to assist the County with completing the approved scope of work in accordance with the work schedule, milestones, and budgets that were submitted to and approved by the Iowa Department of Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge a donation to the Washington County Sheriff's K-9 fund in the amount of \$300.00 from Mary C. Ulin.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to appoint Katrina Altenhofen as EMS Educator for the Washington County EMS Advisory Council. The vote on the motion: Aye-Yoder, Seward, Stoops, Fedler; Abstain-Young.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Stoops as the Board of Supervisors liaison to the Washington County Ambulance Services Department. The vote on the motion: Aye-Yoder, Seward, Stoops, Fedler; Abstain-Young.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve the designation of "The News" as an official publication for Washington County proceedings during calendar year 2022.

There was no comment from County Department Heads.

At 10:17 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
November 2, 2021

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor

RICHARD L. YOUNG, CHAIRPERSON
Washington County Board of Supervisors