

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2018**

Chairperson Richard Young called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Courthouse chambers in regular session. Items on the agenda were: approval of agenda; appointment of 2018 Board of Supervisors Chairperson; appointment of 2018 Board of Supervisors Vice-Chairperson; designation of The News for publication of official Washington County proceedings in 2018; appointment of various commission, board, and committee members; receive and act on Washington County Compensation Board recommendation for FY 2018-19 compensation for elected officials; discussion and action regarding establishment of departmental compensation guidelines for FY 2018-19 departmental budgets. Supervisor Stan Stoops, Bob Yoder, Abe Miller, and Jack Seward Jr. were also present.

Others attending were: Sally Hart, KCII Radio; Jo Greiner, County Recorder; Sue Rich, County Veteran Affairs/General Assistance Director; John Gish, County Attorney; Danielle Pettit-Majewski, County Public Health Director; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Director; Jared Schneider and Shawn Ellingson, County Sheriff's Office; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; and citizens Denny Stalder, Karyl Miller, Bill Miller, and Tom Dayton.

All motions were passed unanimously by those supervisors in attendance unless noted otherwise.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Abe Miller as Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors for calendar year 2018. The vote on the motion was Aye-Young, Yoder, Stoops; Abstain-Seward, Miller.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Young, the Board voted to appoint Bob Yoder as Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors for calendar year 2018. The vote on the motion was Aye-Young, Miller, Seward, Stoops; Abstain-Yoder.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to designate The News as an official 2018 County Newspaper for publication of official Washington County proceedings.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Young, the Board voted to appoint Jack Seward, Jr. to a one-year term as the County's representative on the 8th Judicial District Board of Directors and to appoint Bob Yoder to a one-year term as the County's alternate representative on the 8th Judicial District Board of Directors. Each term begins January 1, 2018 and ends December 31, 2018.

On motion by Young, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to appoint Bob Yoder to a three-year term as the County's representative on the East Central Iowa Council of Government's Board of Directors and to appoint Abe Miller as the County's alternate representative to the East Central Iowa Council of Government's Board of Directors. Each term begins January 1, 2018 and ends December 31, 2020.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to make no changes to current Supervisor assignments to various commission, board, and committee members for calendar year 2018.

While the Board took up discussion pertaining to recommendations from the Compensation Board for elected official's compensation levels in FY 2018-19 it was noted that formal written correspondence from the Compensation Board as to its recommendations had yet to be received. However all Supervisors were in attendance at the December 19, 2017 meeting of the Compensation Board and were thus aware that the Compensation Board recommended one-time adjustments of \$6,000 for the County Attorney, \$3,000 for the Sheriff, \$0 for the Auditor, \$500 for the Treasurer, \$500 for the Recorder, and \$1,500 for each Supervisor. The Compensation Board also recommended a 3% increase for all elected officials. In discussing the recommended one-time adjustments the Supervisors focused on the stated goal of the Compensation Board that Washington County elected officials be ranked at least 15th on a scale of 1 to 99 of county compensation levels with 1 being the highest. Stoops expressed consternation with the one-time adjustments in addition to the across-the-board 3% increase recommendation. Seward added his concerns to those of Stoops by stating the recommendations equated to overall increases varying from 3% to over 8.5% for elected officials and in turn he questioned the impact of such compensation increases on the overall county budget. He also reminded that the compensation for deputies was tied to the compensation for elected officials. Responding to a comment Seward cautioned against comparing county government with private business because county government does not produce a product and does not strive to make a profit. Seward also voiced concern with the compensation board making its recommendations artificially high and thus placing the burden on Supervisors to reduce such recommendations to achieve more realistic amounts. Yoder expressed that he favored an increase in the range of 2 to 3% and reminded those present that projected State of Iowa budget issues will have a definite impact on the local county budget. Miller and Young questioned the significance, or logic, of being ranked 15th. County Treasurer Jeff Garrett clarified that the Compensation Board recommendations do not include a bonus recommendation but instead a flat adjustment in addition to a percentage increase. He added the same flat rate adjustment recommended by the Compensation Board for FY 2018-19 had occurred in FY 2004-05, 2005-06, and 2006-07. While County Attorney John Gish stated his legal opinion was that of being comfortable with the Compensation Board recommendations he also stated that he would be comfortable if the Supervisors chose to seek additional counsel. On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to table action on FY 2018-19 compensation recommendations for elected officials pending receipt of written compensation recommendations from the Washington County Compensation Board.

On motion by Young, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to table action regarding establishment of departmental compensation guidelines for FY 2018-19 departmental budgets.

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

ATTEST:

JANUARY 2, 2018

ABE C. MILLER
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor