

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 3, 2017**

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: administration of oath of office for newly elected officials; administration of oath for Acting County Attorney; administration of oath of office for County Auditor deputies; appointment of 2017 Board of Supervisors Chairperson; appointment of 2017 Board of Supervisors Vice-Chairperson; appointments of various commission, board, and committee members; designation of Kalona News for publication of official Washington County proceedings in 2017; personnel change request – Sheriff; personnel change request – Public Health; discussion and action regarding options for vacating Nutmeg Avenue in Section 17 & 20 of 77-7; discussion and action regarding establishment of departmental guidelines & recommendations for FY 2017-18 departmental budgets; discussion regarding applicants for position of Washington County Attorney. Supervisor Stan Stoops, Bob Yoder, Abe Miller, and Jack Seward Jr. were also present.

Others attending were: Sally Hart, KCII Radio; Xiomara Levsen, Washington Evening Journal; Mary Zielinski, Kalona News; Jennine Wolf, County Environmental Health Director; Jo Greiner, County Recorder; Sue Rich, County Veteran Affairs/General Assistance Director; Jennifer Lerner, John Gish and Alicia Pacha, County Attorney's Office; Danielle Pettit-Majewski, County Public Health Director; Julie Johnson, County Clerk of Court; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Bobbie Wulf, County Mental Health/Disability Services Director; Sue Meeks, Deputy Auditor; Michelle Hyman, Deputy Auditor; Jared Schneider and Shawn Ellingson, County Sheriff's Office; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant; and citizens Alvin C. Miller, Lois Schneider, Nathan Schneider, Robert Schneider, Jr., Bette Brant, Lu Harland, Patricia Lipski, Katie Schneider, Tom Duwa, Dan Kitchen, Denny Stalder, Charlotte Stalder, and Les Zickefoose.

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

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

Judicial Magistrate Daniel Kitchen administered the Oath of Office to newly elected County Supervisors Stan Stoops, Bob Yoder, and Jack Seward Jr., Auditor Daniel Widmer, and County Sheriff Jared Schneider.

Kitchen administered the Oath of Office to Deputy Auditor Michelle Hyman and Deputy Auditor Sue Meeks.

Supervisor Seward nominated Supervisor Young for the position of Chairperson of the Board of Supervisors for calendar year 2017 and Supervisor Miller for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Supervisor Stoops seconded the motion. Hearing no further discussion and no other nominations, the Board voted to appoint Richard Young as Board of Supervisor Chairperson and Abe Miller as Board of Supervisor Vice-Chairperson for calendar year 2017.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Seward to a one-year term as the County's representative on the 8th Judicial District Board of Directors and to appoint 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, 2017.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Seward to a one-year term as the County's representative on the South Iowa Area Crime Commission. Seward's term begins January 1, 2017

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Raquel Roberts and James Yoder to separate three-terms on the Washington County Historic Preservation Commission. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to appoint Fred Stark to a two-year term as the County's representative on the Eastern Iowa Tourism Association and to appoint Marianne Hanshaw to a two-year term as the County's alternate representative on the Eastern Iowa Tourism Association. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Kevin Flynn and Walter Horning, Jr., to separate four-year terms as Cedar Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion Miller, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to appoint Craig Grothe and Rick Fulton to separate four-year terms as Crawford Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to appoint Aaron Meader and Jerry Vittetoe to separate four-year terms as Dutch Creek Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Robert Duwa and Mike Stumpf to separate four-year terms as English River Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to appoint Bob Vittetoe and Don Lewis to separate four-year terms as Franklin Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Dave Skubal and Dean Duwa to separate four-year terms as Highland Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to appoint James Schneider and Richard Schneider to separate four-year terms as Iowa Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to appoint Larry Applegate and Myron Krotz to separate four-year terms as Jackson Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Charles Johnson and Jeff Bohr to separate four-year terms as Lime Creek Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to appoint Ledru Nebel and Christine Graber to separate four-year terms as Marion Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to appoint David Kaufman and George Colthurst to separate four-year terms as Oregon Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Mark Tinnes and Scott Sieren to separate four-year terms as Seventy Six Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to appoint Robert A. Kennedy and Phil Reed to separate four-year terms as Washington Township trustee. Each term begins January 1, 2017.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to designate The Kalona News as an official 2017 County newspaper for publication of official County proceedings.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Sheriff for the hiring of Shawn Ellingson as a full-time employee, effective January 3, 2017, at the bi-weekly rate of \$2926.55. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Public Health for the hiring of Leann Fangman as a full-time employee, effective January 5, 2017, at the rate of \$29.00 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius addressed the Board and listed three different options regarding the possibility of vacating a portion of Nutmeg Avenue in Sections 17 & 20 of 77-7. One option would be to do nothing and leave the road status unchanged. The second option would be to downgrade the road to Class B or Class C status which would result in very minimal maintenance with the County still having an easement. The third option would involve completely vacating the road, resulting in the land being returned to private ownership and completely eliminating County maintenance responsibility. County access, however, would also be eliminated if the road was vacated. County Auditor Widmer outlined the process to vacate the road which would include a public hearing. Discussion followed as to the specific portion of Nutmeg Avenue being considered for vacation and the ramifications under each option. Thorius voiced his preference of carefully determining the exact portion of Nutmeg to be vacated so as not to have to duplicate the road vacation process in the future should an additional portion of Nutmeg be considered for vacation. Thorius also noted that resistance could occur from proponents of the use of Nutmeg in the future as part of a trail from Kalona to Richmond. Stoops noted that he had spoken with Washington County Conservation Director Steve Anderson and learned that Washington County Conservation was not interested in the establishment of a trail. The Board took no formal action.

The Board took up further consideration of departmental guidelines and recommendations for FY 2017-18 departmental budgets. For FY 2016-17, department heads were given a guideline of 2% for salary increases and 0% for operational expense increases with the provision that the Board would be willing to approve an increase in operational expenses if justification was provided. Both Seward and Stoops stated they favored the same guidelines for FY 2017-18. Miller questioned whether increasing employee compensation while holding expenses level was prudent and instead suggested holding compensation steady and budgeting for future building needs. Discussion ensued, highlighted by Young's opinion that a new Communications building must be constructed within the next two years in order to accommodate required equipment upgrades. Young expressed doubt that construction of a new Communications building could be financed by way of the savings realized from holding wages level. Instead he said such a building project would need approval by way of a public bond vote. Seward expressed his opinion that people should take precedence over buildings. On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve a 0% target increase for departmental spending with the exception of wages. The question of a wage directive will be addressed at a future Board meeting.

The Board plans to appoint a Washington County Attorney at its meeting on January 17, 2017. Seward stated he has been advised by others to consider such character traits as honesty and integrity, as well as experience, ties to the local community, discernment between "right" and "almost right", and whether a candidate has a true passion for serving as Washington County Attorney. Miller added that he has gained input from various Department Heads. The Board took no formal action.

Kitchen administered the Oath of Office to Acting County Attorney Jen Lerner.

At 10:45 a.m. on motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
JANUARY 3, 2017

RICHARD L. YOUNG
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor