

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TUESDAY, JANUARY 10, 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: discussion and action regarding options for vacating Nutmeg Avenue in Section 17 & 20 of 77-7; Washington County Recycling Update – Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA Waste Systems; presentation and funding request – English River Watershed; presentation and funding request – City of Kalona; presentation and funding request – PAWS & More Animal Shelter; presentation and funding request – Washington County Library Association; discussion and action regarding Washington County Compensation Board recommendations for FY 2017-18 elected officials' salaries; discussion and action regarding establishment of departmental compensation guidelines for FY 2017-18 departmental budgets; discussion and action regarding Washington County Emergency Management; approval of certificates of appointment of deputy or assistant – Sheriff; approval of certificates of appointment of civil process servers – Sheriff; appointment of various commission, board, and committee members. Supervisor Stan Stoops, Bob Yoder, and Abe Miller were present. Supervisor Jack Seward Jr. was absent.

Others attending were: Sally Hart, KCII Radio; Xiomara Levsen, Washington Evening Journal; Mary Zielinski, Kalona News; Jo Greiner, County Recorder; Sue Rich, County Veteran Affairs/General Assistance Director; Danielle Pettit-Majewski, County Public Health Director; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Shawn Ellingson, Sheriff's Office; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Debbie Stanton, Carol Wilkins, and Anne Skaden, County Library Association; Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA Waste Systems; Sheila Hansen and Amber Talbot, PAWS & More; Steve Anderson, County Conservation Director; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; and citizens Bette Brant, Lu Harland, Patricia Lipski, Tom Duwa, Andrew Yoder, Robert Yoder, Ann Grim, Denise Allen, Joshua Allen, Steve Maxon, Marvin Borntrager, Clayton Borntrager, Travis Yeggy, Cyndi Yeggy, Richard Wenman, Mary Wenman, and Doris Park.

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.

With regard to possibly vacating a portion of Nutmeg Avenue in Section 17 & 20 of 77-7, discussion that began at the Board's meeting held January 2, 2017 continued with the Board considering the exact portion of Nutmeg Avenue to be vacated. Stoops stated that he had spoken with Steve Anderson of Washington County Conservation (WCC) and learned that WCC is not interested in being involved with a trail between Kalona and Richmond. Young stated that Seward had written to the four landowners who could ultimately be involved to gauge their interest and obtain their input on possibly vacating Nutmeg. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to hold a work session related to the possibility of vacating a portion of Nutmeg Avenue on Wednesday, February 22, 2017 at 7:00 pm with the location of the meeting to be determined at a later date.

Lynn Whaley, of WEMIGA Waste Systems, briefed the Board on activity at the Washington County Recycling Center for the month of December 2016. For the month, the facility processed 74.65 landfill tons, 17.77 recyclables tons, 28 appliances, 24 tires, and 15 gallons of used oil. Whaley proposed cutting a hole in the north wall of the building and installing a 10' x 20' concrete pad in back of the building to accommodate a new compactor. Whaley was instructed to work with Stoops to include such a project in the 2017-18 budget. Whaley also noted that new signage had been installed, an old skid steer loader had been replaced, electrical service to the old balers has been disconnected, damage to a door was being repaired, a better means of handling city recyclables was being addressed, and a safer method of handling ashes was being researched. The Board took no formal action.

A presentation from representatives of the English River Watershed was unavailable and the Board took no formal action.

A presentation from representatives of the City of Kalona was unavailable and the Board took no formal action.

Amber Talbot and Sheila Hansen, representing PAWS & More, were present to seek financial support in order to continue the group's purpose of providing animal control services for Washington County. Talbot presented figures which included the receipt of 799 animals in 2016, 695 animals in 2015, 605 animals in 2014, 583 animals in 2013, 711 animals in 2012, 578 animals in 2011, and 737 animals in 2010. The annual funding request amount for PAWS & More is arrived at as follows: number of animals accepted from Washington County only, multiplied by the current average daily boarding fee of \$15/day, multiplied by the first seven days the animal is in the care of PAWS & More. It was noted that the boarding fee per day of \$15 is less than average for what county-wide clinics charge. Also, the seven day time period is state law for how long an impounded animal is to be kept prior to adoption or euthanasia. Based on the funding formula that was presented, the calculation is as follows: 266 county animals x \$15 (boarding fee) x 7 days = \$27,930, plus \$1,240 reimbursement for 31 pick-ups that were provided at a cost of \$40 per call, results in a total funding request amount of \$29,170. Talbot stated that her organization has an 87% adoption rate. She also was pleased to report that a new building had been constructed in the past year for animal food storage. The Board took no formal action regarding the \$29,170 funding request from PAWS & More.

The Washington County Compensation Board (WCCB) met on December 21, 2016 and recommended a 2.5% increase in annual salary for all Washington County elected officials and continuation of a \$150 monthly stipend for the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors. With regard to the recommendations, the Board can either 1) approve the salary adjustments for all elected official as proposed by the WCCB, 2) decrease the recommended salary adjustments for the Auditor, Recorder, Treasurer, County Sheriff, and County Attorney by an equal percentage, or 3) independent of any salary adjustment for other elected officials, decrease the proposed salary adjustment for the Board of Supervisors by any percentage up to 100%. Stoops expressed comfort with the recommendations of the Compensation Board while Miller cited statistics indicating that the cost of living for private individuals rose 0.7% while the cost of living for government employees rose 0.3% over the last year. Miller then stated that he felt a 2.5% increase was too much and

compared county populations throughout Iowa with salary rankings. Specifically, Yoder stated that while Washington County ranked 28<sup>th</sup> in the state in terms of population, each elected official in Washington County ranked higher than 28<sup>th</sup> in terms of compensation. Yoder expressed comfort with the Compensation Board recommendations. Stoops stated that he felt it was important to take care of County employees while Yoder noted that traditionally a higher wage scale was in existence in eastern Iowa than the rest of the state. Young stated that Seward was comfortable with the 2.5% recommendation. Young recommended that increases for all elected officials, with the exception of the Supervisors, be voted on in one motion and that increases for the Supervisors be voted on by way of another separate motion. Miller moved to approve a 1.5% increase for elected officials but the motion died for lack of a second. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve a 2.5% increase in base compensation for elected officials as recommended by the Washington County Compensation Board. The vote on the motion: Aye-Young, Yoder, Stoops; Nay-Miller; Absent-Seward. Discussion centered on the inadvertent inclusion of Supervisors in the previous motion. Miller moved to approve a 100% reduction of the Compensation Board's recommendation for Supervisors and continuation of the \$150 stipend for the Board Chairperson. The motion died for lack of a second. Stoops stated that while he would be comfortable with no increase for Board members, he felt it important to consider the effect on individuals who in the future might consider a seat on the Board. On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve a 40% reduction of the Compensation Board's recommendation for Supervisors with no change in the stipend rate for the Board Chairperson. The vote on the motion: Aye-Young, Yoder, Stoops; Nay-Miller; Absent-Seward. As a result of the Board action, proposed individual salaries for FY 2017-18 are as follows: County Attorney, \$109,091; County Sheriff, \$92,110; Auditor, \$72,757; Treasurer, \$68,018; Recorder, \$67,019, Supervisor \$36,394.

The Board took up discussion of wage guidelines for non-elected employees. Miller stated his feelings that if elected officials receive a 2.5% increase then non-elected employees should also receive a 2.5% increase. Stoops and Yoder voiced agreement with Miller's statement. Young shared Seward's comments in which Seward advocated for an increase of \$0.45 per hour for all non-elected employees so as to avoid widening the gap from the lowest wage rate to the highest wage rate. Discussion ensued with Treasurer Jeff Garrett stating that the wage scale used for employees of the Treasurer, Recorder, and Auditor already incorporates increases of equal dollar amounts rather than percentages. On motion by Miller, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve a 2.5% increase in compensation for non-elected employees in FY 2017-18.

With regard to Washington County Emergency Management, Young shared that the Washington County Emergency Management Board recently voted to terminate its 28E Agreement with Keokuk County related to the sharing of an Emergency Management Director. Discussion centered on the way that emergency management is funded by the various cities in Washington County which currently is based in large part on population. Young added that in some counties emergency management is funded by a county-wide special levy that is approved by the Board of Supervisors. The Board took no formal action.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve certificates of appointment as Sheriff's Deputy for each of the following individuals four-year terms, ending December 31, 2020: Shawn Ellingson, Zach Rozmus, Darren Dennler, Jason Schlabaugh, Brandon Hamilton, Eric Weber, Timothy Smit, Randy Tinnes, Nathan Schmuecker, Chad Ellis, Nolan Burke, Aaron Gould, Robyn Hoppman, William Fiordelise, Kirk Bailey, James Smith.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve certificates of appointment as Civil Process Server for each of the following individuals for four year terms ending December 31, 2020: Jason Tinnes, Jordan Farrier, Michael J. Yoder, Edwin Arbogast, Carrie Rich, Nathan Schneider, Angela Edwards, Dennis Boecker, Edgar Gutierrez, Karla Davis, Jennifer Kannada, Inocencia Diaz, Pamela Miller, Gina Greiner, Kyle Hartsock, Toni Hunter.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to appoint Richard Young, Joanne Sieren, and Daniel Stigers to separate two-year terms as Washington County Medical Examiner Investigator with term ending December 31, 2018 and also to appoint Dr. Robin Plattenberger to a two year term as Washington County Deputy County Medical Examiner with term ending December 31, 2018.

At 11:03 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:

JANUARY 10, 2017

RICHARD L. YOUNG  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor