

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, JANUARY 31, 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 possible action regarding Board of Health recommendations for future space needs; appointment and swearing in of John Gish as Washington County Attorney; personnel change request – County Attorney; personnel change requests – Communications; personnel change request – Public Health; appointment of various commission, board, and committee members; discussion and possible action regarding application for business credit card; Resolution 17-03 – Property Tax Abatement; Resolution 17-04 – Property Tax Suspension; Resolution 17-05 – Cancellation of Tax Sale Certificate and Property Tax Suspension; discussion and possible action regarding Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan; presentation and funding request – Washington County Fair Board. Supervisors Stan Stoops, Bob Yoder, Jack Seward, Jr., and Abe Miller were present.

Others attending were: Xiomara Levsen, Washington Evening Journal; Mary Zielinski, Kalona News; Sally Hart, KCII Radio; Jo Greiner, County Recorder; Jennine Wolf, County Environmental Health Director; Danielle Pettit-Majewski and Cathy Buffington, County Public Health Office; Jennifer Lerner, Acting County Attorney; John Gish, Asst. County Attorney; Shawn Ellingson, County Sheriff's Office; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; Dean Sieren, John Wagner, and Jarrod Horning, Washington County Fair Association; Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant; and citizens Bette Brant, Tom Duwa, Bill Miller, Karyl Miller, Charlotte Stalder, Denny Stalder, Les Zickefoose, Tom Vittetoe, Lu Harland, Melinda Ostergren, Tim Johnson, Clyde Johnson, and Nicole Gish.

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

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

On motion by Miller, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to table action regarding Board of Health recommendations for future space needs. Prior to the vote, Seward stated he was not prepared to cast a vote and that he was giving full consideration to the matter. Citizen Tom Vittetoe, who described himself as a concerned taxpayer, emphasized that he had no vendetta against the Supervisors, Washington County Public Health, or Hobart Historic Restoration. Vittetoe continued by stating he had communicated with 18 counties in Iowa and found none of those counties to have Public Health located in an area zoned as light industrial as is the case for 628 East 3rd Street in Washington, which is currently under consideration as a permanent site for Washington County Public Health.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to appoint and swear in John Gish as Washington County Attorney to fill an unexpired term that ends December 31, 2018. The vacancy was created when former County Attorney Shawn Showers resigned on December 23, 2016. John Gish was sworn in by District Court Judge Shawn Showers.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Board of Supervisors for the hiring of John Gish as full-time County Attorney, effective January 31, 2017, at the rate of \$106,430 per year. Gish will fulfill an unexpired term that ends December 31, 2018. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Communications for the hiring of Brittany Baumert as a full-time Dispatcher I, effective February 4, 2017, at the rate of \$18.00 per hour for 1st shift, \$18.35 per hour for 2nd shift, and \$18.50 per hour for 3rd shift. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request with an effective date of February 1, 2017 from Communications for a change in pay rate for Issak Kleese, who serves as a full-time Dispatcher II, from \$19.70 per hour to \$21.10 per hour for 1st shift, \$21.45 per hour for 2nd shift, and \$21.60 per hour for 3rd shift as well as a personnel change request with an effective date of February 1, 2017, from Communications for a change in pay rate for Cassie Manley, who serves as a full-time Dispatcher I, from \$17.18 per hour to \$20.20 per hour for 1st shift, \$20.55 per hour for 2nd shift, and \$20.70 per hour for 3rd shift.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Public Health for the hiring of Angie Shaw as part-time Parent Educator, effective February 2, 2017, at the rate of \$20.00 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve a certificate of appointment as Civil Process Server for Aaron Meader who will serve a four-year term that ends December 31, 2020.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve a certificate of appointment as Civil Process Server for Jopancia Albright who will serve a four-year term that ends December 31, 2020.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve a certificate of appointment as Civil Process Server for Takoda Aplara who will serve a four-year term that ends December 31, 2020.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to approve a certificate of appointment as Reserve Deputy Sheriff for Lucas Snedigar who will serve a four-year term that ends December 31, 2020.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve Deputy Sheriff Shawn Ellingson as an authorized signer for the Washington County Sheriff Department credit card.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 17-03 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 17-03 on behalf of the Board.

RESOLUTION 17-03
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Notice of Property Tax Abatement

WHEREAS, parcel WACWS 11-17-356-002, owned by Rick D. Robson and located at 415 W Madison St, Washington, Iowa, was assessed for taxation on January 1, 2012, and the Washington County Treasurer issued tax sale certificate 12-0141 to William A. Westphal on June 16, 2014, for delinquent taxes, and,

WHEREAS, the parcel was also assessed for taxation on January 1 of 2013, 2014, and 2015 (covering the three-year period from July 1, 2013, through June 30, 2016 – payable in fiscal years 2015, 2016, and 2017), and,

WHEREAS, tax sale certificate 12-0141 was assigned to the City of Washington, Iowa, on April 18, 2016, and the City of Washington, Iowa, subsequently acquired ownership of the parcel through tax sale deed on November 16, 2016, and,

WHEREAS, the City of Washington, Iowa, incurred substantial remediation costs in an effort to rehabilitate the property for new home construction, and,

WHEREAS, the City of Washington, Iowa, has requested that all unpaid property tax that attached to the parcel prior to their obtaining ownership be abated due to their remediation costs exceeding the value of the vacant lot, and,

WHEREAS, section 445.63 of the Code of Iowa requires the board of supervisors to abate tax, interest, and costs, owing against a parcel before the parcel was acquired by a political subdivision upon notification to the governing body and their failure to immediately pay the taxes due.

NOW BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Washington County Board of Supervisors to abate the \$1,264 tax appearing on receipt 518431, \$332 tax appearing on receipt 618432, and \$342 tax appearing on receipt 718447 for parcel WACWS 11-17-356-002 as well as any accrued penalty and costs. The county treasurer is hereby instructed to make adjustments to records as necessary.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 17-04 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 17-04 on behalf of the Board.

RESOLUTION 17-04
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Notice of Property Tax Suspension

WHEREAS, Marcos and Shirley Larios are the owners of record of parcel WACWS 11-17-179-005 located at 308 E 6th St., Washington, Iowa, and,

WHEREAS, Shirley Larios is a recipient of federal supplementary security income through the Department of Human Services as verified by the “Notice of Decision” 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, Shirley Larios 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 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Washington County Board of Supervisors to suspend the unpaid property tax liability, as well as any unpaid penalty and costs, on parcel WACWS 11-17-179-005 until such time that the parcel is no longer owned by Shirley Larios or until the Department of Human Services ceases to affirm continued eligibility. If eligibility is not confirmed by DHS, prior taxes will remain suspended, but current taxes will become due and payable.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 17-05 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 17-05 on behalf of the Board.

RESOLUTION 17-05
WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Notice of Cancellation of Tax Sale Certificate and Property Tax Suspension

WHEREAS, Marcos and Shirley Larios are the owners of record of parcel WACWS 11-17-179-005 located at 308 E 6th St., Washington, Iowa, against which tax sale certificate 14-0104 was issued on June 20, 2016, and,

WHEREAS, Shirley Larios is a recipient of federal supplementary security income through the Department of Human Services as verified by the “Notice of Decision” filed with the Washington County Treasurer, and,

WHEREAS, Section 447.9(3) of the Code of Iowa allows the county board of supervisors to redeem from tax sale parcels owned by individuals deemed by the board of supervisors to be unable to contribute to the public revenue and to suspend the tax liability under the provisions of sections 427.8 through 427.12 of the Code of Iowa, and,

WHEREAS, Section 427.9 of the Code of Iowa specifies 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 shall be deemed unable to contribute to the public revenue, and,

WHEREAS, Shirley Larios 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 BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED, by the Washington County Board of Supervisors that the Washington County Auditor redeem tax sale certificate 14-0104 and that the resulting unpaid property tax liability on parcel WACWS 11-17-179-005 be suspended until such time that the parcel is no longer owned by Shirley Larios.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to table discussion and possible action with regard to a Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan.

On behalf of the Washington County Fair Association, Dean Sieren, Jarrod Horning, and John Wagner presented to the Board and provided highlights of capital improvements made to the fairgrounds during the fiscal year that ended September 30, 2016. The list included water main improvements, the purchase of a sound system, installation of LED light bulbs, improvements to the Old Schoolhouse, fencing and gates around the perimeter of the fairgrounds, and improvements to the goat, rabbit, and horse barns. Such improvements totaled approximately \$50,000. Future plans call for the renovation of a hog barn, electric and ventilation improvements to the 4-H Hall, and planting trees. A high priority for the future is the installation of a new sewer system at an estimated cost of \$50,000. Also, planning is underway for the construction of a new cattle barn, at a cost of approximately \$200,000, which would replace existing facilities. There were a total of 214 events that took place at the fairgrounds during the fiscal year. Also, it was pointed out that Washington County ranks sixth in the state in terms of 4-H membership and trails only in the rankings to highly populated counties. The Fair Board is quite appreciative of the Washington County Extension Staff and also is appreciative of the volunteers who assist not only during fair week but also in preparation and clean up. New attractions for the 2017 Washington County Fair include strolling acts, a chain saw wood carver, a larger and improved rodeo, and a “top notch” carnival. The Board took no formal action.

At 10:30 a.m. on motion by Seward, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(j) to discuss possible purchase of real estate.

At 11:42 a.m. the Board returned to open session.

At 11:43 a.m. on motion by Miller, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
January 31, 2017

RICHARD L. YOUNG
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor