

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2020**

At 9:00 a.m. Chairperson Jack Seward Jr. called to order in regular session a meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors. The meeting took place in the Washington County Board of Supervisors chambers which are located in the Washington County Courthouse. Items on the agenda included the following: approval of agenda; Board of Supervisors proclamation; application for National Provider Identifier (NPI) number; receive and discuss interview committee results and recommendations for the position of Ambulance Services Director; discussion and possible action regarding the hiring of Ambulance Services Director; appointment of Jerome Vittetoe as a member of the Washington County Eminent Domain Commission under the sub-category of Owner-Operator of Agricultural Property; Eastern Iowa Tourism Association report; personnel change request – Communications; discussion and action regarding insurance committee recommendations for supplemental employee benefits; discussion and action regarding selection of bid for Communication Towers project; discussion and action regarding proposed lease agreement with Federation Bank for Juvenile Court Services office space; public comment; adjourn. Supervisors Stan Stoops, Abe Miller, Richard Young, and Bob Yoder were also present.

Others attending were: Mary Zielinski, The News; Sally Hart, KCII Radio; John Gish, County Attorney; Cara Sorrells, County Communications Director; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Danielle Pettit-Majewski, County Public Health Director; Amber Day, Deputy Auditor; Zach Rozmus, County Conservation Director; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Director; Jennine Wolf, County Environmental Health Director; and citizens Tom Duwa, Bette Brant, Charlotte Stalder, Dennis Stalder, Bruce Murphy, Tonia Rebling, Karyl Miller, and Bill Miller.

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

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

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Young, the Board voted to approve a proclamation designating February 7, 2020, as Major John Gish Day in Washington, Iowa. County Attorney John Gish will soon be leaving his duties as Washington County Attorney in order to serve as a Major in the United States Army Reserves before returning in approximately 12 months. The proclamation was read aloud by Seward and is as follows:

**PROCLAMATION
OF
THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

WHEREAS, Washington County and its' elected officials appreciate the service and sacrifices of all of our citizen soldiers and their military families; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Attorney John Gish, by offering himself to the citizens of Washington County to serve as an elected County official as well as dutifully and selflessly serving as a Major in the United States Army Reserves; and

WHEREAS, Major Gish has received orders to leave his duties as Washington County Attorney on February 7th, 2020 to report for deployment on active federal duty that is expected to last for approximately one year; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Supervisors are grateful for the service Major Gish gives to the citizens of Washington County as our County Attorney, as well as his service to the citizens of the United States as a commissioned officer in the Army Reserves; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Supervisors publicly offers, on behalf of the entire county, our support and sincere appreciation and gratitude to Major John Gish, the Washington County Attorney, as he answers the call to service;

THEREFORE, on this 4th day of February, 2020, the Washington County Board of Supervisors hereby proclaim that February 7, 2020 be designated as Major John Gish Day in Washington County, Iowa.

Washington County Public Health Director Danielle Pettit-Majewski informed the Board that the County had been assigned a National Provider Identifier (NPI) number which is an integral part of the County's assumption of responsibility for ambulance service in Washington County. The Board took no action.

With regard to filling the position of Washington County Ambulance Services Director, Seward announced that due to the importance of maintaining confidentiality and upon the recommendation of Gish, the four candidates being considered would be identified only by an alphabet letter that was randomly assigned to each individual. Young informally described the interview process that recently concluded and stated that the Board cumulatively ranked the four candidates #1 through #4 in terms of preference with candidate #1 being the most preferred. When asked by Seward if the description of the process was accurate all Supervisors responded in the affirmative. On motion by Miller, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge and accept the recommendation of the Ambulance Services Director applicant interview committee and to prioritize the applicants in the preference order as follows: #1-Candidate D, #2-Candidate B, #3-Candidate A, and #4-Candidate C. Deputy Auditor Amber Day noted prior to the vote that she had been unable to complete an Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation (DCI) background check on Candidate D due to the DCI website being down.

On motion by Young, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to offer the position of Ambulance Services Director for Washington County to applicant D and to authorize the Washington County Board of Supervisors Chairperson, the Washington County Human Resources Deputy, and the Washington County Auditor to develop a compensation package for Applicant D for presentation and approval of the Board and if Applicant D should decline, an offer in turn to be extended to the remaining applicants in order of preference until an offer is accepted. If no offer is accepted the Board will determine appropriate action.

On motion by Young, seconded by Miller, the Board appointed Jerome Vittetoe as a member of the Washington County Eminent Domain Commission under the sub-category of Owner-Operator of Agricultural Property.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge the Eastern Iowa Tourism Association report. The report is available for review in the Auditor's office.

The Board took up consideration of a personnel change request from Communications for Delainey Parish as a casual part-time employee. The Board took no formal action due to the fact that a pre-employment physical had not yet been completed.

Deputy Auditor Amber Day shared that members of the employee insurance committee had recently met with Matt Rednour who is a Regional Vice-President with Ware Group which is located in Bettendorf IA. Rednour explained that Ware Group is an agency that solely brokers and specializes in supplemental benefit plan designs and provides a centralized contact for employees to utilize for their supplemental benefit plan needs and services. Insurance plans recommended by Ware Group include accident, critical illness, and short-term disability with all such coverages being voluntary and paid exclusively by the individual. Day stated that the various coverages provided through Ware Group would replace current coverages unless it was determined on an individual basis that the current coverage was more beneficial in terms of cost and/or coverage than that obtained via Ware Group. Auditor Dan Widmer added that Ware Group would provide employees with one convenient source for a variety of coverages that address a variety of risks. Day contrasted Widmer's statement by stating that currently there are different insurance representatives for each insurance provider with some providers not providing an individual representative at all. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Young, the Board voted to authorize Ware Group, as recommended by the Employee Insurance Committee, to provide supplemental employee insurance coverage and to authorize Deputy Auditor Amber Day to sign pertinent documents.

The Board took up discussion regarding the six bids that were submitted for the tower site component of the overall Communications and Emergency Operations Center project that is presently taking place. The tower site component includes the construction of towers as well as improvements to existing towers. The six bids are listed as follows:

	Base Bid	Alternate Fiber Optic Bid	Total Bid
Allstate Tower, Inc. Henderson, KY	\$1,745,910.00	\$5,661.00	\$1,751,571.00
Cellsite Solutions, LLC Cedar Rapids, IA	\$1,248,880.00	\$5,800.00	\$1,254,680.00
Finish Excavating, Inc. E. Dubuque, IL	\$1,171,216.00	\$4,679.00	\$1,175,895.00
Joe Daniels Const. Co Madison, WI	\$1,610,103.00	\$4,300.00	\$1,614,403.00
Murphy Tower Service, LLC Carlisle, IA	\$1,624,550.00	\$3,485.00	\$1,628,036.00
Structural Tower Services, Inc. Becker, MN	\$1,627,000.00	\$6,200.00	\$1,633,200.00

Seward shared that on behalf of the County each bid had been reviewed by Edge Consulting who in turn recommended acceptance of the bid received from Finish Excavating, Inc., of E. Dubuque, Illinois. On motion by Young, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to accept the bid received from Finish Excavating, Inc., E. Dubuque, IL, in the base bid amount of \$1,171,216.00 and in the amount of \$4,679.00 for fiber optic services for a grand total of \$1,175,895.00 and to authorize the Chairperson to sign pertinent documents. Seward explained that the tower construction will occur at two sites at the Orchard Hill complex in Washington and at one site in Riverside. Improvements will also be made to towers rented by the county located at Wellman, Brighton, Ainsworth, and Kalona. According to plan specifications work may begin no sooner than March 1, 2020 with significant completion achieved by October 2020 and final acceptance of all work occurring in November 2020. Seward also explained that radio testing must take place during full foliage in order to verify that the requirement of 95% radio coverage has been achieved.

The Board took up discussion of renewing its lease with Federation Bank, 102 E. Main, Washington, for office space in Suites 410 and 420 that is presently occupied by Washington County Juvenile Court Services. The present annual lease is due to expire on April 30, 2020 with the proposed new annual lease taking effect on May 1, 2020. Wording in the proposed new lease calls for monthly payments of \$550.00 while the current lease calls for monthly payments of \$500.00. According to the proposed lease, Federation Bank would continue to provide custodial maintenance of elevators and stairwells as well as snow and ice removal. According to Gish the County is required, per Iowa Code, to provide suitable space for Juvenile Court Services but Iowa Code does not specifically provide details on what type or how large such space must be. Miller suggested that other options should be explored for the future location of Juvenile Court Services. Young stated that county-owned space was currently available in Building 3 at the Orchard Hill complex. Seward reminded that mixing juvenile and adult offenders in the same proximity must be taken into consideration. Seward asked that a representative from the County Attorney's office along with Widmer and Miller pursue other space opportunities for Juvenile Court Services. On motion by Young, seconded by Stoops, the Board granted authority to Widmer, Miller, and a representative from the Washington County Attorney's Office to pursue other possible locations for Juvenile Court Services.

At the conclusion of the meeting Washington County Conservation Director Zach Rozmus announced that on March 21 and March 22, 2020, a hunter education class will take place at the Washington County Conservation Center located on Highway 92 between Washington and Ainsworth.

At 9:43 am on motion by Stoops, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
FEBRUARY 4, 2020

JACK SEWARD JR.
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor