

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 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; Enhance Iowa Grant application from the City of Kalona; discussion and action regarding Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program; discussion and action regarding acknowledgement of equipment purchases – County Engineer; discussion and action regarding FY 2017-18 contract law enforcement; presentation and funding request from Washington Economic Development Group; and appointment of various commission, board, and committee members. Supervisor Stan Stoops, Bob Yoder, Jack Seward, Jr., and Abe Miller were present.

Others attending were: Xiomara Levsen, Washington Evening Journal; Jake Bourgeois, Kalona News; Sally Hart, KCII Radio; Jo Greiner, County Recorder; Jennine Wolf, County Environmental Health Director; Peggy Wood and Danielle Pettit-Majewski, County Public Health; John Gish, County Attorney; Shawn Ellingson and Jared Schneider, County Sheriff's Office; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; Ed Raber, Washington Economic Development Group; Larry Smith, Washington/Keokuk County Emergency Management; Ryan Schlabaugh, Kalona City Administrator; 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, Tom Beauchamp, Tim Johnson, and Clyde Johnson.

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

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

The Board resumed discussion of future space needs of Public Health in conjunction with property located at 628 East 3rd Street in Washington. Seward stated it was his understanding that Hobart Historic Restoration, who plans to remodel and refurbish the property, was willing to extend the deadline for the County to make a decision as to its level of future involvement with the property. Seward continued by saying that he was still listening to the public and was continuing to ask questions in an attempt to form an educated opinion regarding the feasibility of using the space as a future home for Public Health. Citizen Tim Johnson advocated for the site to serve as a future home for Public Health. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to table the matter until the next Board meeting scheduled for February 14, 2017.

The City of Kalona is undertaking a \$3.9 million project involving remodeling and renovation of the building that houses the Kalona Community Center located at 511 C Avenue in Kalona. Kalona City Administrator Ryan Schlabaugh was present and reminded the Board that an \$800,000 grant application was being submitted to Vision/Enhance Iowa (VEI) for various enhancements to the original plans as well as unanticipated costs. Such enhancements and costs are in addition to the approved bond measure. To aid in the grant application and to demonstrate local support, Schlabaugh requested a contribution from the County in the range of \$20,000 to \$30,000 to be spread over multiple years. Miller responded that there are many other building needs throughout the county, including the Courthouse, and he suggested it may be prudent to focus on those needs rather than the Kalona project. Schlabaugh responded that the planned facility will be used not only by Kalona citizens but by citizens throughout Washington County and beyond. Schlabaugh distributed a listing of projects that have taken place in Washington County since 2002 that received VEI funding. Specifically, the report listed five projects whose costs totaled \$23,728,170 and were completed with \$2,483,000 in VEI assistance and \$110,000 in County assistance. Seward stated that the wisdom of using tax dollars to fund recreation must be considered. Washington Economic Development Group (WEDG) Director Ed Raber stated that county support was an extremely important consideration in the grant approval process. In turn, Young expressed dismay that in such situations it seemed to him that Iowa counties are "held hostage" by VEI. The Board took no formal action.

Washington/Keokuk County Emergency Management Director Larry Smith updated the Board regarding the Washington County Multi-Jurisdictional Plan and presented a related agreement for consideration. The total sub-award is for \$30,000 with the stipulation that the federal share shall not exceed 75%, or \$22,500, resulting in Washington County being responsible for the other 25%, or \$7,500. Smith stated that the County has already reached the \$7,500 level by way of costs associated with participation in planning sessions. The funding is designed to assist with developing and completing Local Hazard Mitigation Plans in accordance with the work schedule, milestones and scope of work that was submitted to, and approved by, Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department (HSEMD) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and in accordance with the regulatory requirements established by FEMA for compliance with the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. After the contract is approved and signed, the County can then begin the process of soliciting bids from private contractors or from the County's Council of Governments (COG). One advantage of using a COG, according to Smith, is that the County would not be required to undergo a bidding process. In answer to a question, Smith stated that all cities in the County, as well as all school districts and Washington County Conservation, will have the opportunity to be included in the plan. All work must be completed prior to January 19, 2019. On motion by Seward, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to approve a Planning Sub-award Agreement between Iowa Homeland Security and Emergency Management Department and Washington County, and to authorize Chairperson Young to sign the agreement on behalf of the Washington County Board of Supervisors.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge the purchase of a new wheel loader for \$181,260, less a \$25,000 trade-in allowance for a used loader, resulting in a net price of \$156,260, as well as the purchase of a new motor grader for \$247,177, less a \$60,000 trade-in allowance for a used motor grader, resulting in a net price of \$187,177.

Board discussion next focused on FY 2017-18 law enforcement contracts which deal with the provision of law enforcement services for cities located in Washington County. Sheriff Jared Schneider explained the cost formula contained in each of the contracts is calculated as follows: $\text{Budget}/2 \times (\% \text{ of assessed value} + \% \text{ of calls} + \% \text{ of population})/3$. Definitions of terms used in the formula are as follows: Budget is the total contract law projected expense. Assessed value is derived from the most recent Auditor's Valuation Report. Calls are based on the number of calls to the Sheriff's Office from the most recent five calendar years which comes from the Public Safety Report of "Call for Service". Population is based on the current decennial federal census. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve law enforcement contracts with cities in Washington County for the period of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2018 and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreements on behalf of Washington County. The cities and amounts payable to Washington County for law enforcement services are as follows: Ainsworth-\$16,035, Brighton-\$22,102, Crawfordsville-\$6,683, Kalona-\$86,615, Riverside-\$53,089, Wellman-\$46,448, West Chester-\$5,281.

Washington Economic Development Group (WEDG) Director Ed Raber provided the Board with a report that detailed the services that WEDG provides to Washington County along with a funding request from the County in the amount of \$19,700 for FY 2017-18. The funding request equates to a \$300 increase (1.5%) in county funding from that of the current fiscal year. Raber stated the goal of WEDG is to promote an environment for economic development and not necessarily to attract big businesses to Washington County. Raber added that a majority of the businesses presently in Washington County are startup businesses. Moreover, Washington County does not offer incentives to attract business. Raber spoke of WEDG programmatic highlights for the past year which included co-hosting a Renewable Energy meeting, hosting an Iowa City Area Association of Realtors luncheon for realtors and stakeholders in Johnson and Washington Counties, co-hosting a professional development workshop series, coordination of a presentation to the Iowa DOT Commission about current and future projects in Washington County, and coordination of the Corridor Alliance 7-County and local Laborshed Analysis from Iowa Workforce Development. For the coming year, WEDG plans include hosting another luncheon for Iowa City and Washington realtors, interviews of approximately 25 executives of area industries as part of the State of Iowa's Synchronist System, continued collaboration with Kirkwood Community College Workplace Learning Connection on increasing interaction between students and employers, co-hosting another Professional Development workshop, the marketing of existing and new industrial and commercial lots and buildings in Washington County, and assisting in the establishment of a collaborative Regional Trails and Recreation Plan. Raber also provided instances of WEDG's assistance to business and industry which have resulted in significant increases in tax revenue to Washington County. According to the report, WEDG provides many services for Washington County along with its businesses and residents and in turn County support allows WEDG to provide such services without having to require memberships from those it serves. Also, Washington County is an integral part of the discussion related to planning and implementation of WEDG's activities. Raber also shared information showing that during the time period of April 1, 2010 through July 1, 2015, Washington County showed an annual inflow of domestic population that totaled 202 and an annual international inflow of 15 for a total inflow of 217. He added that these figures compare quite favorably to surrounding counties with similar populations. Miller questioned why various programs for those in need are expanding when the economic news presented by Raber appears to be so positive. While Raber did not have a direct answer, he surmised that it was due to the value placed by the County on such efforts to help others. The entire report is available in the Auditor's office or by contacting WEDG. The Board took no formal action.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to appoint Jay Greene to complete an unexpired term as Oregon Township trustee that ends December 31, 2020.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to appoint Denny Klein to complete an unexpired term as Iowa Township trustee that ends December 31, 2018.

At 10:52 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
FEBRUARY 7, 2017

RICHARD L. YOUNG
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor