

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2019**

Chairperson Bob Yoder called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse chambers in regular session. Items on the agenda included the following: approval of agenda; Public hearing regarding the matter of vacating and closing various streets and alleys in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins; Resolution 19-12 related to vacating and closing various streets and alleys in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins; Resolution 19-13 related to release of highway easement in the Town of Haskins; Quarterly Report – County Engineer; Establishment of bid letting date for FY20 Washington County Fuel Contract; Report on status of Communications project - Matt Miller, Carl A. Nelson & Company; Establishment of date for public hearing related to proposed drawings, specifications, budget, and form of contract for new Washington County Communications Center/Emergency Operations Center project; discussion and action regarding various letters of interest related to antenna site lease for radio communications upgrade project; Washington County Recycling update – WEMIGA; personnel change request – County Attorney; public comment; adjourn. Supervisors Jack Seward, Jr., Abe Miller, Stan Stoops, and Richard Young were also present.

Others attending were: Sally Hart, KCII Radio; Mary Zielinski, The News; Gretchen Teske, Washington Evening Journal; Jared Schneider, County Sheriff; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; Danielle Pettit-Majewski, County Public Health Director; Cara Sorrells, County Communications Director; Jennine Wolf, County Environmental Health Director; Matt Miller, Carl A. Nelson & Company; John Gish, County Attorney; Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Director; Jo Greiner, County Recorder; Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant; and citizens Charlotte Stalder, Karyl Miller, Bill Miller, Tom Dayton, Jon Litwiller, Mary Westfall, Joanna L. Koopman, Elaine Nicholson, Jamie Braun, Michael Zahs, Peg Hunter, Harold Nicholson, Cory Barta, JoDel Wright, and Denny Stalder.

All motions were passed unanimously unless noted otherwise.

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

On motion by Miller, seconded by Young, the Board opened a public hearing regarding the matter of vacating and closing various streets and alleys in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins pursuant to Iowa Code Section 306.10. Auditor Dan Widmer confirmed that notice of the public hearing was published as required. County Engineer Jacob Thorius detailed the scope of the project which includes vacating portions of Morgan Street, Gardner Avenue, Miller Avenue, Harding Avenue, Main Street, an unnamed street, and a portion of an alley between Sands Avenue and Milwaukee Avenue. Thorius stated that the proposed vacations and closings would alleviate the current problem of citizens mistakenly treating public right of ways as private property. Citizen Jon Litwiller, who has cropland along the southeast border of Haskins, expressed concern with plans to vacate the alley because each year Litwiller plants a 15' grass strip to serve as a buffer between his farm ground and the alley. His concern is that the proposed road vacation would result in not only the vacated alley being used for private purposes but also the grass buffer. Citizen Joanna Koopman expressed concern about the possible drift from chemicals that are applied to farm ground. Citizen Thomas Blakley questioned the necessity of vacating the roads and advocated further Board consideration take place. Thorius stated in the past, for reasons presently unknown, various streets and alleys were not completely vacated. Citizen Mary Westfall stated that she mows some of the grass strip to which Litwiller expressed his appreciation. Seward voiced that he realizes that citizens often like things the way they are and the way they always have been but he cautioned that citizens should not focus on one point of the law and ignore other points. Thus, if things in Haskins are to be left the way they presently are with no road vacations or closings in place, citizens must also realize that no trees, buildings, gardens, etc. may exist in the right of way. Seward added that the proposed road vacations and closings were being considered in an effort to legitimize and legalize what was already taking place. On motion by Miller, seconded by Young, the Board voted to close the public hearing.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Seward, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 19-12 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 19-12 on behalf of the Board.

**RESOLUTION 19-12  
VACATION AND CLOSING OF COUNTY ROADS**

**WHEREAS**, the roads described below are no longer required for public access and

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Supervisors of Washington County, Iowa desires to vacate the following streets and alleys in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins in Section 3, Township 75, Range 6, Oregon Township in Washington County legally described as follows:

Morgan Street

The north half of Morgan Street beginning at the east right of way line of Milwaukee Avenue thence northeast to the west right of way line of Miller Avenue in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins.

Gardner Avenue

Gardner Avenue adjoining Blocks 1, 2, 5, 6 and adjoining the previously vacated Wilson Street in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins.

Gardner Avenue

Gardner Avenue adjoining Blocks 13 and 14 from Out Lot 7 north to the south right of way line of Mather Street in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins.

Miller Avenue

Miller Avenue adjoining Block 12, Out Lot 9 and Out Lot 10 from Out Lot 8 north to the south right of way line of Mather Street in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins.

Harding Avenue

Harding Avenue adjoining Blocks 12 and 13 from Out Lot 8 north to the south right of way line of Mather Street in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins.

Sands Avenue

Sands Avenue adjoining Out Lot 2 in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins.

Main Street

Main Street beginning at the east line of the previously vacated Main Street between Out Lot 1 and Out Lot 2 thence east 160' in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins.

Unnamed Street

Unnamed 30 foot wide street adjoining the east side of Out Lots 9, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, and adjoining the previously vacated Main Street between Out Lot 15 and Out Lot 16 in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins.

Alley

A 20 foot wide alley adjoining Out Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, adjoining Blocks 12, 13, 14, 15, adjoining previously vacated Sands Avenue between Out Lot 3 and Lot 6 of Block 15 and previously vacated Milwaukee Avenue between Lot 1 of Block 15 and Lot 6 of Block 14 in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins.

**WHEREAS**, the County, after consultation with the County Engineer, has authority to vacate certain roads within the County pursuant to Iowa Code Section 306.10; and

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing on the matter was conducted on May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 following publication and service of notice as required by law;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Supervisors of Washington County, that the streets and alleys described above are vacated and closed pursuant to Iowa Code Section 306.10 and the above described property is to be transferred to the named individuals on the corresponding Quit Claim Deeds for no consideration as the Washington County Board of Supervisors deem it to be in the public interest for the transfer of said property. All existing utility easements shall remain in full force and effect.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted by way of roll call vote to approve Resolution 19-13 as follows and to authorize the Chairperson to sign Resolution 19-13 on behalf of the Board.

**RESOLUTION NO. 19-13  
RELEASE OF HIGHWAY EASEMENT**

[For real estate located in Section 3 Township 75 North Range 6 West, Town of Haskins]

**BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Supervisors of Washington County, Iowa that Washington County no longer has need of the following described road easement and does RELEASE and ABANDON part of Washington County's interest in the easement located in the Original Plat of the Town of Haskins in Section 3, Township 75 North, Range 6 West, Washington County, Iowa and more particularly described as follows:

The west 25 feet of the W 1/2 of Milwaukee Avenue from the north right of way line of Main Street north to the south line of the abandoned railroad right of way.

Much of the Secondary Roads Quarterly Report for the months of January, February, and March of 2019 dealt with the major impact that weather had on roads in Washington County. Frozen roads in January and February minimized the work performed on granular roads. In late February and March minor flooding occurred as a result of the snow cover and frozen ground which prevented rain water from being absorbed into the ground. Thorius provided details on 12 events during the quarter which involved various combinations of snow, blowing snow, freezing drizzle, mist, and sleet. Such events resulted in costs of \$3,846.79 for 49.9 tons of salt, \$100,937.20 for 2,218.40 tons of salt and sand mix, \$128,299.16 for 3,367.25 regular hours worked, \$16,865.88 for 347.75 overtime hours worked, \$56,805.35 for comp time hours, and \$248,343.71 for 4,330.50 equipment hours which resulted in a total of \$555,098.09. The total cost for the entire 2018-19 season is \$669,413.80. Also \$29,327.78 was spent on snow blades, \$17,013.00 on tire chains, and \$75,325.23 on diesel fuel during snow removal operations for the winter of 2018-19. Thorius reported that 23 different non-department vehicles were maintained during the quarter with such services totaling \$250.00. Other items of note included work with the County Attorney and County Auditor on a new Entrance Ordinance and an Improper Road Use Ordinance, work on updates to the employee handbook as a result of decertification of Roads Union IUOE Local 234 (Roads), a presentation from Engineering Technician Jeremy McLaughlin given to the Iowa Concrete Paving Associations Annual Workshop related to paving with lightweight aggregate and related research on the Riverside road, recognition by the Iowa Concrete Paving Association for being the sixth county in the State of Iowa to complete 200 miles of Portland Cement Concrete slip-form paving, continued work on the County Access Control and Camera project, continued work on various subdivision issues, and collaborating with the Board of Supervisors and area Legislators in opposition to SF 184 with regard to increased truck weights on Washington County Roads. Thorius stated that all of the work performed that was done during the quarter was done with a daily average of three staff members absent from work due to vacation or illness. The complete report is available in the Auditor's office.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to establish 9:00 a.m. on May 28, 2019 as the bid letting date for the FY20 Washington County Fuel Contract. Thorius shared prior to the vote that the contract would be on a one year basis with an option for a second year. He also stated the contract is for the delivery cost of fuel for all Washington County locations and not for the purchase price of the fuel itself. Bids are to be delivered to the Auditor's office located in the Washington County Courthouse and will be opened at the Board of Supervisors meeting scheduled for May 28, 2019.

Matt Miller, who is with Carl A. Nelson & Company, briefed the Board on progress with the Communications project by stating that a meeting will be held later in the day for the purposes of finalizing drawings and specifications for the building. Also, a public hearing date and bid date will need to be scheduled. Miller requested that the hearing date be set for 9:00 a.m. on May 28, 2019. On motion by Young, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to establish May 28, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. as the date and time for public hearing related to proposed drawings, specifications, budget, and form of contract for the new Washington County Communications Center/Emergency Operations Center project.

On motion by Young, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve letters of interest regarding antenna site lease locations for the radio communication upgrade project and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the letters on behalf of the Board. The letters will be sent to the City of Riverside, Sharon Telephone Company, Joint Emergency Communications Services Association of Johnson County, Kalona Cooperative Technology Company, and Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association. Each letter will be provided as a means of providing formal notification that Washington County is interested in pursuing lease or purchase negotiations for radio antenna tower space.

The Washington County Recycling update was unavailable due to an unexpected absence.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Young, the Board voted to acknowledge a personnel change request from the County Attorney for Prosecutor Intern Shane McChurch whose last day of employment will occur May 9, 2019.

There was no public comment.

At 9:58 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:  
May 7, 2019

ROBERT C. YODER  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor