

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 22, 2018**

Chairperson Abe Miller called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Courthouse chambers in regular session. Items on the agenda included the following: approval of agenda; public hearing regarding animal confinement feeding operation – Aller Acres Farms LLC, Section 29, Seventy Six Township; discussion and action regarding opportunity to purchase Federation Bank building; employee recognition for years of service; presentation regarding proposed Washington County Housing Demand Study; discussion and action regarding proposed Washington County Housing Demand Study; Washington County Recycling update – Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA Waste Systems; acknowledgment of animal confinement feeding operation – Aller Acres Farms LLC, Section 29, Seventy Six Township; fireworks permit application – Richmond Shooters, Kalona; personnel change request – County Engineer; personnel change request – Auditor; discussion and action regarding start time for Board of Supervisor meetings; public comment; adjourn. Supervisors Stan Stoops, Jack Seward, Jr., Richard Young, and Bob Yoder were also present.

Others attending were: Mary Zielinski, The News; Sally Hart, KCII Radio; Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Director; John Gish, County Attorney; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Shawn Ellingson, Randy Tinnes, and Jared Schneider, County Sheriff’s Office; Jo Greiner, County Recorder; Danielle Pettit-Majewski and Lori Hobscheidt, County Public Health; Ryan Schlabaugh, Kalona City Administrator; Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA Waste Systems; Joseph Skaff, City Carton; Amber Day, County Human Resources Director; Brent Hinson, Washington City Administrator; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant; and citizens Karyl Miller, Bill Miller, Tom Duwa, Charlotte Stalder, Bob Luke, Sawyer Luke, and Denny Stalder.

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

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve the agenda after it was amended to include the following: Discussion and action regarding secondary road use request from American Legion Post 29.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to open a public hearing regarding an application for a construction permit application for a confinement feeding operation. The applicant is Aller Acres Farms LLC, Section 29, Seventy-Six Township (1180 210th Street, Keota, IA). Plans call for the addition of a 2,499 head structure to an existing 2,400 head structure resulting in a new total capacity of 4,899 head. The new Animal Unit Capacity will total 1,959.6. Auditor Dan Widmer confirmed that notice of the hearing had been properly published and added that the Auditor’s office had received no public comment. There were no comments from those assembled. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to close the public hearing.

With regard to the possibility of acquiring property presently owned by Federation Bank, each supervisor noted that the public responses they had received all seemed to be from individuals in favor of acquiring the property. Seward emphasized that the building would provide improved security, ease of access, privacy, and efficiency. He added that he had scheduled two listening posts for the purpose of meeting with citizens in order to gain input regarding the possible property acquisition. He also encouraged members of the public to contact him directly. The Board took no formal action.

The following employees were recognized and thanked for their years of service to Washington County.

<u>Years of Service</u>	<u>Department</u>	<u>Employee Name</u>
20	Treasurer	Jeff Garrett
20	Recorder	Jo Ellen Greiner
20	Public Health	Lori Hobscheidt
30	Office of Sheriff	Randy Tinnes

Kalona City Administrator Ryan Schlabaugh, along with Washington City Administrator Brent Hinson, provided the Board with information regarding a planned Washington County Housing Demand study. Hinson expressed that there was a great deal of interest from towns in Washington County in expanding and improving the housing market. The first step in the process of doing so, according to Hinson, is the completion of a county-wide housing study. The goals of the study include determining the types of housing that are demanded to support the long-term viability of the various communities in Washington County, how many housing units, by type, are demanded, what are the price ranges for the different housing types demanded, an in-depth analysis of the current and future needs for affordable housing, a set of quantifiable recommendations to bridge identified housing gaps, future trend analysis, and recommendations to stem an ever-widening gap between the necessary number of housing units in order to provide for the range of identified housing demands, and identify recommended strategies to guide future decisions regarding removal of regulatory barriers, resource allocation and local policy and programmatic changes whose implementation will result in bridging current and future housing gaps. Hinson and Schlabaugh suggested a \$3,500 contribution from the County to offset the total cost of the project estimated to be in the neighborhood of \$25,000 to \$30,000. Hinson offered that such a contribution from the county would enable benefits to be enjoyed county-wide including smaller unincorporated towns. Hinson stated that there is much interest in developing more housing in Washington County and the study would enhance growth and development and help to make certain that

such growth and development was done in the correct manner. The cities of Washington, Riverside, and Kalona have already committed funds toward the study. When questioned Hinson said that funding would be needed in the fall of 2018. Seward stated he had reached out to West Chester and Wellman and in doing so learned that representatives of West Chester were not interested in participating in the project due to a perception that the study would provide little value. He added, however, he had learned that representatives of Wellman were quite enthusiastic about the study and its potential benefit. Seward continued by saying the question is whether allocating funds to offset the cost of the project was a proper use of county funds and whether spending such funds to promote the county would actually result in construction leading to an increased tax base. The Board took no formal action.

The Board took no formal action regarding the proposed Washington County Housing Demand Study

Lynn Whaley, on behalf of WEMIGA Waste Systems, briefed the Board on recent activity at the Washington County Recycling Center during the month of April 2018. During the month WEMIGA processed 71.84 landfill tons, 43.03 recyclable tons, 17 appliances, 23 televisions and other electronic devices, 21 tires, and 13 gallons of used oil. Total landfill tons for the month of April 2017 were 70.62. Whaley also shared that the 43.03 recyclable tons in April compared to only 26.29 tons for the previous month of March resulted in the largest monthly increase he had experienced since WEMIGA took over operations of the Washington County Recycling Center in December 2016. When asked to comment as to the reason for the recyclables increase Whaley responded that much of the increase could be attributed to the City of Washington. Whaley also urged consideration be given to replacing the culvert under the entrance drive before a new drive is poured later this year. City Carton employee Joseph Skaff described some of the issues that are presently being faced within the recycling industry. City Carton used to purchase recyclable materials such as plastic, glass, cardboard, and paper and in turn process and sell the items for further processing. Many such recyclables were sold to China. However, China's decision to ban the import of recyclable items, including paper and plastics, has eliminated a major market for North American recyclables and has negatively impacted the price for recycled materials. Skaff stated that 12 months ago the selling price for a ton of cardboard was \$160 per ton while currently the price is \$70 per ton. As for paper, Skaff shared that presently City Carton no longer receives payment for paper and instead must pay \$5/ton to get rid of paper. Skaff stated that the market for plastic has also dwindled to the point that City Carton is saddled with many tons of baled plastics with no viable means of disposal. After some discussion the Board informally determined that a work session be held in order to further discuss the recycling matter. On motion by Seward, seconded by Young, the Board voted to acknowledge the monthly report for April 2018 from WEMIGA Waste Systems. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

On motion by Young, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge a confinement feeding operation for Aller Acres Farms LLC located at 1180 210th Street, Keota, IA, in Section 29, Seventy Six Township.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, an application for a fireworks permit from Richmond Shooters, 100 Shiloh Drive, Kalona, for July 4, 2018 from 9:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. and a rain date of July 5, 2018 from 9:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. Test dates for the planned display will occur on July 1, July 2, and July 3, 2018 from 9:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. The display will take place at 100 Shiloh Drive, Kalona and will be conducted by J & M Displays, Yarmouth. Sheriff Jared Schneider expressed no issues with the application.

On motion by Young, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge a personnel change request from the County Engineer for the hiring of Corey Malichky as a full-time equipment operator at the rate of \$21.04 per hour, effective June 1, 2018. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge a personnel change request from the Auditor for Michael Burrell whose last day of employment occurred May 14, 2018.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Young, the Board voted to change the starting time for regular weekly meetings of the Washington County Board of Supervisors during the month of June 2018 to 9:00 a.m.

On motion by Young, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a Secondary Road Use Request Form from American Legion Post 29, Washington, for May 28, 2018. On that date, American Legion Post 29 will hold a Navy/Marines Memorial Day tribute. The event will take place at the Crooked Creek Bridge on Old Highway 92 shortly after 8:00 a.m.

There were no comments from those assembled.

At 10:28 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
May 22, 2018

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor

ABE C. MILLER
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors