

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 29, 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; County Engineer's report; discussion and action regarding opportunity to purchase Federation Bank building; Southeast Iowa Link (SEIL) Statement of Understanding – Mental Health/Disability Services; Quarterly Report – Mental Health/Disability Services; agreement with Advanced Correctional Healthcare to provide correctional healthcare services to the inmates of the Washington County Jail – Sheriff; Washington County Housing Demand Study; Secondary Road Use Request Form from iHeartmedia/WMT Radio Tractorcade, Cedar Rapids; appointment of Jerry Dunbar to fill an unexpired term ending December 31, 2020 as Dutch Creek Township Trustee. Supervisors Stan Stoops, Jack Seward, Jr., and Bob Yoder were also present. Supervisor Richard Young was absent.

Others attending were: Mary Zielinski, The News; Sally Hart, KCII Radio; John Gish, County Attorney; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Shawn Ellingson and Gina Greiner, Office of Sheriff; Bobbie Wulf, Mental Health and Disability Services Coordinator; Jo Greiner, Recorder; Danielle Pettit-Majewski, Washington County Public Health; Brent Hinson, Washington City Administrator, Jeff Garrett, Treasurer; and citizens Karyl Miller, Bill Miller, Tom Duwa, Charlotte Stalder, Bette Brandt and Denny Stalder.

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

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

County Engineer Jacob Thorius reported that his staff was presently undertaking various seasonal tasks which include blading and graveling rural roads, mowing ditches, clearing brush from ditches, patching, repairing equipment, making improvements to roadway shoulders, and progressing on various road paving projects. The Board took no formal action.

With regard to the possibility of acquiring property presently owned by Federation Bank, Stoops stated that he had heard nothing but positive comments from the public while Miller announced that he had scheduled listening posts in Brighton. The Board took no formal action.

Bobbie Wulf, Mental Health and Disability Services Director, shared a proposed Statement of Understanding between Southeast Iowa LINK (SEIL) and Louisa and Washington Counties. The agreement relates to the situation in which the CEO of SEIL shall divide the SEIL Region's administrative responsibilities amongst member counties and/or SEIL employees. In situations in which a county employee is designated to do such work for the region, a statement of understanding between the SEIL Governing Board and the particular County Board of Supervisors is necessary in order to identify the individual employee, position to be filled, and the portion of the employee's wages and benefits that will be the responsibility of the SEIL Region. Wulf will work with public relations, information technology, public information, operations, resources and referral, training, and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). County Attorney John Gish stated he had reviewed the agreement and had no issues. Louisa County was included in the action because Washington and Louisa counties share employees. It was noted that the agreement was identical to an agreement approved by the Supervisors on July 11, 2017. The Board took no formal action.

Wulf next presented the Mental Health and Disability Services quarterly report for the period of February 1 through April 30, 2018. According to the report total expenditures as of April 30, 2018 were \$723,649.26 which equates to 92.62% of the total budgeted expense amount of \$779,757.00. The ending fund balance equaled \$308,063.65 as of April 30, 2018. Wulf stated that with regard to the Choices drop-in center, a total of 142 unduplicated participants used the facility during the quarter for a total of 1,026 visits. Wulf also stated that crisis homes, operated by Hope Haven Area Development Corp, Burlington, and Tenco Industries, Ottumwa, accommodated 2 individuals for a total of 42 days who didn't meet acute care criteria but nonetheless needed non-acute care. Such individuals may stay at a crisis home for a maximum of 42 days on a voluntary basis. Other totals from the report included 24 individuals who received crisis services through Hillcrest Community Mental Health and 90 individuals who received mental health advocate services. Year to date commitment expenses included \$24,799.69 (38 transports) for sheriff transports and \$5,009.82 (26 representations) for attorney fees. The Board took no formal action.

Deputy Sheriff Shawn Ellingson explained that currently it is the duty of jailers to triage inmates and determine the seriousness of the situation and whether a visit to the emergency room is necessary, schedule medical appointments, and manage medications. He continued by saying that such duties are a big responsibility and create definite liability issues. Also, a large amount of jail staff time is spent transporting inmates to and from visits to the emergency room, medical clinics, and sources of mental health treatment. In order to address the issue, Ellingson, along with Jailer Gina Greiner, presented a proposed contract between Advanced Correctional Healthcare (ACH) and the Sheriff's Office. According to the terms of the contract ACH would provide correctional healthcare services to inmates of incarceration facilities. Examples of such healthcare services include, among other things, collection of DNA and physical evidence, treatment for ectoparasitic infections, dental triage screenings, certain medical supplies, various medical treatments, laboratory services, and medically-indicated

pharmaceuticals. The contract is for an estimated \$69,901 annually with quarterly fee adjustments based upon the inmate population. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge a contract between Advanced Correctional Healthcare and the Sheriff. The entire report is available in the Auditor's office.

The Board next took up discussion regarding financial support of a planned Washington County Housing Demand study. According to Washington City Administrator Brent Hinson the goal of the study, once data is gathered, is to provide insight into what needs to be done regarding Washington County housing policies in order to grow and succeed. He shared that Wellman, Kalona, Riverside, and Washington were already on board with the study and had agreed to contribute funds toward the project. Hinson stated that the study results would be beneficial to both towns and rural areas based on his communication with representatives from other counties who had completed similar studies. Hinson expressed hope that outside developers would use the information. He summarized by saying that the data would result in good planning at a minimal cost. Seward expressed that builders based in Washington County are already familiar with housing needs in the County. Hinson countered that currently demand exceeds supply in terms of housing yet builders from Washington County are not building in the county because building in markets other than Washington County, such as Iowa City, is more profitable. Hinson hopes that the study data would help to reverse that trend. Miller stated he was not in favor of spending tax dollars on the study. Seward moved, and Stoops seconded, that the Board pass on the opportunity to join the Washington County Housing Demand study and to not contribute funding. Discussion followed with Seward stating that builders and developers will go to where profits are and added his opinion that influencing builders as to where to build is not the duty of government. He added that he understood why cities favored the study but failed to see a benefit to rural taxpayers. Yoder reminded that more construction would result in more tax revenue. In response Seward stated that increased construction would indeed increase the tax base but he again questioned whether it was the responsibility of government to increase the tax base. For the record it was pointed out that the financial amount requested from the County in support of the study was \$3,500.00. There was no more discussion. Miller called for a vote on the motion and the motion passed.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a Secondary Road Use Request Form from iHeartmedia/WMT Radio Tractorcade, Cedar Rapids, for June 10 - 13, 2018. On those dates tractor operators will travel a different route each day throughout Washington County before returning to Washington and an overnight stay at the Washington County Fairgrounds.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to appoint Jerry Dunbar to complete an unexpired term ending December 31, 2020, as Dutch Creek Township Trustee.

There were no comments from those assembled.

At 10:18 a.m. on motion by Yoder. Seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:
May 29, 2018

ABE C. MILLER
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor