

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
MONDAY, JUNE 4, 2018**

Chairperson Abe Miller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Courthouse chambers in regular session. Items on the agenda included the following: possible purchase of Federation Bank building; Southeast Iowa Link (SEIL) Statement of Understanding; report from County Engineer; personnel change requests – County Engineer; personnel change request – Sheriff; discussion and action regarding Washington County Recycling Center; closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(c) to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation. Supervisors Stan Stoops, Richard Young, Jack Seward, Jr., and Bob Yoder were also present.

Others attending were: Mary Zielinski, The News; Sally Hart, KCII Radio; John Gish and Shane McChurch, County Attorney's Office; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA Waste Systems; Brent Hinson, Washington City Administrator; Shawn Ellingson, County Sheriff's Office; Danielle Pettit-Majewski, County Public Health Director; Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant; and citizens Karyl Miller, Bill Miller, and Les Zickefoose.

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 after it was amended to include the following: discussion and possible action resulting from closed session.

With regard to the possible purchase of property at 102 E Main, Washington (Federation Bank), Miller stated that at a recent listening post that he and Seward attended they heard from individuals who all favored continued steps to purchase the property. Stoops added that he received a suggestion from a member of the public to gather input from department heads as to their space needs and then to hire a consultant to see if the property would be able to address such needs. The Board took no formal action.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve the Statement of Understanding for FY19 regarding the sharing of staff with Louisa County and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. The agreement relates to the Southeast Iowa Link (SEIL) Mental Health and Disability Services 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 Boards 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.

Miller stated that County Engineer Jacob Thorius had shared with him that Secondary Roads staff was presently undertaking various seasonal tasks which include blading and graveling rural roads, mowing ditches, repairing equipment, making improvements to roadway shoulders, and progressing on paving County Road W61 ( Riverside Road). The Board took no formal action.

On motion by Young, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Secondary Roads related to an increase in the compensation rate for Temporary Engineering Summer Intern Hunter Bell, from \$12.10 per hour to \$13.40 per hour, effective May 31, 2018.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Secondary Roads for Paul M. Hansen whose employment as a Temporary Engineering Summer Intern ended May 29, 2018.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Secondary Roads for Tyler Garrels whose employment as an Equipment Operator will end June 8, 2018.

On motion by Young, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from the Sheriff for the hiring of Luis Antonio Murguia Castillo as an on-call rescue worker, at the rate of \$11.00 per hour, effective June 5, 2018. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

Lynn Whaley and Brent Hinson, representing WEMIGA Waste Systems and the City of Washington respectively, addressed the Board regarding issues currently being faced at the Washington County Recycling Center. Whaley stated that the main issue is that presently there is little market for recyclables and so instead of receiving payment for recycled paper and plastics as in the past he now is being charged to deliver recyclables. Specifically, for the month of May 9.32 tons of plastic were hauled to City Carton in Iowa City as well as 11.88 tons of paper which resulted in total fees of \$1,165.00 paid by WEMIGA to City Carton. Hinson stated that in general the recycling business is cyclical and thus he is hopeful that the current state of affairs is only temporary and that the situation will improve when new markets for recyclables are established. However he tempered his remarks by stating that a major reason for the current problem is that China, which was formerly a large market for recyclables, is no longer a viable market. Recycling costs are presently shared evenly by the City of Washington and Washington County.

Hinson shared that the problem that WEMIGA is facing is not unlike the problems that others are facing with regard to recycling markets. He stated that the big question is how long the current situation will last. Young agreed that the problem is being faced by entities throughout the United States and not just locally. While there is no apparent contractual obligation to make any concessions due to changes in the recycling market, the benefits of doing so may ultimately outweigh the costs. Seward stated his opinion that recycling is a service and agreed that government concessions may be necessary in order to ensure that quality service, such as that currently provided by WEMIGA, continues. The Board took no formal action.

At 9:25 a.m. on motion by Yoder, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to go into closed session pursuant to Iowa Code Section 21.5(1)(c) to discuss strategy with counsel in matters that are presently in litigation or where litigation is imminent where its disclosure would be likely to prejudice or disadvantage the position of the governmental body in that litigation.

At 10:07 a.m. the Board returned to open session.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Young, the Board voted to decline proposals submitted by Attorney Siobhan Briley on behalf of Friends of Bunker Mill Bridge to the Washington County Attorney regarding a possible resolution to an appeal of a court decision related to the matter of Friends of Bunker Mill Bridge vs. Washington County Board of Supervisors.

At 10:10 am on motion by Stoops, seconded by Young, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:  
June 4, 2018

ABE C. MILLER  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor