

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 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: approval of agenda; Traffic Safety Improvement Program Grant reimbursement request for portable traffic signals; Quarterly Report – County Engineer; correction to longevity pay benefit for employee of Sheriff; clarification of previous Board action regarding the Washington County Ambulance Advisory Committee; public comment; adjourn. Supervisors Abe Miller, Stan Stoops, Richard Young, and Jack Seward were also present.

Others attending were: Sally Hart, KCII Radio; Mary Zielinski, The News; Bill Monroe, SE Iowa Union; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; Marissa Reisen, County Emergency Management Coordinator; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Jennine Wolf, County Environmental Health Director; Shawn Ellingson, County Chief Deputy Sheriff; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant; and citizens Tom Duwa and Bette Brant.

All motions were passed unanimously unless noted otherwise.

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

On motion by Miller, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve, and authorize the Chair to sign, a Traffic Safety Improvement Program Grant reimbursement request in the amount of \$54,263.00 related to the purchase of portable traffic signals.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius began his Washington County Secondary Roads 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Report of Activities for calendar year 2019 by saying that the harsh weather from the previous winter continued to impact maintenance and construction activities during the quarter as road “blowups” and frost boils continued to create issues. A total of 31,067 tons of rock was applied to gravel roads and 2,790 tons of rock was applied to road shoulders. All rock was hauled by county employees in county vehicles. Staff replaced 430 feet of 27-inch pipe and 50 feet of 36-inch pipe and cleaned approximately 2,500 feet of ditches. Work involving a total of 339 road signs which included replacement, repair, and new installation took place during the quarter and in August salt was shipped to storage locations in order to replenish material used during the previous winter. Construction activities included the following: 170<sup>th</sup> Street grading project, Orange Avenue bridge removal and box culvert replacement, stabilization of a portion of Juniper Avenue from 190<sup>th</sup> Street to 170<sup>th</sup> Street, installation of reinforced concrete box culvert on Orange Avenue, grading project on 285<sup>th</sup> Street, closeout of project on Birch Avenue located 1¼ miles south of Highway 22, installation of triple box culvert on 130<sup>th</sup> Street located ½ mile east of Hickory Avenue, and Vine Avenue slide and culvert extension approximately ¾ mile north of Highway 22. Thorius also stated that the county had been notified that it had been awarded a \$250,000.00 grant from Revitalize Iowa’s Sound Economy (RISE) which will be used for funding assistance for a paving project beginning at 2031 300<sup>th</sup> Street (Premier 1 Supplies) and extending east to Kiwi Avenue, north on Kiwi Avenue to 290<sup>th</sup> Street, and finally west on 290<sup>th</sup> Street to Highway 1. Thorius also shared that he had received a notice of funding from the Federal Competitive Highway Bridge Program Fund. The funding will be used for expenses related to a project involving a bridge on 130<sup>th</sup> Street approximately ¾ of a mile east of Wellman. Thorius said that all the work performed during the quarter was done so with an average of 4 staff members, out of a total of 31, being gone each day due to illness or vacation. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to acknowledge the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter Secondary Roads Report of Activities presented by County Engineer Jacob Thorius. The complete report is available in the Auditor’s office.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to approve and authorize the payment of \$500.00 to Aaron Gould to correct an oversight that occurred with regard to Gould’s longevity benefit.

Seward stated he had received questions and concerns as to Young’s involvement with the Washington County Ambulance Advisory Committee (WCAAC) due to Young’s ownership role with Washington County Ambulance Inc. (WCA) and his position as Director of Washington County Ambulance. Seward explained that the WCAAC is concentrating on how best to provide ambulance service to residents of Washington County after the current contract with WCA ends at midnight on June 30, 2020. To date nothing final has been determined although strong consideration is being given to Washington County providing county-wide ambulance service as of July 1, 2019. Young reiterated the comments of Seward and explained that WCA will cease existence at midnight on June 30, 2020 and will no longer respond to calls for service. Young stressed that the current ambulance contract with Washington County will not be amended or extended past June 30, 2020. He also declared that he does not intend to sell any assets, such as supplies and equipment, to Washington County in order to avoid any appearance of impropriety or conflict of interest. However, Young did express that he would be willing to consider leasing the building owned by WCA and located at 1120 N. 8<sup>th</sup> to the new ambulance provider as of July 1, 2020. Seward maintained that Young is a great asset in the process of determining future ambulance service due to his wealth of knowledge and practical experience. With the exception of Young there was general agreement among the Board members that there is no conflict of interest with Young serving on the committee established for recommending the future of ambulance service in Washington County.

There was no public comment.

At 9:34 a.m. on motion by Seward, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:  
November 4, 2019

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor

ROBERT C. YODER  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors