

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2020**

At 9:01 a.m. Chairperson Jack Seward Jr. called to order in regular session a meeting of the Washington County Board of Supervisors which took place in the Washington County Courthouse. Items on the agenda included the following: approval of agenda; public comment; Quarterly Report – Auditor; Quarterly Report – Veteran Affairs; Quarterly Report – General Assistance; Quarterly Report – Treasurer; Quarterly Report – Recorder; Tower Collocation Lease with Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association; application for Brighton Tower Reconfiguration/Relocation; Brighton Tower Site Lease; Brighton Tower Site Plan; update from the Director of Ambulance Services including possible discussion, acknowledgement, and/or action; Corona virus update; discussion and possible action regarding Washington County Request for COVID-19 Leave; discussion and possible action regarding Washington County Emergency and Expanded FMLA (EFMLA) and Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA) during the COVID-19 Pandemic; discussion of items as approved by Board Chairperson; adjourn. Supervisors Stan Stoops, Abe Miller, and Richard Young were also in attendance while Bob Yoder participated remotely.

Others attending were: Mary Zielinski, The News; Marissa Reisen, Emergency Management Director; and Jeremy Peck, Washington County Ambulance Services Director. Various other individuals listened and/or watched remotely by electronic means.

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

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

There was no public comment regarding items on the Board agenda.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the Auditor's report for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY20 and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the report on behalf of the Board. The report, presented by Auditor Dan Widmer, reflected revenues for the quarter in the amount of \$1,736.00. Of this total, \$1,545.00 resulted from transfer fees, \$135.00 from the sale of plat books, \$16.00 for election services, and \$40.00 for GIS services. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Auditor.

General Assistance Director and Veteran Services Officer Sue Rich was unable to be in attendance and so the Washington County General Assistance and the Veteran Affairs reports were tabled until April 28, 2020.

On motion by Young, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge the Treasurer's Quarterly Report of Fees Collected for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Quarter and authorize the Chair to sign the report on behalf of the Board. Highlights of the report, presented by Treasurer Jeff Garrett, included total motor vehicle fees of \$2,129,805.35 collected during the quarter ending March 31, 2020 with the county retaining \$74,124.22 (3.48%) of that total. Garrett provided the following fee retention schedule: 4% of registration fees, \$2.50 per certificate of title, 60% of security interest notation fees, \$1.00 or 100% if greater than \$1.00 for new registrations, 5% of organ donor fund donations, \$15 per suspension, \$3.00 for postage to mail license plates, and \$7.00 for each driver's license issued. Garrett also stated other fees of \$172.60 were collected which results in a total of \$74,296.82 in fees retained during the quarter. The entire report is available for viewing in the office of the Washington County Treasurer.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Young, the Board voted to acknowledge receipt of the Recorder's 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter report for FY20 and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the report on behalf of the Board. The report, presented by County Recorder Jo Greiner, reflected revenues for the quarter in the amount of \$95,559.76 with the county retaining \$42,117.79. A total of 1,165 documents were recorded during the quarter and Greiner added that during the quarter her office handled 17 marriage applications, 110 passport applications, 168 passport photos, and 214 boat, ATV and snowmobile renewals and new registrations. Finally, a total of 614 certified copies of birth certificates, death certificates, and marriage licenses were provided to the public. The complete report is available in the office of the Washington County Recorder.

On motion by Young, second by Miller, the Board voted to approve a tower collocation lease agreement with Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the agreement on behalf of the Board. The lease enables Washington County to place radio equipment on a tower owned by Wellman Cooperative Telephone Association and located at 3220 Ginkgo Avenue, Brighton, Iowa for the purpose of transmission and reception of wireless communication signals and for the construction, maintenance, repair or replacement of related facilities, antennas, equipment, building, and emergency generator and related equipment. The lease also addresses easements for access as well as utilities. The agreement calls for lease payments of \$400.00 per month for a period of 10 years with Washington County having the ability to extend the lease for five additional years. It was noted that the Board approved such an agreement on March 31, 2020 but it was later deemed that such agreement was merely a draft agreement.

Seward noted that the Board agenda included items involving an application for Brighton Tower Reconfiguration/Relocation, Brighton Tower Site Lease and Brighton Tower Site Plan all associated with the tower collocation lease that was just approved by the Board. Such items were provided only as a historical means of clarification and documentation and the Board took no formal action on any of the items.

Ambulance Services Director Jeremy Peck provided an update with regard to activities related to the new county-operated Washington County Ambulance Services which will begin offering services on July 1, 2020. The list of activities included continued interviewing of applicants for various positions, completing pharmacy agreements, continued work on finalizing a purchase agreement for equipment and inventory with the present county ambulance provider, acquisition of software, and work on a facilities lease agreement. The board took no formal action.

With regard to the present Coronavirus (COVID)-19) pandemic the Board was informed by Public Health Director Danielle Pettit-Majewski, who participated remotely, that as of 10:00 a.m. on April 19, 2020 there were 121 cases of the virus in Washington County resulting in 5 deaths, 543 individuals that were tested, and 83 individuals that have recovered. In general, according to Pettit-Majewski, there has been a slowing in cases coming in to her office which is an indicator that preventative measures are having a positive effect. She added that the office of Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds is predicting the pandemic will reach its peak at the beginning of May with confirmed COVID cases gradually tapering off from that time moving forward. The Board took no formal action.

A final copy of the Washington County COVID19 Leave policy approved by the Board on April 14, 2020 was distributed. The policy included revisions made by Asst. County Attorney Tony Janney. Also at its meeting on April 14, 2020, the Board discussed, but did not take action, on a proposed Washington County Emergency and Expanded Family Medical Leave Act (EFMLA) and Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act (EPSLA). Seward shared his viewpoint that the EFLMA and EPSLA provided a minimum level of benefits for individuals affected by the COVID19 pandemic. He then reminded that the Board had adopted Resolution 20-15 on March 17, 2020 which is more expansive in terms of benefits payable to citizens of Washington County than under EFMLA and EPSL. Seward opined that at some point the Board may need to consider rolling back benefits from the current level, as called for in Resolution 20-15, to the benefit level called for by the EFMLA and EPSLA. Discussion followed but ultimately the Board took no formal action.

There was no discussion of items as approved by Chairperson Seward.

At 9:52 a.m. on motion by Stoops, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:  
April 21, 2020

JACK SEWARD JR.  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor