

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING
TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2020**

At 9:00 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 related to agenda items; Antenna Site Lease Agreement with the City of Kalona; Antenna Site Lease Agreement with the City of Riverside; personnel change request – Secondary Roads; Quarterly Report – County Engineer; personnel change request – Conservation; acknowledgment of K-9 fund donation; lease agreement for ambulance facility; personnel change requests – Ambulance; COVID-19 virus update; discussion of items as approved by Board Chairperson. Supervisors Abe Miller, Stan Stoops, Richard Young and Bob Yoder were also in attendance.

Others attending were: Mary Zielinski, The News; Marissa Reisen, Emergency Management Director; Amber Williams, Board of Supervisors Administrative Assistant; Jeremy Peck, Washington County Ambulance Services Director; and Jacob Thorius, County Engineer. 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 Yoder, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

There was no public comment related to items on the Board agenda.

On motion by Young, seconded by Stoops, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, an Antenna Site Lease Agreement with the City of Kalona. The lease agreement relates to County plans to add compound fencing, an emergency power generator, an LP fuel tank, a radio equipment building, a 20' diameter railing on the water tower, and 4 antennas to the Kalona water tower located at 2035 14th Street, Kalona. The completed project will assist in providing countywide emergency (fire, EMS, dispatch) and law enforcement communications services to authorized personnel. No rent will be charged during the terms of the lease provided the equipment remains the property of Washington County. Washington County shall have the right to extend the lease for five (5) additional, five (5) year terms.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, an Antenna Site Lease Agreement with the City of Riverside. The lease agreement relates to County plans to construct a 250' self-supporting communication tower to be located on Vine Avenue north of the Riverside Wastewater Treatment Plant. Upon completion the tower will assist in providing countywide emergency (fire, EMS, dispatch) and law enforcement communications services to authorized personnel. No rent will be charged during the terms of the lease provided the equipment remains the property of Washington County. Washington County shall have the right to extend the lease for five (5) additional, five (5) year terms.

On motion by Young, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Secondary Roads for the hiring of Justin Peterson as a regular full-time non-exempt Mechanic with an effective date of May 29, 2020, and at the rate of \$24.44 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

County Engineer Jacob Thorius provided a summary of the Secondary Roads Quarterly Report for the months of January, February, and March of 2020. He shared that due to nice weather and a desire to practice social distancing in light of COVID-19 virus concerns, staff hauled rock rather than performing pipe and tile work. A total of 42,043 tons of road rock was hauled and spread during the quarter which is nearly four times the amount hauled during the same quarter of 2019. During the 1st quarter of 2020 staff performed snow removal services on four occasions at a cost of approximately \$254,000.00 while during the 1st quarter of 2019 staff performed snow removal services on 12 occasions at a cost of approximately \$555,000.00. In addition \$8,430.41 was spent on snow blades, \$7,475.56 on tire chains, and \$40,435.65 on diesel fuel during snow removal operations for the winter of 2019-20. Thorius briefly described a road project that involved replacing a bridge located on 130th Street east of Hickory Avenue with a concrete box culvert. Thorius stated that all of the work performed during the quarter was done with a daily average of 4 staff members, out of 31, absent from work due to vacation or illness. The Board took no formal action. The complete report is available in the Auditor's office.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Stoops, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Conservation for Summer Aide Kyle Harland whose rate of pay will change from \$11.00 per hour to \$12.00 per hour effective May 11, 2020. Harland is a seasonal employee returning for his third summer of employment.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Young, the Board voted to acknowledge a donation to the Washington County Sheriff's K-9 fund from Walmart in the amount of \$1,000.00.

The Board took no formal action regarding a rental agreement with Washington County Ambulance Inc. for property located at 1120 N. 8th Avenue in Washington.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for the hiring of Brandee Kleopfer as a regular part-time non-exempt paramedic with an effective date of July 1, 2020, and at the rate of \$21.55 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for the hiring of Carrie Ornduff as a regular part-time non-exempt paramedic with an effective date of July 1, 2020, and at the rate of \$21.55 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for the hiring of Mike Freel as a regular part-time non-exempt paramedic with an effective date of July 1, 2020, and at the rate of \$21.55 per hour. 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, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for the hiring of Kenneth Dean Miller as a regular part-time non-exempt paramedic with an effective date of July 1, 2020, and at the rate of \$21.55 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Ambulance Services for the hiring of Wesley Love as a regular part-time non-exempt paramedic with an effective date of July 1, 2020, and at the rate of \$21.55 per hour. The County Auditor is hereby authorized to issue pay warrants upon proper certification from the Department Head.

Public Health Administrator Danielle Pettit-Majewski briefed the Board with regard to recent developments regarding the COVID-19 virus. She stated that the website coronavirus.iowa.gov had made changes resulting in real-time data being available. Presently, according to the website, there have been 173 positive cases in Washington County and 134 recovered cases. Notification has been received from the Iowa Department of Public Health that two cases of Pediatric Inflammatory Multisystem Syndrome (PIMS) have been diagnosed in Iowa. PIMS is a systemic inflammation that results in a persistent fever as well as organ dysfunction. PIMS is believed by some to be associated with the COVID-19 virus and also may match some or all of the diagnostic criteria for Kawasaki disease. Pettit-Majewski added that testing for the COVID-19 virus is being expanded to include day care providers and smaller children. On motion by Stoops, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve a press release related to the County's response going forward with regard to the COVID-19 virus and to authorize the Chairperson to sign the document on behalf of the Board. The press release is available by contacting the Auditor's office.

There was no public comment. Auditor Dan Widmer stated that 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 22 is the deadline to request an absentee ballot by mail for the June 2, 2020 Primary Election.

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

ATTEST:
May 19, 2020

JACK SEWARD JR.
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER
County Auditor