

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING  
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 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 the following: approval of agenda; discussion and possible action regarding FY21 Washington County Budget; discussion and possible action regarding ambulance acquisition; presentation of Ten Year Veterans Affairs service award to Jeff Johnston; Washington County Mini Bus presentation and FY21 funding request; Washington County Recycling Update – Lynn Whaley, WEMIGA; personnel change request – Conservation; Washington County Ambulance Advisory Committee update; public comment; official canvass of November 5, 2019 City/School Election; adjourn. Supervisors Abe Miller, Richard Young, and Jack Seward were also present. Supervisor Stan Stoops was absent.

Others attending were: Sally Hart, KCII Radio; Mary Zielinski, The News; Bill Monroe, SE Iowa Union; Cyndie Sinn, County IT/Budget Director; Jeff Garrett, County Treasurer; Jared Schneider, County Sheriff; Peggy Wood, County Public Health; Jennine Wolf, County Environmental Health Director; Jo Greiner, County Recorder; Amber Day, Deputy Auditor; Jacob Thorius, County Engineer; Sue Rich, County Veterans Affairs/General Assistance Director; Shawn Ellingson, Chief Deputy Sheriff; Jeff Johnston, Veteran Affairs Commissioner; and citizens Tom Duwa, Bette Brant, Karyl Miller, Bill Miller, Tom Dayton, Charlotte Stalder, and Denny Stalder.

All motions were passed unanimously unless noted otherwise.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Young, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

The Board took up discussion regarding the FY21 Washington County Budget with Seward commenting that it would be difficult to take any formal action due to the fact that the Washington County Compensation Board had not yet met. Miller expressed doubt that the method of setting budget guidelines in the same manner as in previous years, whereby County Department Heads were given a salary directive along with an operating budget directive of no increase unless an increase could be justified, would work well for the FY21 budget. Miller based his remarks on calculations he had performed that showed annual salary increases over the past few years were increasing County expenses by approximately \$250,000.00 per year. Miller recommended that the Board be more cognizant of the actual impact of such increases on the budget. In response to Miller's comments, Treasurer Jeff Garrett expressed his belief that the budget directive given by the Board in the past was responsible and seemed to work well. Seward responded that to reduce employee compensation, or to hold such compensation steady, would result in employee turnover with veteran employees being replaced with less experienced individuals. Young stated his view that to forego raises indicates a lack of respect. Young suggested that Miller prepare a written plan outlining his position and philosophy regarding employee salary increases in order to assist the other Supervisors to fully understand Miller's viewpoint. Young also referenced the Sheriff's Union contract which is currently in effect and which calls for a 3% annual increase. Chief Deputy Sheriff Shawn Ellingson shared that it is not uncommon for a long-time employee to take a new job, perhaps in Johnson County, which results in less compensation but better hours. Sheriff Jared Schneider reminded that experienced law enforcement staff can make up to \$15,000 more per year if they are willing to commute to Iowa City and he added that typically such an employee is replaced by a less experienced individual. Environmental Health Director Jennine Wolf asked the Board to consider the amount of money saved by keeping, for the most part, the operating budget level compared to the amount spent on salary increases. The Board took no formal action.

Next the Board took up discussion regarding acquiring a new ambulance with Seward stating that the basic question at hand was whether to purchase a new ambulance or to remount an existing ambulance. This question is made more difficult due to the somewhat unknown future of ambulance service in Washington County beginning July 1, 2020. Miller suggested neither a purchase nor a remount and try to get another year of service out of the ambulance fleet that currently exists. The Board took no formal action.

Washington County Veteran Affairs Commissioner Jeff Johnston was honored, and presented with a plaque, for 10 years of service as a Washington County Veteran Affairs Commissioner. The Board took no formal action.

Chris Gaughan presented the FY19 funding report for Washington County Mini Bus (WCMB). During FY19 funding sources for WCMB were as follows: 37% from fares, 25% from East Central Iowa Council of Governments, 28% from local option sales tax, 8% from Washington County, 1% from the City of Kalona, and 1% from other miscellaneous donations. Gaughan shared that during FY19 WCMB provided on average over 200 scheduled rides each day along with over 50 "call in" rides each day. Overall during the year, WCMB provided 59,245 rides and traveled 257,863 miles. WCMB has 5 full-time employees and 16 part-time employees. WCMB maintains a fleet of 16 buses with 8 to 10 buses on the road each day. The current budget for the organization is approximately \$730,500. Gaughan noted that WCMB is a demand and response transportation service which means that WCMB vehicles do not necessarily operate on a fixed schedule. Such mode of operation requires less advance notification and increased flexibility for its passengers. Gaughan requested funding from the County in the amount of \$50,000 for FY21 which is equal to the level of funding for current FY20. The Board took no formal action. Gaughan's complete report is available in the Auditor's office.

The Board reviewed a report prepared and submitted by Lynn Whaley of WEMIGA Waste Systems. The report detailed recent activity at the Washington County Recycling Center (WCRC) for the past 12 months. During the month of October 2019 WEMIGA processed 67.91 landfill tons, 5.00 tons of paper, 3.68 tons of plastic, 3.14 tons of cardboard, 1.28 tons of tin and aluminum, 13.1 recyclable tons, 16 appliances, 16 televisions and other electronic devices, 81 tires, and 30 gallons of used oil. Total recyclable landfill tons for the previous month of September 2019 were 70.97. On motion by Miller, seconded by Young, the Board voted to acknowledge the monthly report for the Washington County Recycling Center as provided by Lynn Whaley of WEMIGA. The complete report is available for review in the Auditor's office.

On motion by Miller, seconded by Young, the Board voted to acknowledge, and authorize the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Conservation for Naturalist Assistant Randi Brase whose compensation will increase from \$19.02 per hour to \$19.50 per hour on November 29, 2019. The increase is a result of Brase's one year employment anniversary.

With regard to the future of county-wide ambulance service Seward shared that the Washington County Ambulance Advisory Committee is continuing to acquire information about expected start-up costs, annual operation costs, and an estimate of the cost to acquire an additional (new or used) ambulance. The Board took no formal action.

There was no public comment.

The Board canvassed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier results of the November 5, 2019 City/School Election, which finalized all school results shared with adjoining counties. On motion Miller, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to accept, as official, the final results of the November 5, 2019 City/School Election as canvassed. Official results are detailed on the Washington County website.

At 10:23 a.m. on motion by Seward, seconded by Miller, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTEST:  
November 19, 2019

ROBERT C. YODER  
Chairperson, Board of Supervisors

DANIEL L. WIDMER  
County Auditor