

WASHINGTON COUNTY

PROCEEDINGS OF THE WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 17, 2026

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 at Orchard Hill. Items on the agenda included the following: Pledge of Allegiance, approval of agenda, public comment related to agenda items, discussion and possible action regarding sale of county property, personnel change request – Communications, discussion and approval of funding requests and grants for FY27, review and approval of Washington County and ISG Agreement for Inspection Services of MidAmerican Energy Company pipeline known as ICCR669 20" Natural Gas Pipeline-IUC Docket No. P-0877, discussion and approval of use of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for purchase of Auditor's election equipment, discussion and approval of quote from Latitude Signage regarding wayfinding at Orchard Hill complex, Department Head comment, adjourn.

Supervisors Marcus Fedler, Bob Yoder and Richard Young were also present. Stan Stoops was absent.

Other individuals in attendance included Giovanni Coronel with the Southeast Iowa Union, Tim Elliott with Century 21 Elliott Realty, Pastor Rick Zickfoose with Celebrate Recovery Brighton, County Engineer Jacob Thorius, County Dispatch Supervisor Cara Sorrells, and Public Health Fiscal Administrator Peggy Wood. Various other individuals listened and/or watched remotely via Zoom.

Seward led the individuals assembled in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

All motions were passed unanimously unless noted otherwise.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve the agenda as published.

The read-file version did not include the sale of county property and was not

ed at time of meeting.

There was no public comment.

Realtor Tim Elliott presented the Board with an offer to purchase the county real estate located at 302 W. Main Street, Washington. The cash offer of \$18,000.00 is a counter offer from the adjacent owner to the county property. Supervisor Yoder stated the county should hold out until a better offer is received or suggested retaining the property in case there is a county need in the future. Auditor Tamera Stewart advised the Board that the property is assessed at \$13,000.00. After much discussion, on motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to accept the offer of \$18,000.00 for the purchase of the property. Yoder voted nay, with Seward, Young, and Fedler voting yes. Elliott will start the paperwork process and closing is expected in early April.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a personnel change request from Washington County Communications for the hiring of Addison Christiansen as a regular part-time employee at the rate of \$24.79 per hour effective March 17, 2026. In the event of second shift, the pay rate is \$25.14 hourly or \$25.29 hourly for third shift.

The Board then approved the following funding requests or grants for FY27:

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve funding for Washington Economic Development Group in the amount \$17,250.00, which is a decrease from last year's amount of \$23,000.00. Fedler and Seward voted in favor, Young and Yoder voted nay. The motion did not carry. Young made a motion to compromise at \$20,000.00. The motion was seconded by Fedler with all voting in favor.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Young, the Board voted to approve funding for Workplace Learning Connection in the amount of \$2,256.00. This is con-

sistent with last year's allocation.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve funding for Washington County Mini Bus in the amount of \$50,000.00. This is consistent with last year's allocation.

On motion by Young, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve funding for Hawkeye Area Community Action Program in the amount of \$120,000.00. This is consistent with last year's allocation but is lower than the requested amount of \$140,000.00.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve funding for Washington County General Assistance in the amount of \$1,200.00. This is consistent with last year's allocation.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve funding for PAWS & More in the amount of \$32,954.00 in accordance with the existing 28E Agreement. In addition, on motion by Young, seconded by Fedler, the amount of \$8,000.00 was also approved for PAWS based on a prior agreement with the county related to construction of the new facility.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Seward, the Board voted to approve funding for Washington County Library Association in the amount of \$141,075.00. This is a reduction from the request of \$156,750.00.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve funding for East Central Iowa Council of Governments in the amount of \$16,433.00 in accordance with their agreement with Washington County.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Young, the Board voted to approve funding for Washington County 4-H in the amount of \$17,000.00. This is consistent with last year's allocation.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board voted to approve funding for Washington County Fairgrounds in the amount of \$24,000.00. This is consistent with last year's allocation.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve funding for Washington County Historic Preservation in the amount of \$5,000.00.

This is consistent with last year's allocation.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board voted to approve funding for Main Street Washington in the amount \$5,467.00, which is a 20% decrease from last year's amount of \$6,834.00. Fedler, Young, and Seward voted in favor, Yoder voted nay who supported a 10% reduction. The motion carried.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Young, the Board voted to approve funding for East Central Iowa Housing Trust Fund in the amount of \$5,282.00. This is consistent with last year's allocation.

On motion by Young, seconded by Yoder, the Board voted to approve funding for Domestic Violence Intervention Program in the amount of \$2,000.00. This is consistent with last year's allocation but is less than the request of \$2,500.00.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve funding for Washington YMCA in the amount of \$2,000.00 in accordance with the existing agreement with Washington County. This is year four of the five-year agreement.

On motion by Yoder, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve funding for Community and Family Resources in the amount of \$3,850.00. This amount, which qualifies to be paid from Washington County's state-received opioid funds, will be distributed as needed for the assistance of Washington County residents. Seward abstained from the vote due to being on the entity's board.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to approve funding for Celebrate Recovery Brighton in the amount of \$6,000.00. This organization qualifies to be paid from Washington County's state-received opioid funds.

On motion by Young, seconded by Fedler, the Board authorized the Chairperson to sign the above approved agreements.

On motion by Fedler, seconded by Young, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, an agreement between Washington County and

I & S Group, Inc. (ISG), as engineer, regarding the County Inspection of the MidAmerican Energy Company pipeline known as ICCR669 20" Natural Gas Pipeline – IUC Docket No. P-0877. This is in conjunction with a new pipeline being added adjacent to the existing line. The engineer will provide inspection services on behalf of the county for various construction activities and services. Total costs are paid by the county and reimbursed by the pipeline company.

Auditor Stewart presented a request to utilize American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the purchase of election equipment by the Auditor's Office at a cost of \$105,000.00, as opposed to adding this expense as an expenditure in the FY27 budget. Stewart stated this is a necessary purchase and is set to be delivered mid-April in time for use during the Primary election in June. On motion by Fedler, seconded by Yoder, the Board approved the use of ARPA funds by the Auditor's Office for the purchase of new election equipment.

On motion by Seward, seconded by Fedler, the Board approved, and authorized the Chairperson to sign, a proposal from Latitude Signage and Design for Washington County Orchard Hill exterior wayfinding in the amount of \$46,100.00, to be paid for by existing ARPA funds. The estimate includes the products and installation. New signage will better direct traffic and the public to the appropriate buildings and offices located in the Orchard Hill Complex.

During Department Head comment, County Engineer Jacob Thorius commended his staff on their diligent work during the recent winter storm.

At 10:18 a.m. on motion by Young, seconded by Fedler, the Board voted to adjourn.

ATTENT: s/ Tamera S. Stewart, Washington County Auditor

Published in The News, Thursday, April 2, 2026 L-260

LOOKING BACK - 55 YEARS AGO - APRIL 1, 1971

COMPILED BY NANCY SWARTZENDRUBER Kalona

Thieves gained entry to the Mid-Prairie High School sometime Sunday, March 21. Musical instruments and a small amount of cash and stamps are the only items that were taken.

The person or persons evidently entered the building through a broken glass. Eight or nine dollars in cash, which is used for postage, was gone Monday morning. Postage stamps in the amount of \$6.50 were also missing. The music room had been entered and an electronic tuner, valued at \$400 was taken as well as 3 flutes belonging to high school students.

School officials noted that the district does not carry insurance on privately owned instruments.

Steve Wright, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Wright of West Chester, received first place honors at the Kalona Optimist Oratorical Speaking contest, held at the Kalonial Townhouse on Thursday night. Receiving second and third place respectively were Ben Yoder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Yoder and Mike Yoder, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Yoder of Wellman. All three boys are members of the Mid-Prairie FFA chapter.

Steve will now compete in a district contest to be held in Iowa City sometime in April. By winning, all three boys and their parents will be attending the contest in Iowa City as guests of the Kalona Optimist Club.

For the second year in a row, Mid-Prairie joined the small number of schools that have an all-state basketball player as one of their students.

Steve Mast was selected to the 5th team all-state in both polls. Only three players from class A schools received higher positions than did the 6³ senior from Mid-Prairie.

Steve has been a regular for Mid-Prairie three years and has been a definite factor in helping the Hawks to records of 19-6, 22-4, and 18-5. He now holds the records of the most rebounds that a Hawk player has ever made, the only player to score more than 1000 points, with 1163, and the most points in one season, 519.

The teacher wrote the following sentence on the blackboard and asked her pupils to paraphrase it: "He was bent on seeing her."

Little Willie turned in this paraphrase: "The sight of her doubled him up."

What is there about sorting hogs that sparks heated words between a farmer and his wife, when they normally work so well together at other farm jobs?

No one seems to know for sure, but farm wives across the country agree that hog sorting brings out the worst in them.... in their husbands, that is!

"It's the truth!" says Mrs. Jack Manard. "Normally, Jack and I work well side-by-side no matter what outdoor task we're involved in, but come the day we market hogs, and all heck breaks loose!"

What sparked the comments was an article written by an Iowa hog farmer's wife in a new publication, Farm Wife News. The writer, Mrs. Don Runkle of Davis County wrote a rural satire sprinkled with humor and truth.

Mrs. Runkle described one hog sorting day this way:

"Why did you chase those hogs out of the barn when I'm trying to get them in?" my husband blazed.

"I didn't chase them out! I was coming out to help you and they got in front of me!"

We got all the hogs in the barn, finally, except the biggest one. That wise-guy stood facing us with raised snout so he could watch our movements with his

beady eyes.

As we closed in, he let out an "Oof!" and started toward the weakest spot in our human barrier—ME!

"Don't let him through!" my husband yelled. "DON'T LET HIM THRU...."

"I'm sorry," I said meekly. I had heard my orders! So, when my hand-waving and shouting failed to change the hog's course, I had literally thrown myself at him only to find my stomach on top of tenderloin and my nose nudging a kinky tail!

The weather has been ideal for kite flying and many kites have been high in the sky.

The blackbirds have been moving in large flocks and all kinds of birds have been singing early in the morning and late at night which brings the spring fever.

A few fellas in the Valley are starting to plow and field work will be in full swing if the mild weather continues.

The frogs have been croaking and the old saying goes, if you hear frogs before April, they will be looking through the ice later, so we will see.

Fireman James A. Shalla suffered a fractured right leg Saturday afternoon, while enroute to a fire on West B Avenue.

Shalla was riding on the back platform of the water tanker and was injured when the truck hit the ripples in the street between Third and Fourth streets. The street had been resurfaced last year, but frost boils had developed and caused the street to buckle. When the truck hit the ripples, it bounced violently throwing Shalla to the platform. At first it was thought he had suffered a sprained ankle and bruised the bone below the knee. Later x-rays showed a fractured bone. He will be in a cast for about six weeks.

The fire call proved to be minor. Vernon Kinsinger was driving his compactor truck filled with paper and trash and is believed that hot ashes from an incinerator started the fire. The blaze was extinguished with minor damage to the truck.

Lone Tree
Lone Tree Fire Department's equipment truck is now in service. Work was completed about 10 days ago. Since that time, it has made four local runs and been involved at mutual aid fires.

The truck was purchased to carry the ever increasing amount of auxiliary equipment necessary to protect the fire fighters, equipment to help extinguish the fire, and carry extra fighters to the fires.

The truck, formerly a bread delivery vehicle, was purchased by the men of the volunteer department (from funds generated by the annual Fireman's Dance) for \$500.

It has taken about 8 months to bring the truck into shape. All of the work in converting the truck was done on a volunteer basis, a few hours at a time.

A system of leaving the fire station was determined. The first two men to arrive start the pumper and leave for the scene of the fire, the next two men leave with the tanker, the fifth man to arrive is then the driver for the equipment truck. He raises the overhead door and then starts the vehicle. By this time there are several more men loaded and ready to go.

The driver remains with the truck at all times during the fire unless relieved by the fire chief. The driver is responsible for issuing the equipment and seeing it is returned following the fire. Every tool has a place and every tool in its place.

The truck was completed and within 48 hours, made its first fire run to Holley Horrell's property north of Lone Tree.

Since then, calls to Harley Kirkpatrick's, Homer Eden's, Harry Attig's and at least one mutual aid fire having been responded to by this equipment.

Mrs. Moe Whitebook of Iowa City has been re-appointed Johnson County Advisor for Iowa Children's and Family Services for a three-year term.

Iowa Children's and Family Services specializes in working with disturbed youngsters and their families, offers counseling for unwed parents, places children for adoption, and operates a school for a limited number of youngsters too upset and upsetting to go to a public school.

The organization has a reputation nationwide for developing methods of attacking persistent and new social problems.

Ronald J. Lutz, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Lutz of Lone Tree, has joined the Successful Farming editorial staff as associate editor of special features. Dick Hanson, editor of the Meredith Corporation publication, says Lutz's job will cover general farm management problems.

Prior to joining Successful Farming, Lutz was field editor for Wallace Farmer in Des Moines. Before that, he was a writer-editor for Reiman Publication, Inc., Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Lutz is a 1958 graduate of Lone Tree High School and earned a degree in agricultural journalism from Iowa State University in Ames.

Local volunteer firemen have been holding their breaths, hoping they do not receive any fire calls.

Of course, they really never like fire calls anyway, terribly disrupting. But another fire call, any time after Monday mornings fire call, would have proved very embarrassing to the department. For a while Monday, two fire trucks were in the garage being repaired. One was still disabled Wednesday.

The rural pumper ignition wiring some way shorted through and caught on fire while returning from a fire call Monday morning north of town. The truck was rendered useless and had to be pulled into town.

Getting a complete set of wiring was just routine, only no one carries any in stock. The fact is, the truck is so old parts are no longer in stock or even manufactured. Persistence at the telephone was to no avail. No one, but no one had the necessary wiring in stock. Wagon Doerres finally located one on a junked vehicle in Sylvan, Illinois, Tuesday afternoon. Then the trip was made to remove the wiring and return with it to install it in the fire truck.

Without a doubt the problem of obsolete fire equipment will be the topic of discussion in the very near future in the Association's meetings.

Through the Mutual Aid agreements, the Lone Tree area did have fire protection at all times. It just wasn't located in town. Neighboring towns were alerted to the problem and agreed to aid if called.

Riverside
The Riverside Fire Department was called to the Dick Colbert residence Tuesday for a grass fire which destroyed a small farm building.

The Fire Department was called to the north section of town to control a grass fire last Saturday.

On February 2, 1953 Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Knottnerous became the parents of a baby girl. She was named Kathy and has one sister, Sharon and one brother, Eric.

The subject Kathy likes best at HHS is Physical Education. Her favorite movie is "Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid." Favorite food is pizza and Pepsi, and song is "Amos Moses."

Kathy's favorite pastime is watching TV or just doing nothing. Her extra-curricular activities include Chorus, Pep Club, and National Honor Society. After graduation, she plans to get a job.

Best of luck always, Kathy! Glenna Marie Waldschmidt came into this world on May 4, 1953. Glenna is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Waldschmidt and has one brother, Rodney, and one sister, Judy.

Glenna likes Art class best at HHS and her favorite pastime is "doing nothing." However, she is involved in Pep Club and Future Nurses Club this year.

"I've never had a moment worth remembering" is what Glenna says about memorable moments.

Her favorite movie is "Soldier Blue," food is fried chicken and song is anything sung by Neil Diamond.

After graduation, Glenna plans to work, then go on to school. All of her friends here at Highland High School wish her the best of luck in the future. Good luck, Glenna!

Mrs. Opal Pierce of River Junction appeared in Mayors Court in Riverside and was charged with false drawing or uttering of a check.

A juvenile's parents from River Junction made restitution to Kiene Sundries on damages to the game machines. Two other juveniles charges are pending and will be turned over to juveniles authorities if restitution is not made.

Jim Duwa of Kalona, struck and killed two six-hundred-pound calves on Highway 22 on Saturday evening. The calves belonged to Wilbur Mast. There were no personal injuries, considerable damage was done to his car.

The automotive department at Highland will have a new paint booth next fall. This will meet the standards set by the State Fire Marshall and thus permit a full course in body and fender work.

The auto mechanics and body and fender program offered at Highland is fulfilling a very important need in the educational program of this area. This is evidenced by the number of students who enroll in technical programs at the various area schools.

Student interest in the auto mechanics and body and fender courses is high. In planning interviews, many boys state that they plan to take one or both courses as soon as it becomes available to them. Both courses are often mentioned as a "best liked" course choice in counseling interviews.

Wellman
Stanley Mouser's mailbox has been selected by the Farm Wife News as the national mailbox of the month. Mr. Mouser's mailbox is an exact replica of an existing steam engine.

The Wellman farmer belongs to the Midwest Old Threshers of Mt. Pleasant.

Lester Yoder and his son, Milford, have one of their hand-crafted grandfather clocks currently on display in the lobby of the Wellman Savings Bank. Lester and Milford are indeed craftsmen and in addition to various sizes of grandfather clocks, they design and build other pieces of furniture on order. The public is invited to stop in the Wellman Savings Bank and view this lovely clock.

The first Alumni Weekend at Iowa Mennonite School is now history. Activities planned for Saturday and Sunday, March 27 and 28, were well attended by alumni and friends of IMS.

290 guests enjoyed the Saturday evening banquet. Community parents and friends joined the group for the after-dinner performance of "Shock of His

Life," a one act comedy directed by David Rhodes of Kalona.

The original man's quartet from the class of 1957 presented two musical selections at the worship service on Sunday morning. Members of this group were: Norman Leichty, Wayland; Ron Wyse, Mt. Pleasant; Merle Miller, Kalona; and Lowell Yoder, Stryker, Ohio.

The 65-voice alumni choir highlighted the musical program on Sunday afternoon. Other selections were presented by school choirs and the IMS faculty. This program was planned and directed by Harold Blosser, music instructor at IMS.

The Alumni Association appreciates the community support of a number of Wellman and Kalona business firms for donations for the banquet.

Mayor Robert L. Godlove has proclaimed the month of April as Clean-Up month in Wellman.

Residents are urged to make a special effort to eliminate litter, trash, and debris from their properties, and, if possible, to remove unsightly buildings and improve those buildings in need of repair.

The City will provide pick-up service on Tuesday and Friday to the residential areas for the month of April. Trash MUST be placed on the parking, or the curb, in disposable containers or piled for easy pick-up. NO GARBAGE WILL BE PICKED UP.

The City is cooperating with the Women's Federated Clubs of Wellman for a community improvement project "An Attractive Community Attracts." Future issues will give more specifics as various organizations take part in the spring clean-up project.

Voters in the Mid-Prairie Community School District turned down the proposal to use approximately \$56,000 from the Schoolhouse Fund to provide for relocatable classrooms at the Kalona Elementary School.

The March 23rd election needed a 60% "yes" vote to pass, but received only a 55.6% affirmative vote. There were 430 votes in favor of the proposal and 343 "no" votes cast.

The board will give further consideration to the enrollment problems at the Kalona Elementary School.

Maryland has our bulkiest book, a 500-pound work published in Baltimore. Titled "The Story of the South," it measures a foot thick and is almost seven feet high.

Oklahoma witnessed our longest golf hole-in-one. Lou Kretlow dropped the ball in from 427 yards at Lake Hefner Golf Club in Oklahoma City.

The country's biggest movie house is Radio City Music Hall in New York. It can seat well over 6,000 persons.

Jay Patterson is a surgical patient at the University Hospitals. Jay received injuries from an explosion while working at home Saturday in his shop. Visitors are restricted.

Publishers in eight newspapers in Southeast Iowa are offering their advertisers an opportunity to reach over 12,000 homes in a weekly supplement "The Market Place." If the supplement is accepted by readers and advertisers of the area, this number will be increased as more newspapers are added.

Last week 12,800 supplements were included in newspapers published in Wapello, Eldon, Batavia, Wayland, Brighton, New London, Keosauqua and Wellman covering a nine-county area.

At present "The Market Place" is on a trial basis and whether it is a service to our advertisers will be determined by the acceptance in the eight-week period.