

# Washington County, Minnesota

## Board of Commissioners - Actions

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### Actions at the Tuesday, September 13, 2011 Board Meeting

This page is a brief view of the actions taken by the Washington County Board of Commissioners. For further information, please telephone 651-430-6001.

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*Washington County's mission is to provide quality public services in a cost-effective manner through innovation, leadership, and the cooperation of dedicated people.*

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### Washington County adds to list of available services for those with disabilities

An additional service provider will be available to serve those with developmental disabilities after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract with Pathways to Community Sept. 13.

Pathways to Community provides a variety of services to individuals with developmental disabilities designed to support and inspire meaningful lifelong relationships. It provides services in several other metro area counties and is now expanding its services in Washington County.

It is opening a licensed corporate adult foster care site in Woodbury in September to serve clients eligible for Home and Community Based Services through federal Medical Assistance (MA) "waivers," meaning medical assistance used to provide services to these individuals outside of institutional settings.

MA will fund 100 percent of the cost of the services provided by Pathways at this licensed site. The services in the foster care will be customized to meet each person's needs and will include 24-hour supervision. Rates will be determined by the county's rate structure, which is used for all existing corporate adult foster cares. The contract will also authorize Pathways to provide some additional in-home or respite services, such as summer camps, to assist families caring for their developmentally disabled children.

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### State will rent more space in county WorkForce Center

The Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) will increase the amount of space that it rents from the Washington County WorkForce Center, which is in the Woodbury Service Center.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to a new lease at its Sept. 13 meeting. The State of Minnesota has been leasing office space from Washington County since 1986 for the DEED. The term of the current lease is through Dec. 31, 2014.

The state wishes to increase the office space used by DEED at the service center from 438 square feet to 1,363 square feet of shared space. While the rental rate per square foot remains the same, the rent revenue over the term of the lease will increase from \$56,241 to \$102,647. The additional revenue received from the lease will be budgeted for county building maintenance and operations expenses.

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### Washington County board adopts 2012 property tax levy

The Washington County Board of Commissioners passed resolutions Sept. 13 certifying the proposed property tax levy for county property taxes payable in 2012. The county's property tax levy will drop by \$260,100 in the coming year.

After the votes, the amount levied may be lowered, but not raised, before the county's 2012 budget is finalized in December. A public hearing on the budget is planned for early December.

The proposed property tax levy for Washington County was set at \$86,523,700, a .3 percent reduction from 2011. In addition, the board approved the property tax levy for the Washington County Regional Rail Authority, of \$574,800; and the Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority for \$3,332,236. Both levies remained the same as last year.

The county's board's action would allow the county's property tax levy to rise by \$260,100 if the City of Lake Elmo voted to remain in the Washington County Library system at its meeting the evening of Sept. 13.

The board also adopted proposed budgets for Washington County and the Regional Rail Authority. Individual department heads presented their budgets to the Washington County board during August and September, after the board heard an overview of the 2012 budget Aug. 9.

This is the second year in a row in which the county has not raised its portion of the property tax. The proposed budget shows a decrease in operating expenditures to \$139.8 million, a decrease of 4.1 percent from 2011. The county has also experienced a reduction in state aid payments of \$11.6 million over the past four years. The county expects to maintain a low tax rate and low per capita spending and property tax compared to other counties.

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