

Washington County, Minnesota

Board of Commissioners - Actions

Actions at the Tuesday, Feb. 22, 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.

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

County sets public hearing to gather input on sale of general obligation bonds

The Washington County Board of Commissioners has set March 15 as the day to receive comments on selling general obligation bonds to fund projects in the county's 2011-2015 Capital Improvement Plan. In addition to the hearing on the bond sale, information on the county's Land and Water Legacy Project bonds will be included in the presentation.

To pay for projects in the county's capital improvement plan, \$35.9 million in financing through bonding is required. The financing will be structured so it remains within the board's budget guidelines that only permits debt to be issued when previous debt has been paid off or limits increases in debt service costs to no more than 5 percent above the previous debt service amount.

A voter referendum in November 2006 authorized the county to issue up to \$20 million in bonds to pay for preservation of sensitive land and water resources within the county through Land and Water Legacy (LWL) projects. The planned sale of bonds includes \$5 million for projects. Over the last several years the County Board has identified projects consistent with the intent of the referendum. The LWL projects to date, and anticipated in the near future, will require approximately \$5 million in funding to implement.

The public hearing will be conducted during the regular board meeting March 15, in the County Boardroom on the fifth floor of the Government Center in Stillwater.

Millard, Dolan named to Minnesota Extension Advisory Committee

Two new members will join the Minnesota Extension Advisory Committee after the Washington County Board of Commissioners made appointments at its Feb. 22 meeting. Colleen Millard, Cottage Grove, was appointed to a first term that will expire Dec. 31, 2013. Dan Dolan, Woodbury, was appointed to an unexpired term that will expire Dec. 31, 2011.

Commissioner Autumn Lehrke, District 4, recommended Millard for the position; Commissioner Gary Kriesel, District 3, recommended Dolan for the position. The Washington County Extension Committee is authorized by Minnesota statutes, and its purpose is to work to fulfill goals of the county and the Minnesota Agricultural Extension Service, which provides educational programs and services through Extension agents in agriculture, economic and human development, community leadership, and environment and natural resources.

The Washington County Extension Committee works with the Washington County Board of Commissioners through the county's Department of Public Health and Environment.

Honsvall will be part of County Audit Advisory Committee

James Honsvall, Stillwater, was named to the Washington County Audit Advisory Committee by the Washington County Board of Commissioners at its meeting Feb. 22. Honsvall will serve his first term, which will expire Dec. 31, 2013.

The county maintains an Audit Committee to provide assurance to the County Board concerning the internal and financial controls of the county and to provide greater independence and objectivity to the audit functions. The committee helps oversee cash transactions, billing processes, the process for overseeing the county's capital assets, investments and any new technology developments.

County will contract with Springsted for financial advisor services

Springsted, Inc., will serve as the Washington County's financial advisor after the County Board of Commissioners agreed to a contract with the company Feb. 22.

The financial advisor primarily provide for the final calculations and coordination of the competitive bidding process for county bond sales. Additionally, the financial advisor executes Continuing Disclosure filing required by the Securities and Exchange Commission and also the Arbitrage/Rebate calculation required by the Internal Revenue Service. The contract is for one year, at a cost of \$10,000. The cost of the services provided during a bond sale are included in the transaction and are paid as part of the final settlement. The cost of other services is included in the annual operating budget as a part of the debt service budget.

3 county departments will administer Child Support Enforcement Program

Three Washington County departments will work together to administer the county's Child Support Enforcement Program, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners gave its approval to the cooperative agreement Feb. 22. The purpose of the Child Support Enforcement Program is to establish paternity and secure financial support for minor children who are living apart from one or both parents. Federal law requires a cooperative agreement between the Child Support Agency and the other county entities that are a part of the agreement to compensate those entities for costs incurred in providing services necessary to operate the Child Support Enforcement Program.

In 2010, the departments worked together to serve more than 6,822 families needing child support and collected \$25,683,908. The program will cost \$458,500 for the year, with \$20,600 coming from the county's property tax levy, and the remainder being paid for with federal funds.

Kennedy & Graven will be county bond counsel for 2011

The law firm of Kennedy & Graven will serve as the Washington County bond counsel after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an agreement with the firm Feb. 22.

The bond counsel serves to provide an independent expert that provides a legal opinion on the authorization and issuance of tax-exempt municipal bonds. The contract, which will be paid from debt service funds, is for \$25,000 for 2011.

Family will continue to live in house on parkland

A home on county parkland will continue to be leased from Washington County, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a lease for the home at its meeting Feb. 22.

Michael and Courtney Bengston will continue to lease a county-owned home on Stillwater Boulevard in Lake Elmo. When Washington County acquires land for regional parks, houses located on the land are typically leased. This house has been leased for more than 20 years. The lease terminates Feb. 28, 2011, and this agreement is for a 12-month

extension of the lease. Revenue received from the house rental supplements the Parks Division Stewardship Fund to help pay for the maintenance of the property.

Company will continue to care for landscaping at county buildings

The Brinkman Group will continue to do landscape maintenance service at county buildings through Dec. 31, 2011, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners extended a contract with the company Feb. 22.

Bids for landscape maintenance services for county facilities were received in February 2008 and the contract was awarded to the Brickman Group. As bid, the contract with the Brickman Group is eligible to be renewed for up to three additional one-year terms upon agreement by both parties. Landscape maintenance services are due to be bid again in 2012.

The Building Services Division of the Public Works Department has been satisfied with the services provided by the Brickman Group and recommended that the contract be extended. The company proposed no rate increase. The 2011 contract will be for \$114,537.58.

The company maintains the landscaping around county libraries, service centers, maintenance shops, the Environmental Center in Woodbury and the Law Enforcement and Government centers in Stillwater.
