

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
FEBRUARY 24, 2009

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room. Present were Commissioners Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Peterson, Weik, and Kriesel. Absent none. Board Chair Peterson presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Doug Johnson, County Attorney; Chief Deputy Mike Johnson; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Jacob Gave, Design Engineer I; Keith Potter, Facilities Manager; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Cindy Rupp, Community Services Division Manager; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; and Dave Brierley, Public Information Coordinator.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Steve Anderson, 2530 Countryside Court, spoke about the proposed budget change for Extension. He is the Executive Director of the Washington County Ag Society, which owns and operates the fairgrounds. The Ag Society relies on the 4-H to fill eight of the buildings at the fairgrounds. He feels that the fair and the 4-H activities have a direct stimulus for the local economy of Washington County. He stated that this year's fair will be the 137th fair and 4-H has been around for over 100 years. Without 4-H and the programs it brings to the fair, there will be no fair. The Washington County Ag Society asks the County Board to leave the Extension program in the budget.

Jason Campbell, 10579 10th Street North, Lake Elmo – Mr. Campbell stated he has been the Washington County 4-H Federation Adult Treasurer for the past five years. He has been a resident of Washington County for 38 years. He is here to talk about the fiscal value of 4-H. The \$130,000 of funding for the 4-H program represents about .0008% of the annual budget of Washington County. For this money the county receives an educational program that serves 500 youth directly and another 200 youth indirectly. Also included in this money are the numerous volunteer hours of adult and youth. If you add up these volunteer hours, he believes the county receives the equivalent of six or more full time employees for the price of \$130,000 or \$21,000 for a full time employee. He feels this is the fiscal value that 4-H brings to Washington County.

Mike Clemens, 8490 108th Street North, Forest Lake – Mr. Clemens stated he is a proud 11 year alumni of the Washington County 4-H program. He knows his experience with 4-H has developed him into who he is today in his career. He is a manager for a business in Minneapolis and works part time for the Forest Lake Police Department, a position he has held for the past 23 years. His local club annually donates and plants

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trees throughout Washington County. During the holidays they adopt families. They have supported the troops over seas with correspondence and supplies. Annually their club spends one night a week before the Holidays bringing fruit baskets to the elderly in a local nursing home. It is a great experience for the youth to talk to seniors who have been involved in 4-H and were former leaders. Their club has also donated to the local ambulance in Marine on St. Croix. He feels the program has impacted a lot of people and it will continue to impact a lot of people. He asked that the County Board continue funding for the 4-H program.

Rebecca Tenpas, 11330 50th Street North, Lake Elmo – Ms. Tenpas stated that 4-H is a learning experience. Not only does it address the community service projects and youth curricular activities, it teaches the youth a lifetime of service. It teaches them to care about their community, to care about each other, and teaches them how to relate and give to the community.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved, seconded by Commissioner Hegberg to adopt the following Consent Calendar:

1. Approval of the February 10, 2009 Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to appoint Anthony Carr, Stillwater, to the Community Corrections Advisory Board as a minority representative to fill an unexpired term to December 31, 2009.
3. Approval of agreement with Community Services, the Sheriff, and the County Attorney to administer the Child Support Enforcement program.
4. Approval of the master grant agreement between the Washington County Workforce Center and the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development for April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2012.
5. Approval of contract with East Suburban Resources to partner with the Workforce Center on the EXTRA – Taking Action on Racial Disparities project for African American Minnesota Family Investment Program customers.
6. Approval of Amendment #1 to Contract No. 4281 with State Operated Services to adjust the rates for two registered nurses providing services to county clients.
7. Approval of contract with Expedite! Direct Mail for printing and mailing of 2009 property tax-related documents.

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8. Approval to renew application of off sale liquor license for SSG Corporation, April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010, in Denmark Township.
9. Approval of agreement with Washington Conservation District for 2009 professional services.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Aerial Photography

Commissioner Kriesel moved to award a contract to Kucera International Inc. to perform county-wide aerial photography and authorize execution of the contract through the signatures of the Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners and the Washington County Administrator without further action from the County Board. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Campus 2025 Phase 5 Improvements

Commissioner Hegberg moved to approve professional service contract amendments for the Campus 2025 Phase 5 improvements with Wold Architects and Engineers for \$400,625 and Kraus-Anderson Midwest Construction for \$1,194,812. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to approve the Voluntary Leave Without Pay Program by increasing the leave from 40 hours per year to 120 hours a year subject to the approval of the Department Head. Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

Commissioner Hegberg moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2009-018** as follows:

Resolution Supporting a Fee Increase for Deputy Registrars

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota established a public/private deputy registrar system to provide citizens convenient locations to conduct title registration services for motor vehicles and DNR recreational vehicles; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota in 1949 established a user service fee on motor vehicle transactions to be retained by the deputy registrar to defray the cost of providing the local service; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has shifted increased costs and responsibilities onto the deputy registrar such as regular replacement schedules of computers and associated electronic equipment, printing of previously supplied state forms, and expanded auditing tasks with additional risks and potential liability that was previously the responsibility of the State; and

WHEREAS, collectively the deputy registrar system handles over one billion dollars of state funds for the State of Minnesota annually with considerable risk whereby dishonored checks are the responsibility of the deputy registrar in the full amount tendered after remitting the bulk of those funds to the State; and

WHEREAS, the user service fee that should fully support the cost for providing motor vehicle transactions no longer covers the operational costs to maintain most deputy registrar offices. Many public deputy registrars must use property tax levy proceeds to subsidize this service. Rural areas with lower volumes are in jeopardy of losing service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners supports a reasonable increase in the deputy registrar filing fee in order to maintain local title and registration services to the citizens of Minnesota.

Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Recognition for Supervisor John McPherson

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2009-019** as follows:

Resolution of Appreciation
Supervisor John McPherson
Upon his Retirement from the West Lakeland Township Board

WHEREAS, Supervisor John McPherson will retire as a supervisor on the West Lakeland Township Board effective March 2, 2009; and

WHEREAS, Supervisor John McPherson has served on the West Lakeland Township Board for 41 years after he was first elected to fill a Town Board vacancy in 1968; and

WHEREAS, Supervisor John McPherson has always been a spokesperson for the best interests of the citizens of West Lakeland Township and has always been a strong advocate of low property taxes and efficient services; and

WHEREAS, Supervisor John McPherson's contributions in public service included the final route determination of I-94; adding soccer fields; reviewing a fly-ash landfill facility; paving the dirt roads of the township; and helping to direct the development of the township during the population growth from 345 to nearly 4,000 citizens during his years of service on the Town Board; and

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NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners acknowledges with grateful appreciation Supervisor John McPherson's leadership and public service as a member of the West Lakeland Township Board for 41 years, of which approximately 35 years were as Board Chair; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners heartily commends Supervisor John McPherson upon his retirement from the West Lakeland Township Board and hereby proclaims Monday, March 2, 2009, as "Supervisor John McPherson Day in Washington County."

Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Legislative Update

Jim Schug, County Administrator, presented a legislative update on the following items: the House passed SF 49, in part repealing the maintenance of effort suspension, and the Governor subsequently signed it; bills are moving through house committees and the Senate is making modifications in the Green Acres legislation; in Public Safety and Corrections, Sheriff Hutton and Sheriff Bud Olson from Carver County have been active with the Sheriff's Association trying to maintain funding for the eight-day detention facility for juveniles; the Department of Corrections has indicated some interest in opening discussion about short-term offenders; in transportation a lot of discussion has centered on the impact of the Federal economic stimulus bill would have on Minnesota; and last evening the first of the two town meetings being conducted by the legislators was held in Washington County in Woodbury, the second meeting will be held in Forest Lake on February 26.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Hegberg attended the town meeting last evening in Woodbury and the gist of the testimony was don't raise any taxes and don't cut any services. The Counties Transit Improvement Board met last week and the project contracts were let and everything is going as expected.

Commissioner Hegberg reported on his first meeting of the Metropolitan Area Agency on Aging last week. The Dial-a-Ride program was discussed and some individuals cannot get rides to the cities or cannot get back home because of where they live is not in the transit taxing district. They also discussed Metro Mobility. In the afternoon he attended the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties. The stimulus package did increase their amount of funding in certain areas, but it was only for one year and it would make it difficult to budget for following years if no further funding is provided. He has also attended different subcommittees which meet every week.

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Commissioner Pulkrabek asked for more detailed information on the stimulus package on where this money is coming from, how the interest will be paid, and what percentage of future budgets will be dedicated for debt/interest payments.

Commissioner Peterson reported she attended an Association of Minnesota Counties meeting and a person from the Department of Revenue addressed an issue regarding the audit process. Once the stimulus dollars are received the reporting on what the money is used for, and how many jobs were created, will be intense and thorough.

Commissioner Weik stated she has attended two listening sessions in the last three days. She attended one at the Guardian Angels Church in Oakdale on Sunday morning and the one in Woodbury on Monday. Of the 300 people in Woodbury about 100 people spoke. They were allowed a minute and a half to give testimony so everyone who wanted to could speak. She testified that counties are silent partners with the state to deliver health and human services and correction services in talking about the cuts, but did acknowledge that counties had to play a part in the state's budget problems. She briefly touched on maintenance of effort requirements and brought up levy limits and its impact on revenue. One resident stated that there had been a lot of emphasis on cuts and he said he hadn't heard enough about how they were going to raise revenue or ideas legislators had for revenue streams. She thought that was a good comment.

Commissioner Weik reported she attended the Counties Transit Improvement Board last week. There was an update on the economic stimulus package. There was also a presentation from the Transit for Livable Communities and a review of the transitway map for 2020 and that the east metro stations were left off. This map was also brought up at the I-94 Transportation Corridor meeting she attended on Friday. On March 16 the CTIB will hold a workshop to discuss the long-term investment framework and review the financial analysis of the quarter cent sales tax.

Commissioner Weik attended the Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee meeting which reviewed the hazardous response and recovery plan. They are recruiting for medical reserve corps. She asked that the link for the medical reserve corps be added to the advisory committee/citizen involvement section located on the web.

Commissioner Weik mentioned an article in the Pioneer Press regarding the increased use of libraries.

Commissioner Kriesel reported that he spoke to the Hilltoppers at Trinity Church regarding the campus expansion and concerns they had about the budget cuts. He attended the I-94 Corridor coalition meeting. He mentioned that after the County Board passed the resolution honoring the Red Bull Infantry that is being deployed to Iraq, a committee was formed to have Washington County become a Yellow Ribbon initiative county. On March 9 there will be a meeting of citizens and local community leaders to encourage support to families of the soldiers who are currently deployed.

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Commissioner Kriesel and County Administrator Schug attended the Lower St. Croix Valley Alliance meeting last evening. That group is looking at how to develop a legislative agenda and how they might form joint power agreements so communities could work together on common efficiencies.

Commissioner Kriesel noted that a large group of Extension and 4-H people attended the Board meeting earlier this morning. The advice he gave them prior to the meeting was to appear at the Forest Lake town hall meeting to bring this matter to the State legislators. The County Board approved funding for 4-H and Extension in the 2009 budget and when the unallotment came from the state and the anticipated budget cuts those items are revisited. He was disappointed that with the amount of e-mails he has been receiving that these folks are not looking at what caused Washington County to possibly consider taking that funding out of its budget. The message to the legislators is if they are going to cut county funding it will have an impact on what the county provides.

Commissioner Peterson met with Representative Marsha Swails who chairs the House Committee that will be looking at efficiency and consolidation. She will meet with the Representative again for suggestions the County Board might have on consolidation and efficiencies in government. Last Wednesday at the Transportation Advisory Board meeting there was considerable discussion about the stimulus package for the metro area. Commissioner Peterson stated she took a strident position that the stimulus money should be used for big projects that cost a great deal of money rather than to spend dollars on little projects. Many of the transportation projects being considered are for mill and overlay and she feels that the stimulus money should be used for major projects. If the Board disagrees with that position, please tell her and she will curb her advocacy.

Commissioner Peterson reported on the Association of Minnesota Counties Board of Director's meeting last Friday. There was a lot of conversation about the stimulus package, the maintenance of effort, and county redesign.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Hegberg and it was adopted unanimously. The Board meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

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BOARD WORKSHOP WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES

The Board met in workshop session with the Community Services Department to discuss the county human service delivery systems. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Peterson, Weik, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Harley Will, Mjyke Nelson, Lowell Johnson, Pat Singel, and Dan Papin.

Myra Peterson, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator