

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD**  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA**  
**MARCH 17, 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; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Fred Anderson, Epidemiologist; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson, John Haugen, Sheriff's Office; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; Keith Potter, Facilities Manager; Patricia Conley, Library Director; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Julie Sorrem, Risk Manager; Cindy Rupp, Community Services Division Manager; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; and Dave Brierley, Public Information Coordinator.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

Mark Zuzek, 11594 120<sup>th</sup> St. South, Denmark Township - Mr. Zuzek, Principal of Hastings Middle School, spoke about 4-H funding. Funding for 4-H comes from Washington County, the State of Minnesota, and from the University of Minnesota through the Extension Services. He believes the largest input and support for 4-H in Washington County is the thousands of volunteer hours from the adults. It is his perspective that each dollar invested into 4-H in Washington County grows far more than just ten-fold. He urged the Board to reconsider the elimination of funding for the 4-H program in Washington County.

Representative Bob Dettmer, District 52A, 20617 Everton Court, Forest Lake – Representative Dettmer noted that these are challenging times, but maybe a look should be given at how to support programs that are important, put money where it should be, and prioritize where the money should be spent. He suggested increasing membership, maybe increase the dues, and maybe have a partnership with the Farm Bureau and with FFA.

Commissioner Kriesel thanked Representative Dettmer for his comments. He stated that 4-H was in the county's 2009 budget which was adopted last year, but when they were confronted with the \$1.5 million unallotment and then levy limits, the county was then limited to the options of what could be taxed. He feels if the county does not fund 4-H there are other ways of funding it. He asked if the State could earmark funds to the University of Minnesota to be used for 4-H, he believes this board would consider some sort of participation.

Representative Dettmer stated there are legislators on both side of the aisle that are involved in agriculture who have a special interest in 4-H. He suggested that the county put together some language and present it to the legislators who are involved with the Ag Committee to see what could be done.

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Commissioner Kriesel would support that idea and that is one of the things he advised Extension last year is to support the county on some of these unfunded mandates and cuts that are coming to the counties.

John Strohfus, 3389 Oxford Bay, Woodbury – Mr. Strohfus stated he grew up in Denmark Township and is an alumni of the Sunny Side 4-H Club. He feels there is an economic stimulus that is generated by 4-H. After a quick survey of club membership and about 200 responses in a week campaign, they found the following information: Economic stimulus by clubs has generated roughly \$418,000 of revenue; 82 businesses have been impacted by 4-H; Cub Food's has benefited by about \$40,000; Target, \$8,000; Wal-Mart, \$10,000 etc. In total, with the 4-H program the costs and income generated is over \$1.1 million. He feels that is a significant dollar amount for an investment of \$130,000, not to mention the benefits to kids. He asked the Board to fund 4-H, save the county fair, and stimulate the economy.

Roger Tuckner, 10545 Mayfield Avenue North, Stillwater Township – Mr. Tuckner stated he owns Century Power Equipment on Highway 36 in Oak Park Heights. He feels the Washington County Fairgrounds adds value to his business. It benefits from the exposure of people who attend events at the fairgrounds. He feels the fair is a unique and necessary feature for the county to have, and 4-H is the backbone of the Washington County Fair. His family has donated hundreds of hours a year to run the horse camps and other 4-H activities. He believes that funding 4-H is a worthwhile investment in the kids and it also benefits the Washington County Fair.

### **CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

1. Approval of the February 17, 24 and March 3, 2009 Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval of Amendment #1 to contract for services with the Bayport Library.
3. Approval of Amendment #1 to contract for services with the Stillwater Library.
4. Approval to remove the \$5.00 driver license printout fee from the Sheriff's Office section of the Washington County Fee Schedule.
5. Approval to transfer ownership of Washington County Sheriff's office K-9 "Paetro" to his handler, Sgt. Kyle Schenck.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

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**HUMAN RESOURCES/PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT**

Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment, reviewed Human Resource Policy #5425, Tuberculosis Occupational Exposure Control Plan. The purpose of the plan is to: ensure early and prompt detection of Tuberculosis (TB); isolate people suspected of having the disease; and treatment of people that have or are suspected of having the disease. The plan assigns department responsibilities and identifies jobs at risk for exposure. Mr. Johnson noted that in 2001 there were 239 cases of TB. In 2007, 238 cases were detected in Minnesota, which is the first time since 1992 that TB incidence rate in Minnesota has exceeded the national rate.

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to approve revised Policy #5425, Tuberculosis Occupational Exposure Control Plan. Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

**GENERAL ADMINISTRATION****2009 Work Plan**

Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator, reported that the Commissioners and Department Heads met on January 29, 2009 to review the status of the 2008 work plan. She stated that the proposed 2009 work plan identifies county-wide goals to be addressed, staff responsible for goal implementation, target completion dates and a status report on activities held since the January meeting.

Commissioner Hegberg moved to approve the 2009 Work Plan as presented. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

**Reduction of Passport Photos**

Ms. O'Rourke announced that on June 1, 2009, the use of a passport will be needed for land crossings into Canada and Mexico. In order to publicize this change in federal requirements and to provide an opportunity for citizens to apply for and receive their passports prior to summer vacations, the U.S. Department of State is sponsoring a Passport Acceptance Day on Saturday, March 28. License centers will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, and staff proposes to reduce the cost of passport photo fees from \$15.00 to \$5.00.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to reduce the passport photo fee from \$15.00 to \$5.00 on Friday, March 27 in the Washington County License Centers in Stillwater, Forest Lake, Woodbury and Cottage Grove, and on Saturday, March 28 in the Washington County License Centers in Stillwater, Forest Lake, and Woodbury. Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

**Legislative Update**

Jim Schug, County Administrator, presented the following legislative update: the modified Green Acres legislation was passed by the Senate and included all of the provisions discussed last week, as well as a provision that creates a new land conservation property tax law which the Board indicated it wanted dropped; the Governor's supplemental budget will be released this afternoon and staff will review it for impact on county program aid and other grants that the county receives from the State; the Senate DFL Caucus released its budget proposal last week, but there is not enough information as yet to determine the potential impact on the county budget; a number of Senate Tax Committee actions were taken last week, one would repeal levy limits, would eliminate the requirement for a Truth-in-Taxation hearing, and also eliminate the need for the advertisement that precedes the Truth-in-Taxation hearing for two years; the Senate transportation bonding bill now includes I-94 Corridor funding in the amount of \$250,000, and it was amended to make park-n-ride lots eligible for funding under the transitway development; and, there was more discussion about the Governor's proposal to create 15 Human Service Authorities.

Mr. Schug reviewed the legislative items that are of Washington County origin. The county had asked for relief from the State sales tax for the Court's facility the county is building. There is a state-wide bill that has been introduced and that is something this county should support rather than trying to get an individual county bill. The watershed district budget approval item has not been a high priority, but the Senate Tax Chair has indicated he would be interested and willing to meet with Representative Dettmer and Commissioner Hegberg to discuss this issue. A hearing has been scheduled this week for the transit taxing district issue. MICA is not taking a position on it, and there is not a lot of support, but the county legislative agenda does include it. Finally, there was a Senate hearing last week on a proposal that would allow Washington County to share private data with its insurance carrier appointed lawyers if the county was in a situation where there was a written claim for a lawsuit. There was a compromise that the county feels would help the county manage this situation.

Commissioner Peterson noted there was one change in the high speed rail bonding bill allowing it to go to Minneapolis and those dollars would not come from the bonding bill but would come from the general fund. She asked that this situation be monitored because high speed rail from Chicago to the Union Depot is important to the east metro.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS**

Commissioner Weik reported on the following items: She attended the Senate hearings last week for data sharing and testified at the transportation bonding hearing; last week she and Commissioner Peterson taped County Insight; the MICA meeting discussed the Human Services consolidation and she questioned the timeline for this proposal starting in 2009 and wondered if it wouldn't be better to wait for the next census

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in 2010 or 2011; she is also concerned the State is acting in haste for this consolidation and that more discussion should be held; also, Anoka County announced at MICA that it is using Twitter for their county announcements; she attended the technical advisory work group of Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee on March 12 to review the cities readiness initiative; there is a Public Health and Emergency Preparedness Advisory Committee meeting on March 19; and, she will attend the 4-H economic impact meeting that will be held immediately after the workshop today.

Commissioner Kriesel reported on the following items: he attended the West Lakeland Township annual meeting and after the meeting they honored John McPherson on his 41 years of service; yesterday he attended the Counties Transit Improvement Board workshop where financial modeling studies were brought forward; he received an e-mail last evening that Senator Saltzman and Senator Vandever were able to amend the bonding bill to include \$650,000 as a stand-alone for the Stillwater levee; he will attend the Minnesota Extension Committee meeting on March 19 as well as the Parks and Open Space Commission that same evening; and, he will attend the legislative delegation meeting at 7:30 a.m. on March 20 at the AMC Building.

Commissioner Hegberg reported on the following items: he attended the Association of Governmental Risk Pools (AGRIP) conference last week where they discussed claims and re-insurance throughout the nation; one of the speakers was a former California Highway Patrol (CHP's) officer and they will try to get him to speak at AMC and the Sheriff's Association on loss control which would be important for the State of Minnesota; and, he attended the Minnesota Counties Insurance Trust last Friday and discussed consolidating human services because many of the rural counties already have joint powers agreements for human services and how they deliver that service and data practice privacy is a concern in the new bill also.

Commissioner Pulkrabek reported on the following items: he attended the National Association of Counties conference last week and will update and share information with the Board; the atmosphere was more somber than in previous years because of the economic climate that most counties are facing nationally; he asked about the Community Services Advisory Committee and if it was still active.

Mr. Schug stated that the committee work has been suspended. It is no longer required under state statute and was discussed at the last committee meeting. Commissioner Kriesel stated it had the support of the advisory committee, and one of the members brought the suggestion forward to disband. Different options are being looked at as to whether to meld those people in with another committee such as the Mental Health Advisory group. The meetings take a significant amount of staff time to prepare and given the fact that staff has been reduced, they are trying to get the best use of their resources.

Commissioner Pulkrabek stated he and Commissioner Weik met with the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce and City of Woodbury Mayor Hargis and Councilwoman Giuliani Stephens to discuss transportation issues.

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Commissioner Pulkrabek also mentioned the 4-H issue and the support they have from cities and townships. He feels it is one thing to pass a resolution in support of 4-H, but thinks there is political posturing when there are no dollars that accompany a resolution in support.

Commissioner Peterson reported on the following items: she attended the AMC Legislative Committee meetings last week where she asked if combining and creating 15 districts would be as effective in cost reduction as the take over of the court services had been as well as the aging services of MAAA; she believes these ventures have not been successful and that they reduce services at an increased cost; in 2009 Washington County will receive 1% of the sales tax revenue through CTIB, but for the years 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013, Washington County will receive 3% of the revenue generated for transit in the five participating counties; she will attend the Transportation Advisory Board meeting this week and they will discuss the Federal Economic Stimulus dollars and determine how those funds will be disbursed; and, next Monday she encouraged the County Board to participate in the Region X meeting from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. to discuss two bills, one is increasing the taxing district and the other is council of governments.

#### **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 Kriesel and it was adopted unanimously. The Board meeting adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

#### **REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS**

The Regional Railroad Authority met in workshop session with the Department of Public Works to review the Joint Powers Agreement for the High Speed Rail Corridor. 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, Don Theisen, Wayne Sandberg, Ted Schoenecker, and Andy Gitzlaff.

Myra Peterson, Chair  
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug  
County Administrator