

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MARCH 3, 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; Patrick Singel, Community Services Deputy Director; Josh Beck, Associate Planner; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; Ted Schoenecker, Transportation Manager; Cory Slagle, Transportation Manager; Vicki DeFord, Deputy Human Resources Director; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Mike Johnson; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; and David Brierley, Public Information Coordinator.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Susan Clemens, Eden Prairie – Ms. Clemens stated she was a 4-H member of Washington County for 11 years in the Forest Lake area. She indicated that 4-H shaped her into who she is today. The challenges of the 4-H program and the relationships that she built gave her the confidence and the leadership skills to successfully shape her future. She thanked the Board for its past support and asked for its support in the future.

Abby Persoon, 115 Ridge Way, Mahtomedi – Ms. Persoon is 13 years old and currently secretary of the Soil Savers 4-H Club in Washington County. 4-H is a program for kids in grades 3-12. Projects are displayed at the Washington County Fair, they show animals and livestock, run the 4-H food stand at Hooley Hall, put on a performance at the park pavilion, they host family fun day and hold activities outside the 4-H building. Without funding, all the 4-H programs will stop at the county fair, service to kids will go, service to the community will decrease, opportunities will go away, and the county community will never be the same. She thanked the Board for its funding in the past, and on behalf of all 4-H she asked the Board to help them make the best better by funding 4-H.

Emma Persoon, 115 Ridge Way, Mahtomedi – Ms. Persoon is 10 years old and a member of the Soil Savers 4-H Club and has been a 4-H member for four years. She thinks the Board should fund 4-H because it helps the community and the world. She has learned a lot and has made many friends. If 4-H is not funded then there might not be a county fair. If there is no county fair some people who are not even in 4-H will be bummed out. She thinks Washington County will lose a lot of money if 4-H is not part of the fair. 4-H has helped her love and care about the environment and has helped her learn to help kids less fortunate than her by doing service projects. She knows the Board has a hard decision on how best to spend the money in the county and she hopes they choose to sponsor 4-H in some way.

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CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval to appoint John Rheinberger, Stillwater, to the Groundwater Advisory Committee to a first term expiring December 31, 2010.
2. Approval of a service agreement with the Washington County Conservation District in the amount of \$34,000 to prepare a conservation plan for the Land and Water Legacy Program.
3. Approval of a special project position of Eligibility Specialist (.25 F.T.E.) in the Community Services Department through December 31, 2009.
4. Approval to amend the County Fee Policy (#1032) to change or add certain fees for service charged by the Washington County Department of Information Technology.
5. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2009-020** as follows:

Lawful Gambling Exemption Application from the
Ruffed Grouse Society, Missi-Croix Chapter

WHEREAS, the Ruffed Grouse Society, Missi-Croix Chapter has made application to the Gambling Control Board for the exemption from certain requirements contained in M.S. 349.166 sub 2 in order to conduct a raffle at The Point, 12378 Point Douglas Dr., Hastings (Denmark Township), 55033.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does not oppose issuance of exemption consistent with the application.

6. Approval to renew application for on sale and Sunday liquor license for Afton Alps, Inc. for the period April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010.
7. Approval to renew application for on sale and Sunday liquor license for the Outing Lodge at Pine Point, LLC, for the period April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010.
8. Approval to renew application for on sale and Sunday liquor license for The Point, Inc. for the period April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010.
9. Approval to renew application for on sale and Sunday liquor license for Stoneridge Golf Club for the period April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010.

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10. Approval of contract with WSB and Associates, Inc. for preliminary design services for the TH 244 and CSAH 12 safety and mobility intersection reconstruction project in Mahtomedi and Willernie for a cost not to exceed \$52,760.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

Commissioner Pulkrabek commented on the liquor license applications that were on the Consent Calendar. He stated it bothers him that there is no uniformity about liquor license fees.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Josh Beck, Associate Planner, reviewed the proposed uses of Community Development Block Grant and HOME funds for 2009: Twin Cities Habitat for Humanity Retreat at Garden Gate II, \$350,000; Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority Raymie Johnson Townhomes, \$133,012; Granada Lakes Limited Partnership Granada Lakes Estates, \$200,000; Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority Housing Reinvestment Initiative \$100,000; Washington County Public Services, \$120,506; and Administration, \$164,772.

Commissioner Weik noted she found errors in some of the tables in the draft plan and called Mr. Beck about those. Mr. Beck indicated those changes have been made to the draft plan that will be published.

Commissioner Hegberg moved to approve the funding recommendations and release for public comment on the draft 2009 Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Program Annual Action Plan. Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

Federal Economic Stimulus Update

Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director, presented an update on the stimulus package which is called the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act – 2009. He highlighted the infrastructure and science category which represents \$111 billion of the total package of \$787 billion. Minnesota will receive \$668 million which is divided as follows:

Highways and Bridges, \$502 million - \$345 million will go to MnDOT for statewide highway projects; \$150 million to local agencies statewide of which \$76 million will go to the local metro area; certain requirements need to be met to get this money.

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Intercity Rail/High Speed Rail – At this time no there is no definite amount that will be coming back to Minnesota, but nationwide there is \$8 billion for capital grants for high speed rail and intercity rail with \$1.3 billion for capital grants to Amtrak;

Transit Capital - \$94 million is available for Minnesota, and of that \$65 million is allocated for the Metro Transit; Met Council will determine the priorities which include covering their current operating budget shortfall of \$45 million and other capital projects.

Mr. Sandberg noted that final distribution of this money is still unknown as is how the distribution will affect Washington County. He stated that MnDOT has three major projects they could use the money on and still not do all three. They are: Highway 610; Highway 494 and 169; and the Cayuga Bridge. Another option would be for MnDOT to take all the money and all the local money and complete two of those bigger projects and then that would free up money already allocated in future years to do local projects.

County Road 82 Project in Forest Lake

Commissioner Hegberg moved to approve a contract with Toltz, King, Duval, Anderson and Associates for final design services for the proposed Hardwood Creek Trail Bridge over County Road 83 (11th Avenue SW) in Forest Lake, for a cost not to exceed \$78,000. Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

The Board discussed the Federal economic stimulus funding and whether the money should be spent on a lot of little projects or use it all to complete two major projects as described by Mr. Sandberg earlier.

Commissioner Hegberg moved that a letter be sent to the Metropolitan Council and the Transportation Advisory Board urging the use of stimulus funding for the CR 14 overpass project in Anoka County. Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted 4-1 as follows: Yes, Commissioners Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Weik, and Kriesel; No, Commissioner Peterson.

Commissioner Peterson stated she is opposed to this letter because she feels that the stimulus funding should be used for two or three major road projects rather than several smaller projects.

The County Board discussed the transit portion of the stimulus package where \$45 million of the \$65 million would go to the Metropolitan Council for their budget shortfall.

Commissioner Peterson moved that a letter be sent to the Metropolitan Council stating that the \$45 million budget shortfall for Metro Transit should not be made up with one-time stimulus money. Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**Washington County Position Reductions**

Jim Schug, County Administrator, informed the Board that he has just received the Governor's announcement about the new State deficit and it is now projected at \$6.4 billion, but that the proposal is to put approximately \$1.8 billion of the Federal stimulus money to buy down the State deficit leaving a net deficit of about \$4.6 billion.

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to eliminate the following staff positions as recommended: Administration, (Management Analyst, Records Management); Community Corrections (Probation Office II); Community Services; (Child Support Officer); County Attorney's Office, (Paralegal Assistant); General Operations (3 Court Security Positions); Information Technology (3 IT Analysts); Library (Office Support II); Property Records and Taxpayer Services, (Property Appraiser I and II); Public Health and Environment, (Office Support II); Public Works, (2 Maintenance Workers, Senior Planner, Transportation Coordinator, and Sr. Engineering Tech.-Special Project); and Sheriff's Office, (Deputy, 2 Office Support II, and CO Sergeant II). Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Legislative Update

Mr. Schug presented the following legislative update: the Governor may consider a repeal of the short-term offender program because prison growth has slowed; Green Acres legislation continues to move forward; in health and human services area there is a significant amount of money that would be coming to Minnesota in Federal funds for homelessness prevention, food stamp benefits, and child support enforcement; there is also a moratorium on child welfare targeted case management role which has been extended which allows the county to earn revenue under that Federal program for a longer period of time; a hearing was held this week in the Senate and more details were revealed on the Governor's proposal to create 15 regional human service organizations; and another hearing was held on mandates, matches and maintenance of effort requirements.

Commissioner Peterson noted that she attended a meeting with Congresswoman McCollum to address the stimulus package. Congresswoman McCollum encouraged Dakota, Washington and Ramsey Counties to work together and make application for the special stimulus dollars. She asked that the three county chairs work to devise the sub-groups that would be evaluating and making application for stimulus dollars for housing and other areas.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Hegberg reported on a meeting held at Rock-Tenn Company to discuss recycling and that the value of recycling materials has declined. The inventories are building in the warehouses and there is not a

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lot of positive news. Some of the plastic materials is being shipped to China, but there are huge amounts of inventory sitting in California. Steel has also dropped considerably. Because of the environmental laws on the steel industry in this country, it causes their costs to be considerably higher than other countries.

Commissioner Hegberg reported on the two listening sessions he attended, one in Woodbury and the other in Forest Lake. The Forest Lake speakers were mainly businessmen who did not advocate increased or maintenance of services. They advocated tax reductions. Several people talked about property values and the decrease of house values, and they hoped their property taxes would be decreased. Commissioner Hegberg feels there will be many angry individuals as the Boards of Equalizations meet and the Truth-in-Taxation hearings are held. He feels the public should be educated on what the county is doing and how the system works.

Commissioner Hegberg stated that Chuck Haas has not resigned from the Park Commission yet. He should be contacted because he is going on the Metro Park Board and some individuals have asked about that position.

Commissioner Hegberg noted that he will not be at next week's meeting because he will be on vacation and then he will be going to an insurance trust conference. It should be an interesting conference with insurance rates going up 21% and AIG is out of the business as well as others. The insurance trust will have to make difficult choices in the future and might have to take additional risks to reduce those premiums as much as possible.

Commissioner Pulkrabek stated that there will be a Finance Committee meeting following the Board meeting this morning. There is also a Metro Energy Policy Coalition meeting on Thursday and he and Commissioner Weik will meet with the Woodbury Chamber of Commerce to discuss transportation issues. He also will not be at the Board meeting next week he will be attending the National Association of Counties meeting.

Commissioner Kriesel reported that he attended the West Lakeland Town Board meeting last evening and presented retiring Supervisor John McPherson with his resolution of appreciation from the County Board. Last week he and Commissioners Weik and Hegberg attended the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board.

Commissioner Kriesel commented on the group of individuals that showed up this morning and spoke on the 4-H issue. He believes there isn't anyone on this Board that doesn't appreciate the value of 4-H. He believes it comes down to whether continuing to fund that is a core service of government. He was impressed by the energy of the 4-H supporters and believes that energy should be transferred into working towards self sustainability, possibly through private foundations. The Rotary, Lions Club, and Boy Scouts are all worthy organizations that recognize the government cannot be all things to all people and that they have to work towards self sufficiency.

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Commissioner Kriesel announced that the Valley Outreach Food shelf will be holding their major annual event on March 7, 7:00 to 11:30 p.m. at the Water Street Inn in Stillwater. The event includes a buffet dinner, silent auction and music.

Commissioner Weik commented on a couple of e-mails she received criticizing the County Board and Commissioners for going through these commissioner reports at the end of each meeting. Some people in the public do not want these reports, or suggested they be moved to after the meetings in a workshop format. She feels that the most important issue for elected officials is transparency in government, so that is her position on commissioner reports.

Commissioner Weik reported on the Mosquito Control Board meeting she attended. They discussed plans for 2009, management of the expansion of the Oakdale facility and facilitating the addition of two new crews in Oakdale and in Andover. They are looking at strategic planning and opportunities for staff to refine their processes with a goal of delivering efficient services in a cost effective manner.

Commissioner Weik attended the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board as a guest. She volunteered to take Commissioner Hegberg's place on that committee as it meets right after the Mosquito Control in the same building and her background is in biology. She mentioned a major concern is for electronic waste management handling because of the conversion to digital this summer. The concern is that the public be educated and to advocate for responsible recycling of analog television sets that could end up in the waste stream. She also noted that Minnesota is one of three states nationally chosen for the paint pilot project. Consumers could see a 25 cent to 40 cent price increase.

Commissioner Weik reported she attended a tour of the Dakota County Board Room and the Farmington City Council Chambers. During the snow storm last Thursday, she attended a ride-a-long with a county snowplow driver. The route they went on is in Woodbury and included CR 13 and CR 19 and parts of Valley Creek Road. The drivers work in tandem and sometimes a third vehicle is required. She thanked Wayne Sandberg for setting this up because it gave her a greater appreciation for the amount of work these drivers do. She urged other drivers to stay back and away from snowplow drivers.

Commissioner Weik will be attending a Lions Club meeting this evening and she plans on attending the book club meeting this evening at the Stafford Library to discuss "Civility – The Twenty-Five Rules of Considerate Contact".

Commissioner Kriesel announced that the Yellow Ribbon Initiative will meet at the Oak-Land Jr. High School on Monday, March 9, 6:30 p.m. The invitation list is up to 400 and includes professionals from the education field, law enforcement, prosecutors, and clergy. The group is trying to build awareness and how they can better support the troops and their families.

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Commissioner Hegberg moved to appoint Commissioner Weik to the Solid Waste Management Coordinating Board and he will become the alternate. Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Peterson reported on an Eastern Transportation Alliance meeting she attended last Friday. They will continue to meet and asked if any other members of the Board would like to be notified when this group meets. In the afternoon she met with Congresswoman McCollum. On Saturday she met with a 4-H member. She was one of the most delightful young woman she has ever met and is passionate about her career in 4-H. Commissioner Peterson suggested to her that self sufficiency is not only good for oneself but also for one's organization. Later that morning she attended the legislative summit meeting in South Washington County where legislators met with local elected officials to talk about the budget process and what might be coming out of that legislative process. The legislators asked for the cities and counties input about the budget. The group asked how they could receive relief from mandates and maintenance of effort, but didn't get too much help.

Commissioner Peterson attended MnDOT's rail meeting and she came away with one thought. If the county is to be effective it will probably have to spend some money in having professional presentations. It seems like the organizations that present a vision without a lot of facts and figures are getting the money.

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 Weik and it was adopted unanimously. The Board meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Myra Peterson, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator