

Washington County, Minnesota

Board of Commissioners - Actions

Actions at the Tuesday, March 8, 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.

Dettmer recognized for service in Army Reserves

Robert Dettmer, Forest Lake and state representative for the northern portion of Washington County, was congratulated by the Washington County Board of Commissioners March 8 on his retirement from the Army Reserves.

Dettmer is retiring from his service in the Army Reserves March 12. He attained the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4, and served a two-year tour on active duty supporting Operation Enduring Freedom at Fort Gordon, Ga., and later Operation Iraqi Freedom.

County will contract for aerial photography flight this spring

Washington County entered into a contract with Pictometry, Inc., to have the firm do aerial photography of the county this spring. The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed at its meeting March 8 to a two-year contract with the company. Aerial photography is a valuable resource for many county departments and is used to provide services in a cost-efficient and effective manner. The departments of Public Works, Public Health and Environment, Information Technology, Property Records and Taxpayer Services and the Sheriff's Office all rely on current and accurate photos to support decision-making and planning.

The county will acquire traditional, straight down photography and oblique photography – that is at an angle – which captures images from all sides of a structure. The process will be paid for with funds from the Property Records Technology Fund. The county will work with other counties and governmental entities to ensure no duplication of efforts and to save money by sharing the costs of the flights. The first step is a flight this spring, in which Washington County is collaborating with at least four other metro counties. The cost for two years of the contract is \$58,750 the first year and \$57,737 the second year. In addition, \$7,399 will be spent on the software that allows for the oblique photography to be used within the county.

County will receive additional state money to pay for recycling

The Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment will have an additional \$109,000 to provide grants to support recycling in cities and townships.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted the additional funds from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency March 8. The funds, which are used as direct payments to local recycling programs, are received by the state from a landfill surcharge on metropolitan landfills. Metropolitan counties are required by state law to recycle 50 percent by weight of solid waste generated in the county.

Work will begin on Lake Elmo Park Reserve well replacement

A well replacement in the Lake Elmo Park Reserve will soon be underway, and the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract for the work March 8.

Lake Elmo Park Reserve has 12 wells for water at the beach, picnic areas, campgrounds, and other areas of the park. The well at the

modern camping area contains traces of Perfluorochemicals (PFCs), and under Minnesota Department of Health requirements, it must be sealed. The PFCs in the well were not at the level that would cause harm to humans.

In January, Washington County requested proposals for the sealing and replacement of the well. Hartmann Well Company, LLP, provided the lowest cost proposal at \$61,479. 3M Company has offered to pay to seal the existing well and install a new well. In addition, the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has issued a letter giving conditional approval for the construction of the well replacement. One of the conditions is acknowledgment by the county that the water quality of the new well is not guaranteed even though the new well will draw water from the Franconia aquifer.

Several nearby wells have been completed in the Franconia aquifer and PFCs have not been detected in most and only trace amounts in two that are well below the health limit.

County will apply for funds to care for runoff at Oakdale library

Washington County will apply for a grant from the South Washington County Watershed District and the Washington Conservation District to pay for a project at the Oakdale branch of the Washington County Library that will help treat runoff.

The runoff from the library's site drains into Markgrafs Lake, which is listed as having more nutrients than is healthy for the lake. A retrofitting of the site would include a bioretention facility and multiple raingardens, which will reduce the phosphorus load of the water that flows into the lake.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the grant application March 8. The county's staff will prepare an application for the funds, which would pay for work to be done in 2012.

K-9 will retire, stay with its handler

Reno, a K-9 service dog for the Washington County Sheriff's Office, will retire in March. The Washington County Board of Commissioners authorized transfer of the ownership of Reno to Deputy Bjorn Erickson at its meeting March 8. Reno was assigned to Erickson in 2006. Erickson will take on the full responsibility, liability and cost of care for Reno.

Townships to receive road apportioned funds

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the distribution of road maintenance funds to the county's townships at its meeting March 8.

Each year, the State of Minnesota apportions funds to counties from the town road account based on a state funding formula. These funds are collected by the state as an excise tax on gasoline. The funds are to be used for construction, reconstruction, and gravel maintenance of township roads.

The town apportionment for Washington County is \$79,271 for 2011. Baytown Township will receive \$10,879; Denmark Township will receive \$13,043; Grey Cloud Township will receive \$4,308; May Township will receive \$16,859; Stillwater Township will receive \$14,262; and West Lakeland Township will receive \$19,917.

The funds are received from the state and paid to the townships.
