

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
DECEMBER 16, 2008

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 Peterson, Pulkrabek, Hegberg, Weik, and Kriesel. Absent none. Board Chair Hegberg presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Doug Johnson, County Attorney; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; John Elholm, Parks Director; Ted Schoenecker, Transportation Manager; Cory Slagle, Transportation Manager; Keith Potter, Facilities Manager; Harley Will, Accounting and Finance Director; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; Kristen Tuenge, Community Corrections Deputy Director; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Rick Backman, Community Services Division Manager; Cindy Rupp, Community Services Division Manager; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Amanda Strommer, Program Manager; John Freitag, Senior Environmental Specialist; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Melinda Kirk, Budget/Financial Analyst; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; and Dave Brierley, Public Information Coordinator.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Board Chair asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the November 25, 2008 Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to appoint Jane Klein to the Workforce Investment Board, representing Small Business to a two-year term expiring June 30, 2011.
3. Approval of Commissioner Service Awards for Frank Puleo and Mike Granger, retiring members of the Hugo City Council December 31, 2008.
4. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2008-156** as follows:

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Funding Other Post Employment Benefits

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners signed a settlement agreement in the matter of Nancy Alderman, Etal V. Washington County in 1991 agreeing to pay certain retiree health care benefits; and

WHEREAS, Washington County's Personnel Rules and Regulation Section 17 specifies eligibility for retiree health care benefit; and

WHEREAS, Washington County's financial reporting practices and standards comply with the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) statements on General Accepted Accounting Principles; and

WHEREAS, the GASB's Statement 45 prescribes reporting requirements and actuarial valuation standards for Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) that include retiree healthcare benefits; and

WHEREAS, the county must provide the actuary performing the valuation with certain assumptions regarding its intent to manage its OPEB obligations; and

WHEREAS, the county's Finance Committee has reviewed the facts and compliance issues associated with the county's OPEB obligations and has developed a plan to manage the OPEB obligation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that it is the county intent to pre-fund its OPEB obligations over a period of 30 years using operating budget resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that it is the county's intent to invest the resources designated to pay for the county's OPEB obligations in a revocable trust fund as authorized by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 471.6175 and it is the intent of the Washington County that the Public Employees Retirement Association is to serve as the Trust Administrator.

5. Approval to amend Human Resources Policy #5032, Meals, Mileage, and Other Expense Reimbursement and Governance Policy #6008 Meals, Mileage, and Other Expense Reimbursement for Elected Officials to establish a new mileage rate of 55 cents per mile, effective December 28, 2008.
6. Approval of amendment to the contract with U.S. Bank for banking services, purchasing card and merchant card services.
7. Approval to amend the 2008 Community Corrections budget, increasing the Community Corrections Act subsidy by \$78,300 and reducing the use of county levy by the same amount.
8. Approval of the program and budget update to the Community Corrections Comprehensive Plan.

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9. Approval of the 2009 contract with Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority to provide housing subsidies for individuals with a serious and persistent mental illness under the Bridges II Program.
10. Approval of the 2009 contract with Stivland, Inc. (dba Harbor Shelter and Counseling Center) to provide shelter services for male youth.
11. Approval of Amendment #1 to the 2008-2011 contract with the Dakota County Receiving Center for adult residential chemical dependency treatment and detoxification services.
12. Approval of the 2009-2011 contract with Mental Health Systems, PC, to provide day treatment services for individuals with a mental illness in Washington County.
13. Approval of the 2009-2011 contract with South Metro Human Services to provide Adult Corporate Foster Care.
14. Approval of comments to the Metropolitan Council regarding the Metropolitan Area Master Water Supply Plan and approve comment letter drafted on behalf of the Commissioners.
15. Approval of waiver of deadlines set forth in Administrative Ordinance No. 149 for completion of Formal Board Hearing in the matter of Solid Waste Hauler License Suspension of Dan Theoblad, d/b/a Dan's Container Services.
16. Approval to amend Contract #4644 with Brickman Group, LTD, LLC to extend the contract to December 31, 2009, for landscape maintenance services.
17. Approval of contract Amendment No. 3 with Short, Elliott, Hendrickson in the amount of \$56,569 for additional consultant services, final design of CSAH 15 between TH 36 and 1,000 feet north of CSAH 12.
18. Approval of work orders 1, 7-13 to the CSAH 15 road construction project contract with Tower Asphalt.
19. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2008-157** as follows:

Final Payment on 2008 Bituminous Road Overlays to
Tower Asphalt, Inc.

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners, on April 22, 2008 approved a bid award to Tower Asphalt, Inc. and signed a contract with said company for overlays on CSAH 2, from Elmcrest Avenue to 235' East

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of Ethan Court in Forest Lake; CSAH 11, from TH 96 to CSAH 7 in May and Stillwater Townships; CSAH 13, from 310' North of City Center Drive to Tamarack Road in Woodbury; CSAH 14, from CSAH 21 to TH 95 in Bayport; CSAH 20, from CSAH 19 to TH 95 in Cottage Grove; and CR 71, from CSAH 20 to CSAH 18 in Afton and Denmark Township; and

WHEREAS, Tower Asphalt, Inc. has satisfactorily completed all work in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Tower Asphalt, Inc. be paid in full for the said contract work in the amount due indicated on the final payment voucher which is attached herewith and is hereby a part of the resolution.

20. Approval of Change Order #5 with Ramsey Excavating, Inc. in the amount of \$23,400.
21. Approval of Changer Order #4 to contract with General Sheet Metal Company, Inc. in the amount of \$26,225.
22. Approval of Change Order #8 to contract with People's Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$159,321.
23. Approval of Changer Order #12 with Motorola for the Radio Service Agreement.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

COURT ADMINISTRATION

Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve agreements for Child in Need of Protective Services (CHIPS) matters with the following attorneys: Patricia Zenner, Gregory J. Schmidt, Sherry Hawley, and Susan Drabek. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted with the vote as follows: Yes, Commissioners Peterson, Hegberg, Weik, and Kriesel; No, Commissioner Pulkrabek.

PUBLIC WORKS

Counties Transit Improvement Board Funds

Commissioner Hegberg moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-158** as follows:

Resolution Allocating Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)
Funding to Establish Commuter Coach Bus Service from the
Forest Lake Transit Center to the Union Depot in Downtown St. Paul

WHEREAS, Washington County constructed and opened a Transit Center in the City of Forest Lake in 2008; and

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WHEREAS, this Transit Center provides an opportunity to offer transit service to Northern Washington County and the greater Forest Lake area to downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul; and

WHEREAS, the Rush Line corridor originates in downtown St. Paul and travels north to Hinckley; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Regional Rail Authority is a member of the Rush Line Corridor Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Rush Line Corridor Task Force has approved a commuter coach service plan for coach bus service from the Forest Lake Area to the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul; and

WHEREAS, the Rush Line Task Force is planning for the initiation of service in early 2009; and

WHEREAS, the estimated yearly operating cost for the service is \$794,000; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost not covered by fares or federal funds is \$472,200; and

WHEREAS, at its September 18, 2008 meeting, the Rush Line Corridor Task Force requested that Anoka, Chisago, Ramsey, and Washington County split the \$472,000 equally; and

WHEREAS, Chisago and Ramsey County have acted to provide their quarter share (\$118,050) of the costs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners will allocate \$118,050 of CTIB funding for the establishment of a one-year Commuter Coach demonstration route from the Forest Lake Transit Center to the Union Depot in downtown St. Paul with a stop in the White Bear Lake Area.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the CTIB funds will only be made available upon the provision of the full \$118,050 in funding from Anoka, Chisago, and Ramsey counties.

Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-159** as follows:

Resolution Allocating Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)
Funding to Conduct an Alternatives Analysis for
Transit on the I-94 Corridor

WHEREAS, the I-94 corridor currently carries between 80,000 and 160,000 vehicles per day between the St. Croix River bridge and downtown St. Paul; and

WHEREAS, the Draft 2030 Transportation Policy Plan shows that traffic and congestion are forecast to increase substantially by 2030 resulting in the entire length of I-94 from downtown St. Paul to the St. Croix River as being congested; and

WHEREAS, the Draft 2030 Transportation Policy Plan identifies the I-94 corridor as a transitway corridor in need of further analysis; and

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WHEREAS, transitway analysis has been completed on similar Washington County transitway corridors including Red Rock and Rush Line by the Washington County Regional Railroad Authority and its partners; and

WHEREAS, the county is currently working on the development of a Joint Powers Agreement for this corridor with Ramsey County and the communities along the corridor; and

WHEREAS, the estimated cost to complete the Alternatives Analysis for transit is \$1,000,000.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners will allocate \$553,950 of CTIB funding to conduct an alternatives analysis for transit along the I-94 corridor.

Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Hegberg moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-160** as follows:

Resolution Allocating Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB)
Funding to Continue Bus Service from the
Forest Lake Transit Center to Downtown Minneapolis

WHEREAS, Washington County constructed and opened a Transit Center in the City of Forest Lake in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Transit Center provides an opportunity to offer transit service to Northern Washington County and the greater Forest Lake area to downtown Minneapolis and downtown St. Paul; and

WHEREAS, bus service was started in Spring of 2008, through the usage of federal funding, from the Transit Center to downtown Minneapolis during the reconstruction of the I-35W bridge; and

WHEREAS, after the I-35W bridge was opened to traffic, the federal funding was no longer available to continue to pay for this bus service; and

WHEREAS, on September 23, 2008, the Board approved funding in the amount of \$45,000 to continue the bus service through the remainder of 2008; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council has agreed to ownership and operational responsibilities of this bus service starting in 2010 contingent upon Columbus and Forest Lake committing to pay for their share of the regional transit capital levy starting in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Council has estimated the transit capital levy needed to continue this service through 2009 is \$343,000; and

WHEREAS, Anoka County has committed up to \$110,000 towards the estimated transit capital levy for 2009.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners will allocate \$278,000 of CTIB funding for the period covering October 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009 to provide transit service from the Transit Center in Forest Lake to downtown Minneapolis.

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners encourages the City of Forest Lake to enter into the Transit Taxing District starting in 2010 in order to continue this service into 2010 and beyond.

Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING – OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Consider the Adoption of the 2009-2013 Capital Improvement Plan

The Board Chair presented a brief overview of today's public hearing to consider the adoption of the proposed 2009-2013 Washington County Capital Improvement Plan.

Melinda Kirk, Budget/Financial Analyst, reviewed comment letters received along with responses for the following: City of Cottage Grove; City of Lake Elmo; City of Oak Park Heights; and the City of Woodbury. As a result of the comments and recent changes made to the proposed budget, the following changes were made to the proposed Capital Improvement Plan:

Project # RB-2502, Year 2010 – Increased State Aid funding by \$200,000 for the redesign/development of Military Road/Jamaica Avenue;

Project #RB-2551, Year 2010 – Added a \$50,000 design project for the City of Afton to address pavement and drainage conditions;

Project # CIP-001, Year 2009 – Delayed a \$200,000 fiber optic installation project connecting Washington and Dakota counties;

Project #Rail-2297-02, Five Years – Reduced the total estimated project costs to reflect only those portions that are reasonably expected to be completed. Net reduction of \$18,044,000; and

Project # Rail-2297-07, Year 2009 – Advanced the I-94 project from 2010 to 2009 using a portion of the CTIB funds. Total project cost is \$1 million.

The Board Chair asked for comments from the audience; none were heard. The Board secretary indicated that she had received all documentary evidence.

Commissioner Weik moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously; the public hearing was closed at 9:52 a.m.

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Commissioner Kriesel moved to amend the 2009-2013 Washington County Capital Improvement Plan by delaying Project # Park-2006, the Land and Water Legacy project in the amount of \$820,000 from 2009 into 2010. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-161** as follows:

Adoption of the 2009-2013
Washington County Capital Improvement Plan

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners has formulated the 2009-2013 Washington County Capital Improvement Plan which covers a five-year period from the date of its adoption and sets forth the estimated schedule, timing, and details of the specific capital improvements by year, the estimated cost; the need for the particular improvement; and the sources of revenue to pay for the improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners, after public notice, conducted a public hearing on December 16, 2008 for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed 2009-2013 Washington County Capital Improvement Plan; and

WHEREAS, in passing upon the aforesaid Plan, the County Board of Commissioners has considered the following for each project to be funded with Capital Improvement Bonds:

- 1) the condition of the County's existing infrastructure, including the projected need for repair or replacement;
- 2) the likely demand for the improvement;
- 3) the estimated cost of the improvement;
- 4) the available public resources;
- 5) the level of overlapping debt in the County;
- 6) the relative benefits and costs of alternative uses of the funds;
- 7) operating costs of the proposed improvements; and
- 8) alternatives for providing services more efficiently through shared facilities with other counties or local government units; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Board of Commissioners adopts the proposed 2009-2013 Washington County Capital Improvement Plan which is attached hereto.

Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Policy 1300 – Washington County Data Practices Manual and Policy 1032 County Fee Schedule

Commissioner Peterson moved to approve revisions to Policy 1300, Washington County Data Practices Manual and approve revisions to Policy No. 1032, County Fee Schedule. Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

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2009 Salaries for the County Sheriff and Chief Deputy

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-162** as follows:

2009 Salary for the County Sheriff

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute §387.20 requires the County Board of Commissioners to set by resolution the salary of the County Sheriff.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2009 salary for the Washington County Sheriff shall be as follows, effective January 1, 2009:

Sheriff	\$120,375
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2009 salary for the Chief Deputy shall be as follows, effective January 1, 2009:

Chief Deputy	\$108,338
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Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it was adopted 4-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Commissioner Peterson, Yes; Commissioner Pulkrabek, Yes; Commissioner Hegberg, Yes; Commissioner Weik, Abstained; and Commissioner Kriesel, Yes.

2009 Salary for County Attorney and His Assistants

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-163** as follows:

2009 Salary for the County Attorney

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute §388.18 requires the County Board of Commissioners to set by resolution the salary of the County Attorney.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2009 salary for the Washington County Attorney shall be as follows, effective January 1, 2009:

Attorney	\$139,755
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the 2009 salaries for the First Assistant Attorney and Executive Assistant shall be as follows, effective January 1, 2009.

First Assistant Attorney	\$125,780
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Executive Assistant	\$ 50,035
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Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted 4-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Commissioner Peterson, Yes; Commissioner Pulkrabek, Yes; Commissioner Hegberg, Yes; Commissioner Weik, Abstained; and Commissioner Kriesel, Yes.

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2009 Salary for County Administrator

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-164** as follows:

2009 Salary for the County Administrator

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute §375.06, Subdivision 1 authorizes the County Board of Commissioners to appoint and employ an Administrator upon such terms and conditions as it deems advisable and directs the County Board to set the Administrator's salary.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2009 salary for James Schug, the Washington County Administrator, shall be as follows, effective January 1, 2009.

Administrator	\$150,065
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Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted 4-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Commissioner Peterson, Yes; Commissioner Pulkrabek, Yes; Commissioner Hegberg, Yes; Commissioner Weik, Abstained; and Commissioner Kriesel, Yes.

2009 Salary and Expenses for the County Commissioners

Commissioner Kriesel moved that the County Commissioners not receive a salary increase for 2009. The motion failed for a lack of second.

Commissioner Peterson moved to increase the County Commissioners salary for 2009 by 4.5% (\$53,222). Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it failed 2-2 on a Roll Call vote as follows: Commissioner Peterson, Yes; Commissioner Pulkrabek, Yes; Commissioner Hegberg, No; Commissioner Weik, Abstained; and Commissioner Kriesel, No.

Commissioner Hegberg moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-165** as follows:

Resolution Establishing County Commissioners'
Salaries and Expenses for 2009

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 375.055, Subdivision 1, requires the County Board of Commissioners to set salaries, per diem payments, and expense reimbursement for its members prior to January 1 of the effective year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the salary rate for Washington County Commissioners be \$52,713 a year, effective January 1, 2009.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the expense reimbursement for County Commissioners be for actual expenses plus mileage in accordance with County policy with no County per diem payments.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that each of the County Commissioners receive the same County paid medical insurance premium and flexible medical expense account as received by the elected department heads.

Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted 3-1 with a Roll Call as follows: Commissioner Peterson, Yes; Commissioner Pulkrabek, Yes; Commissioner Hegberg, Yes; Commissioner Weik, Abstained; and Commissioner Kriesel, No.

Certifying Proposed Property Tax Levy for Payable 2009 for Washington County and Regional Rail Authority

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-166** as follows:

Resolution Certifying Proposed Property Tax Levies for
Washington County Payable 2009

The Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby certify to the Washington County Auditor-Treasurer the following proposed tax levies for payable 2009:

Washington County	\$85,131,600
Regional Rail Authority	\$ 245,300

Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted 3-1 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Commissioner Peterson, Yes; Commissioner Pulkrabek, No; Commissioner Hegberg, Yes; Commissioner Weik, Abstained; and Commissioner Kriesel, Yes.

Certifying Proposed Property Tax Levy for Payable 2009 for Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-167** as follows:

Resolution Certifying Proposed Property Tax Levy for
Washington County Payable 2009

The Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby certify to the Washington County Auditor-Treasurer the following proposed tax levy for payable 2009:

Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$3,301,205
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Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted 3-1 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Commissioner Peterson, Yes; Commissioner Pulkrabek, No; Commissioner Hegberg, Yes; Commissioner Weik, Abstained; and Commissioner Kriesel, Yes.

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-168** as follows:

**Resolution Adopting the Washington County
Budget for Payable 2009**

<u>OPERATING FUNDS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE OTHER THAN LEVY</u>	<u>FUND BALANCE Contrib/(Use)</u>	<u>GROSS LEVY</u>	<u>STATE AIDS</u>	<u>CERTIFIED LEVY</u>
General Government	\$93,436,900	\$42,292,300	\$566,600	\$51,711,200	\$4,579,692	\$47,131,508
Community Services	\$35,798,100	\$18,549,300	\$0	\$17,248,800	\$1,551,186	\$15,697,614
Public Works - Road & Bridge	\$15,161,900	\$10,343,100	\$0	\$4,818,800	\$443,196	\$4,375,604
Public Works - Parks	\$2,324,100	\$1,774,600	\$295,800	\$845,300	\$73,866	\$771,434
Regional Rail Authority	\$338,700	\$107,500	\$14,100	\$245,300	\$0	\$245,300
Library/Law Library	\$7,216,100	\$652,400	(\$4,000)	\$6,559,700	\$590,928	\$5,968,772
Debt Service - County Wide	\$8,583,000	\$0	\$177,100	\$8,760,100	\$0	\$8,760,100
Debt Service - Library District	\$830,400	\$0	\$0	\$830,400	\$0	\$830,400
Subtotal:	<u>\$163,689,200</u>	<u>\$73,719,200</u>	<u>\$1,049,600</u>	<u>\$91,019,600</u>	<u>\$7,238,868</u>	<u>\$83,780,732</u>
<u>CAPITAL FUNDS</u>						
Capital Projects	\$6,424,400	\$4,680,500	\$0	\$1,743,900	\$147,732	\$1,596,168
Capital Repair	\$590,000	\$818,100	\$228,100	\$0	\$0	\$0
Historic Courthouse	\$0	\$23,300	\$23,300	\$0	\$0	\$0
Subtotal:	<u>\$7,014,400</u>	<u>\$5,521,900</u>	<u>\$251,400</u>	<u>\$1,743,900</u>	<u>\$147,732</u>	<u>\$1,596,168</u>
Total Proposed 2009 Budget	<u>\$170,703,600</u>	<u>\$79,241,100</u>	<u>\$1,301,000</u>	<u>\$92,763,500</u>	<u>\$7,386,600</u>	<u>\$85,376,900</u>
OTHER LEVY PAYMENT						
Less Regional Rail Auth. (RRA) – a separate taxing authority				(\$245,300)	\$0	(\$245,300)
Total Washington County Proposed 2009 Levy (Operating minus RRA):				<u>\$92,518,200</u>	<u>\$7,386,600</u>	<u>\$85,131,600</u>

Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted 3-1 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Commissioner Peterson, Yes; Commissioner Pulkrabek, No; Commissioner Hegberg, Yes; Commissioner Weik, Abstained; and Commissioner Kriesel, Yes.

Commissioner Weik noted she abstained from the salary votes and the budget votes because she has been on the Board for such a short time and was not involved in the 2009 budget discussions.

Jim Schug, County Administrator, noted that the levy has now been established, but they do expect there will be adjustments to the budget as a result of loss of state aid. That process is expected to start in the next week or two for calendar year 2008 where they may see a reduction in the expected payment of approximately \$4.8 million that the county was expecting on December 26. They are not sure what the exact amount will be, but the large costs which are personnel and purchased services are already under contract and will have to continue. In the new year, the county will be looking at potential impact of any legislative changes or any unallotment, staff may have to go back and make up any loss of state revenue in

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2009 and will bring those matters to the County Board in workshops. Staff is reviewing every vacant position to see if it needs to be filled. It is not considered a hard freeze, but each department vacancy is being reviewed before it's posted or filled. No purchase of unnecessary capital equipment has been made. It will be a major issue during the legislative session as to what part of the state revenue shortfall will be absorbed by local governments in the forms of reduced payments.

Appointments to the Reconvened Canvass Board

Commissioner Weik moved to appoint Commissioners Peterson and Pulkrabek to the Canvass Board should it be reconvened. Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Citizen's Award

Commissioner Kriesel moved to award a Commissioners' Citizens Award to retiring City of Stillwater Councilmember Wally Milbrandt. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Peterson reported that she and Commissioner Weik attended Mayor Sandy Shiely's retirement party and it was a good, humorous evening. She reported on the Transportation Alliance legislative meeting as well as the board meeting. She distributed copies of the draft policies "Minnesota's Priorities for the New Surface Transportation Authorization Act" they are looking at. That is separated from the tax stimulus bill. She also has three copies of revenue with and without the Chapter 152 Transportation Bill showing what the funding sources would have been and what the funding sources are with the passage of that bill. She will make those available to the other Commissioners. Commissioner Peterson stated she would not be able to attend Dakota County Commissioner Mike Turner's retirement party. She asked that a letter be prepared to him thanking him for his years of service as a Dakota County Commissioner and wishing him well on his retirement and have it signed by all of the Board members.

Commissioner Pulkrabek discussed levy limits imposed by the State. The State Legislature passes what they call levy limits, but then they turn around and add numerous exceptions. He would rather have the State say zero levy increase or just leave the counties alone. He believes it is the autonomy of local government. He feels that local government spending has been way less than state government increases for many years.

Commissioner Kriesel reported that he attended Judge David Doyscher's retirement reception last Friday. He has been waging a courageous battle with cancer. He loved his job and the people he works with. He sent a heart-felt best wishes to him and his family. He attended the Community Services Advisory

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Committee breakfast where John Baird was honored for his service for two terms. He reported on the Association of Minnesota Counties Conference held last week in Duluth.

Commissioner Weik reported she also attended the reception for Judge Doyscher and the Community Services Advisory Committee breakfast. She reported on the Association of Minnesota Counties conference in Duluth. She attended different meetings and the joint group meetings. She learned that there is a requirement that at least one voting member of the Board of Appeals and Equalization attend an Appeals and Equalization course developed or approved by the Commissioner of Revenue. She and Commissioner Hegberg attended the course which detailed the responsibility, procedures and requirements of County Boards of Appeal and Equalization. She presented an overview of the "Get to Know Woodbury Event". It was well attended and an excellent event and she hopes it will be held again. She reported on a newspaper article from the St. Paul Pioneer Press which listed people honored for their heroism. One was for a woman in Forest Lake who saved her boss's life. Some others were from the County Sheriff's Office and included Letters of Excellence to: Deputy Mike Petrey; Deputy Kyle Olson; Deputy Chris Majeski; Deputy Jim Gribble; Sergeant Larry Osterman; and Deputy Pete Godfrey; Exceptional Service Citations to the Patrol Division, Communications Center, and the Reserve Unit; Life Saving Awards were given to Deputy Paul Stenglein; Deputy Chris Majeski; and Deputy John Weber; Meritorious Service Awards to Deputy Jim Gribble; and Investigator Keith Anderson; and a Medal of Valor to Sergeant Andy Ellickson. She was also given a tour of the Law Enforcement Center by Sheriff Hutton.

Commissioner Hegberg reported that Congresswoman Michelle Bachman was at the Hugo City Council meeting and gave awards to many of the firefighters for their service during the tornado.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Peterson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Pulkrabek and it was adopted unanimously. The Board meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Dennis C. Hegberg, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator