

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
FEBRUARY 9, 2010**

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 Weik, Pulkrabek, Kriesel, and Hegberg. Commissioner Peterson absent. Board Chair Pulkrabek presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; Linda Krafthefer, Assistant County Attorney; Doug Johnson, County Attorney; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; Ted Schoenecker, Transportation Planning Manager; John Elholm, Parks Division Manager; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Cindy Rupp, Community Services Division Manager; Lori Bratulich, Social Worker II; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Jennifer Wagenius, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager; Kay McAloney, Human Resources Director; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; Harley Will, Accounting and Finance Director; and Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Coordinator II.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Commissioner Pulkrabek announced that Commissioner Peterson's mother past away this weekend. The Board extended its sympathy to her and her family.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the January 26, 2010 County Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to appoint Pauline Schottmuller, Newport, to the Parks and Open Space Commission, representing District 4, to a first term expiring December 31, 2012.
3. Approval of Fiber Optic Cabling Network installation agreement with Access Communications.
4. Approval of plat of Saint Boniface Oaks East, West Lakeland Township.

5. Approval of service contract (archive module) with Vanguard Appraisals, Inc. for computer aided mass appraisal (CAMA) services.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted 4-0 with a roll call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Weik, Pulkrabek, Kriesel, and Hegberg; Nays, none; Commissioner Peterson absent.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

A Commissioners' Service Award was presented to Sue Rielander and her "Storm in the Valley" group of volunteers from the St. Croix Valley United Methodist Church located in Lakeland. Ms. Rielander and the Storm in the Valley Group have helped county residents seek new housing possibilities, helped in packing and moving elderly people without local family to seniors' facilities, and they have also helped clients locate free furniture.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Jim Schug, County Administrator, updated the Board on legislative actions that have occurred to date. A number of activities of interest to the county have taken place including:

- The State Legislature and Governor are looking at ways to patch the \$1.2 billion deficit—Counties have been communicating to the Legislature that in reducing state funding that there not be a shift of that financial burden to local property taxes;
- The Capital Bonding Bill has gotten a quick start, and Washington County has identified three capital projects that are of interest to the county: funding for the park-and-ride along the I-94 Corridor in the amount of \$1.5 million; funding for the Red Rock Corridor park-and-ride in Hastings in the amount of \$500,000; and, an amendment to the 2005-2006 bonding language that allows for park-and-rides along the Red Rock Corridor Transitway;
- Discussion on the General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC) program which had been eliminated effective March 1 but has now been extended to April 1. There has been discussion about services that have been available to individuals on GAMC and whether or not that has an impact on county government. Originally there was a proposal to partially fund the GAMC restoration with a 10 percent county match which the counties expressed their concern. There has been a change that would still affect counties and that would be a reduction in the CCSA block grant funding of about \$17 million in addition to a cut in that same program of \$16 million in 2010 and \$22 million in 2011 and those would have significant impacts in Washington and other counties. The second area that would be cut to fund the GMAC program is the adult mental health integrated fund by \$12 million.
- Impact by the reduction in county program aid is something they are watching closely. The Department of Revenue last week sent final numbers on the 2010 county program aid which

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includes a reduction that counties have known about. The word “final” was in quotation marks and he believes that indicates that it is on the plate for consideration of further cuts.

- The Metropolitan Energy Policy Coalition has developed a legislative platform. It has been inserted with the county’s legislative packet and they will make that information available to the county legislative delegation.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Weik reported that she and Commissioner Kriesel attended the Metro Energy Policy Coalition meeting last week. They examined energy policy issues and planning for Minnesota’s long-term energy needs. The following presentations were made: One was by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the need to document carbon footprints and document any measures being taken to reduce energy consumption. Hennepin County has decided to start their cleaning operations during the day time rather than having offices cleaned in the evening. They figure this would save around \$100,000 a year in lighting bills. Another presentation was on Minnesota’s future transmission needs. The CapX 2020 presented a detailed discussion on who are the CapX facilities and how additional miles of transmission lines in Minnesota are obtained.

Commissioner Weik attended a Woodbury Citizen’s Academy which is a new program that the Woodbury Foundation has started. Citizens will meet for eight Wednesday evenings where they will learn how to become better citizens, how city and county governments work, how to volunteer, or what does it mean to be on an economic development planning commission or a watershed district.

Commissioner Weik will be attending a two day Association of Minnesota Counties Futures meeting on Thursday and Friday this week, which is a conflict with the I-94 Corridor Commission meeting.

Commissioner Hegberg attended the East Central Regional Juvenile Center meeting last week. He attended a meeting in Hugo with a business group where he volunteered Public Works staff to work on improvements to Highway 61 in downtown Hugo.

Commissioner Hegberg addressed concerns he has about obtaining visas to visit America. He invited a friend’s son from China to visit America. His friend’s son had to fly from his home in northern China to the American Embassy where he had an appointment and had letters from Commissioner Hegberg and from the son’s aunt saying that they would financially take care of him. The Embassy didn’t look at any of the letters and just told him no. He wasn’t aware that it was that difficult for young people to travel to America to visit. He stated it would be one of his goals to find out why the United States has such a restrictive policy.

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Commissioner Kriesel stated he met with Senator Al Franken's staff at the Stillwater City Hall. They were looking for feedback on a bill to provide employment called SEED (Strengthening our Economy through Employment and Development). During the 1980's this type of program helped bridge unemployment and helped find people work through incentives. He also mentioned that the Stillwater Bridge is very important and if they want to put people to work in this bad economy it would help to move that bridge forward.

Commissioner Kriesel mentioned that he and Commissioner Pulkrabek have a meeting with the Stillwater Area Chamber this week. There will also be a Yellow Ribbon meeting at the Government Center at 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Weik moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Kriesel and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Peterson absent. The Board meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Public Works for an overview of the Red Rock Corridor Station Area and Site Master Planning Study. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Weik, Pulkrabek, Kriesel, and Hegberg. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Don Theisen, Wayne Sandberg, Ted Schoenecker, Andy Gitzlaff, and Mr. Tom Dobbs.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Community Corrections for a discussion on the Joint Powers Agreement for the East Central Regional Juvenile Center. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Weik, Pulkrabek, Kriesel, and Hegberg. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Tom Adkins, Sandy Hahn, Maureen Walton, Sheriff Bill Hutton and Doug Johnson.

Bill Pulkrabek, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator