

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MAY 20, 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, Stafford, 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, Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Josh Beck, Community Services Associate Planner; Jon Larson, Veterans Service Officer; Harley Will, Financial Services Director; Kevin Corbid, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Director; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; Ted Schoenecker, Transportation Manager; Joe Lux, Senior Planner; Ann Pung-Terwedo, Senior Planner; Sue Hedlund, Deputy Public Health and Environment Director; Amanda Goebel, Environmental Coordinator; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Kay McAloney, Human Resources Director; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; and Maggi Aitkens, Public Information Coordinator II.

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 Kriesel to adopt the following Consent Calendar:

1. Approval of the May 6, 2008 Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to appoint Thomas Polasik, Stillwater Township, to the Carnelian Marine Saint Croix Watershed District to fill an unexpired term to June 21, 2010.
3. Approval of contract Amendment #1 with Two Rivers Community Land Trust to provide an additional \$214,757 in HOME funds to develop up to six additional homes that will be sold to low-moderate income individuals.
4. Approval to change the name of the Financial Services Department to the Accounting and Finance Department.
5. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2008-071A** as follows:

Approval to Capital Project Funds and to update Fiscal Policy #2802
Fund Definitions to Reflect the Addition of a New Fund

WHEREAS, Washington County has approves budgets for capital investments in Road & Bridge Projects that will be completed over multiple years; and

WHEREAS, accounting for multiyear project budgets, revenues, and expenditures is most efficiently managed by segregating these multiple year capital projects from annual operations manage in the PW Road & Bridge Fund; and

WHEREAS, the cost of these projects will be paid through a variety of county and third party funding sources over multiple years; and

WHEREAS, the obligations of third parties to reimburse the county for the cost of these projects needs to be maintained in the county's accounting records over multiple years; and

WHEREAS, the existing fiscal policies of Washington County must be updated to reflect the opening of new funds and to define their use; and

WHEREAS, the Financial Services Department is responsible for the implementation and management of new funds under these policies.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Financial Services Department requests the approval to open the separate Capital Project funds per fiscal policy #2802 Opening and Closing of Funds:

Fund 414 – Road & Bridge Capital Projects

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Financial Services Department requests the approval to update Fiscal Policy #2802 Fund Definitions to reflect the addition of these new funds.

6. Approval of comments to the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District regarding their Capital Improvement Plan and approval of letter to be signed by the Board Chair.
7. Approval for the Board Chair and County Administrator to sign recycling grant agreements with the cities of Hugo and Stillwater for distribution of curbside recycling funds.
8. Approval for the County Board Chair and County Administrator to sign a programmatic maintenance agreement with the Brown's Creek Watershed District for the maintenance of county-installed stormwater structures and facilities installed under permit from the Watershed District.
9. Approval to accept the service agreement with L3 Communications Mobile Vision for the squad video camera project.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

May 20, 2008

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Commissioner Peterson moved to amend Washington County's 2007 Community Development Block Grant and HOME Investment Partnership Program Annual Action Plan to apply for a \$675,000 Section 108 loan for the Trailside Senior Living Project. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Hegberg abstained.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

Harley Will, Financial Services Director, presented the County Board with a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting for the 2006 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report. This award represents the 22nd consecutive year that the county has received this award.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services, reviewed 2008 legislation that included a new program providing a market value exclusion for property tax purposes for the homestead property of an honorably discharged veteran who has a service-connected disability rating of 70% or higher. The new statute is effective for taxes payable in 2009. The program provides the following market value exclusions: 1) veterans who are totally (100%) and permanently disabled are eligible for a market value exclusion of \$300,000; or 2) veterans who have a 70% or higher disability rating are eligible for a market value exclusion of \$150,000. In 2008, Veterans eligible must apply to the county by September 1, 2008 in order to be eligible for Pay 2009. In following years, a veteran would need to apply to the county by July 1.

PUBLIC WORKS

Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director, reviewed the status and outcomes of the feasibility study for the removal/salvage options of Bridge No. 5600 located in St. Paul Park/Inver Grove Heights. The Bridge is still standing but is closed to traffic. Pedestrians on the Dakota County side still use this bridge. There is ongoing maintenance of this bridge including operation of the navigation lights and security concerns. In 2000 this bridge went tax forfeited and the US Coast Guard ordered that it be removed in 2001. The State of Minnesota now owns the bridge, however the counties manage property that goes tax forfeited. A feasibility study was needed because of the age and uniqueness of the bridge, alternatives to removal of the bridge needed to be investigated, costs, and to identify what agencies needed to be involved which includes approximately 30 thus far. The feasibility study will be concluded in June. Mr. Sandberg stated that Washington County is not considering the re-use of this bridge and feel that removal urgency is important for safety and obstruction reasons and to comply with the removal order. Dakota County is looking at re-use and have set a June 1 date to make a decision. Bridge 5600 is eligible for the National Register of Historic

May 20, 2008

Places and before it can be removed a Section 106 process has to be completed. A mussel survey will need to be completed and they are working with State Aid to identify funding for the removal. Current full removal funding is as follows: Minnesota Department of Transportation, 50%; Washington County, 25%; and Dakota County, 25%. An open house will be held on June 9.

Commissioner Pulkrabek left the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Jim Schug, County Administrator, presented a brief legislative update on the following items: the tax bill and budgeting bill were approved this past weekend; there will be a levy limit for three years at 3.9%, but there are adjustments for 50% household growth and 50% of the commercial/industrial property increases due to new construction, and in addition, there are a number of adjustments that are made including bonding indebtedness payment, market value based referendum levy, increases in matching fund requirements, PERA employer contribution rate increases, and operating cost increases in the county jail; MICA was successful in getting all maintenance of effort requirements suspended during the next three years; there will be an increase in county program aid; the Metropolitan Transit Taxing District was not expanded to the entire seven county metropolitan area; the Housing and Redevelopment Authority levy authority was increased from .0144% to .0185% of taxable market value; the limit on economic development tax abatements was increased to the higher of \$200,000 or 10% of net tax capacity; there is a provision in the supplemental budget bill that would prohibit construction of the new ash disposal facility that Xcel was seeking in West Lakeland Township for a few years; corrections funding for short-term offenders was reduced—for the remainder of 2008 the county will receive \$30 a day for state prisoners who are housed in the county jail to serve out their last six months of their sentence and that will drop to \$11 or \$12 a day in 2009; there were cuts to the courts; there was an increase in exemplary damages for violations of the data practices act; and legislation was passed that allows county jails to return unused/unopened pharmaceuticals for credit.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Peterson reported on the MELSA meeting she attended last week. There is great diversity on how libraries are governed in the Metropolitan area. There are now four county boards that have assumed the responsibility of being the Library Board, Scott, Carver, Washington, and Hennepin. She believes there will be issues that will come before the MELSA Board in the future that could have impacts on the counties' relationships.

Commissioner Kriesel reported on the Law Enforcement Memorial he attended last week at the Historical Courthouse. He mentioned that the Stillwater Historical Preservation Society is presenting the Historic

May 20, 2008

Courthouse with an award for preservation this evening. He will also be attending the Afton City Council Meeting this evening on the 800 MHz Radio System tower.

The Board recessed at 10:35 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Public Works to review goals and objectives of the Washington County 2030 Comprehensive Plan. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Peterson, Hegberg, Stafford, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Ann Pung-Terwedo, Don Theisen, Wayne Sandberg, Joe Lux, Peter Mott, Dennis O'Donnell, Josh Beck, Jane Harper, Amanda Goebel, Mike Rogers, John Elholm, Dan Papin, Mjyke Nelson, Judy Hunter, Sue Hedlund, Pat Conley, and Maggi Aitkens.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH THE OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATION

The Board met in workshop session with the Office of Administration for a presentation on the findings of the 2008 Washington County residential survey. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Peterson, Hegberg, Stafford, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Amanda Hollis, Sue Hedlund, Shannon Hayden, National Research Center, Larry Timmerman, Nancy Brace, Kris Tuenge, and Maggi Aitkens.

The County Board reconvened at 11:50 a.m. Present were Commissioners Peterson, Hegberg, Stafford, and Kriesel; Commissioner Pulkrabek absent.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-072** as follows:

Premises Permit Application from the
Cottage Grove Lions Club

WHEREAS, on May 16, 2008, the Cottage Grove Lions Club has made application pursuant to the statutes of the State of Minnesota authorizing lawful gambling; and

WHEREAS, the premises involved is The Point, located at 12378 Pt. Douglas Rd., Denmark Township, Hastings, MN; and

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby resolve to approve the granting of a Premises Permit for the above described location subject to the terms of Washington County.

May 20, 2008

Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Pulkrabek absent.

PUBLIC WORKS

Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve a cooperative agreement for construction cost reimbursement and maintenance between the City of Lakeland and Washington County, and the City of Lakeland Shores and Washington County, for the CSAH 18 reconstruction project in Lakeland and Lakeland Shores. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Pulkrabek absent.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Stafford moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Peterson and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Pulkrabek absent. The Board meeting adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Public Works to review the Metropolitan Council Draft 2009-2012 Transportation Improvement Program. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Peterson, Hegberg, Stafford, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Ann Pung-Terwedo, Wayne Sandberg, Ted Schoenecker, and Maggi Aitkens.

Dennis C. Hegberg, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator