OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JULY 25, 2006

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, Kriesel, Pulkrabek, Stafford, and Hegberg. Absent none. Board Chair Pulkrabek presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Doug Johnson, County Attorney; Kevin Corbid, Director of Assessment, Taxpayer Services and Elections; Don Theisen, Director of Transportation and Physical Development; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Director of Transportation and Physical Development; Jim Luger, Parks Director; Peter Mott, Parks Coordinator; Cindy Koosmann, County Recorder; Jennifer Wagenius, Deputy Recorder; Kay McAloney, Human Resources Director; Sue Hedlund, Deputy Director of Public Health and Environment; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Sheriff Steve Pott; Don Wisniewski, Financial Services Interim Director; and Steve Nelson, 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 Stafford, to approve the following Consent Calendar:

1. Approval of the July 11, 2006 Board meeting minutes.

2. Approval of 2007 Assessment Fees to contract communities.

3. Approval of subgrantee agreement with the Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority to replace two elevators and exterior siding at Raymie Johnson Estates, a senior housing complex in Oak Park Heights.

4. Approval of contract for temporary staffing services from TEKsystems, Inc. for the Information Technology Help Desk and the Sheriff's Office contingent upon approval of the County Attorney's Office.

5. Approval to purchase Infinium Self Service software from SSA Global Technologies and allocate an additional $80,000 in countywide Mission Directed Budget Funds.

July 25, 2006

6. Approval to amend an agreement with Medica Health Plan's Medical Self-Insured Public Health Agency Participation agreement to extend the period from September 1, 2006 through August 31, 2008.

7. Approval of contract with Aspen Equipment for an aerial lift and body in the amount of $37,493.99.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

WOODBURY LAND TRUST

John Walker, President, Woodbury Land Trust, presented a check in the amount of $7,861.70 to the Two Rivers Land Trust for two affordable housing efforts.

PUBLIC HEARING - ASSESSMENT, TAXPAYER SERVICES AND ELECTIONS

Request for Off-Sale Liquor License Meister's Bar & Grill, Scandia

The Board Chair presented an overview of today's public hearing to consider a request by applicants Scot and Courtney Taylor, new owners of Meister's Bar & Grill in New Scandia Township, for an off-sale liquor license. The Board Secretary confirmed that the notice of public hearing was published in the legal newspaper.

Kevin Corbid, Director of Assessment, Taxpayer Services and Elections reviewed state requirements related to off-sale liquor licenses and indicated that all statutory requirements had been met by the applicants.

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

Commissioner Hegberg moved to close the public hearing. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Hegberg moved to approve the request by Scot and Courtney Taylor, new owners of Meister's Bar & Grill, for an off-sale liquor license. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

The County Attorney was directed to prepare a resolution for next week's meeting authorizing the off-sale liquor license.

July 25, 2006

TRANSPORTATION AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

2006 Minnesota Parks and Recreation Award

Peter Mott, Parks Coordinator, presented the Board with the 2006 Minnesota Parks and Recreation Association's Award of Excellence for Volunteer Events in recognition of the Comcast Cares Day at Lake Elmo Park Reserve last October.

County Wheelage Tax

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2006-100** as follows:

Resolution Authorizing Imposition of Wheelage Tax

WHEREAS, Washington County's transportation infrastructure forms the backbone of the county's economy and has a direct impact on future economic development; and

WHEREAS, too many motorists and pedestrians are being killed in traffic crashes on dangerous roadways; and congested highways are diminishing our citizens' quality of life; and

WHEREAS, funding for highway and transit systems in Minnesota has remained stagnant and is failing to keep pace with growing population and growing demands; and

WHEREAS, local governments throughout the state are struggling to maintain local transportation systems while the state's gas tax has not been increased since 1988 and transit budgets have been cut in recent years; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 163.051, Subd. 1, provides, in part, that the board of commissioners of each metropolitan county is authorized to levy a wheelage tax of $5.00 on each motor vehicle, except motorcycles as defined in Minn. Stat. 169.01, Subd. 4, which is kept in such county when not in operation and which is subject to annual registration and taxation under Chap. 168; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 163.051 further provides that the board may provide by resolution for collection of the wheelage tax by county officials or it may request that the tax be collected by the state registrar of motor vehicles, and the state registrar of motor vehicles shall collect such tax on behalf of the county if requested; and

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 163.051, Subd. 2, provides, in part, that the wheelage tax levied by any metropolitan county, if made collectible by the state registrar of motor vehicles, shall be certified by the county auditor to the registrar not later than August 1 in the year before the calendar year or years for which the tax is levied, and the registrar shall collect such tax with the motor vehicle taxes on the affected vehicles for such year or years; and

July 25, 2006

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. 163.051, Subd. 4, provides that the treasurer of each metropolitan county receiving proceeds from the wheelage tax is to deposit such proceeds in the county road and bridge fund, which moneys shall be used for purposes authorized by law which are highway purposes within the meaning of the Minnesota Constitution, article 14; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners desires to implement such a wheelage tax and have the state registrar of motor vehicles collect the same; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds of such a wheelage tax could be used to help improve the quality of the county road system, including but not limited to a County-wide highway resurfacing program which would prolong the useful life of the County roads and provide for a smoother driving surface and a safer highway.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE Washington County Board of Commissioners authorize and impose a wheelage tax as provided for in Minn. Stat. 163.051 of $5.00 for the year 2007 and each subsequent year thereafter, subject to levy limits and other factors, on each motor vehicle, except motorcycles as defined in Minn. Stat. 169.01, Subd. 4, which is kept in Washington County when not in operation and which is subject to taxation and registration under Chapter 168.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the county request the State Registrar of Motor Vehicles to collect the tax.

Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion and it was adopted 4-1 with the vote as follows: Yes, Commissioners Peterson, Kriesel, Stafford, and Hegberg; No, Commissioner Pulkrabek.

Commissioner Pulkrabek stated he does not support the county wheelage tax. He feels that the county does need to spend more money on transportation; he feels that the state legislature needs to allocate more money for transportation projects; and, he believes there is an argument to be made that this is a pure tax, people who are utilizing the roads are paying for it rather than being on the property taxes. He does not believe that this resolution, in itself, will raise any more money for transportation for Washington County. All it will do is take the money at the counter, and then it will be lowered on the county levy. No more money will be allocated for transportation projects by doing this. In fact the start up costs and on going administration will mean the county is actually losing money.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Resolution of Appreciation for Cindy Koosmann, County Recorder

Commissioner Stafford moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2006-101** as follows:

Resolution of Appreciation
Cindy Koosmann
Washington County Recorder/Registrar of Deeds
in Recognition of Her Service to the Citizens of Washington County

July 25, 2006

WHEREAS, Cindy Koosmann will retire as the Washington County Recorder/Registrar of Deeds effective July 28, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Cindy Koosmann's 25-plus years career with Washington County began in 1981 and she was soon promoted to the position of Deputy Recorder in 1982 and was elected County Recorder in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Cindy Koosmann was appointed County Recorder in 1999 when special state legislation changed the office from elective to appointive and she has held this position since then; and

WHEREAS, Cindy Koosmann has had a very distinguished record of service, not only with the county but also with her state associations, the Minnesota Recorders Association, of which she was President in 2000; the Minnesota Association of County Officers, of which she served as President in 2001; and she served on the Board of Directors of the National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials, and Clerks in 2002 and 2003 and she was the state coordinator for this association in 2004; and

WHEREAS, Cindy Koosmann has served in several other capacities within her professional organizations and has represented them in a variety of legislative and service improvement initiatives and she led the effort to integrate technology in the recording process both in the county and in joint projects throughout the state; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners acknowledges, with grateful appreciation, Cindy Koosmann's exemplary leadership as a county department head, her professional accomplishments, and her public service to the citizens of Washington County;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners heartily commends Cindy Koosmann for her dedication and many years of public service and extends our best wishes in the next chapter of her life and hereby proclaims Friday, July 28, 2006, as "Cindy Koosmann Day in Washington County."

Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

The County Board thanked Cindy for her dedicated service to the County.

Merging the Department of Assessment, Taxpayer Services and Elections and County Recorder

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2006-102** as follows:

Resolution to Merge the Departments of Assessment, Taxpayer Services and Elections and the County Recorder Department

WHEREAS, the Washington County Recorder's Office became an appointive position by virtue of Minnesota Session Laws 1997 – Chapter 153; and

July 25, 2006

WHEREAS, Minn. Stat. § 375A.10 subd. 3 allows the County Board the option of reorganizating, consolidating, or reallocating the duties, functions, and responsibilities of the Recorder's Office in order to promote efficienciy in county government; and

WHEREAS, Washington County undertook a strategic planning initiative in 1998 to review its organizational structure to determine how it can most effectively provide efficient and responsive county services into the 21st century; and,

WHEREAS, that review realigned departments and services to be more reflective of functions and services to customers; and,

WHEREAS, the services provided by the Assessment, Taxpayer Services and Elections Department and the Recorder's Office and the customers of both departments are similar; and,

WHEREAS, technological advances in property records operations are creating opportunities to change and improve service delivery; and,

WHEREAS, the 2005 Minnesota Legislature enacted statutory changes regarding county Recorders' and Auditor-Treasurer's duties and fees charged for processing, recording and indexing real estate instruments; and,

WHEREAS, the Real Estate Legislative Compliance Project Report developed for the Recorder's Office in October of 2005, identified recommendations to integrate and enhance real estate business practices and computer programs for both departments; and

WHEREAS, Cindy Koosmann, County Recorder since January 3, 1995, has announced her retirement effective, July 28th, 2006;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following organizational structure which combines the Office of Recorder with the Assessment, Taxpayer Services and Elections Department; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the implementation of the organizational structure be accomplished by the County Administrator, who will coordinate any additional actions necessary to implement this structure.

Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Appointment of County Recorder

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2006-103** as follows:

Resolution to Appoint Washington County Director of Assessment,
Taxpayer Services and Elections Kevin J. Corbid as the County Recorder

WHEREAS, the 1997 Minnesota Legislature enacted 1997 Minnesota Laws Chapter 153 which is special legislation investing the Washington County Board of Commissioners with the authority to discharge the statutory duties of

the offices of County Recorder and County Auditor-Treasurer through department heads appointed by the Board for these purposes; and

WHEREAS, 1997 Minnesota Laws Chapter 153, requires the County Board to appoint a County Recorder as a department head to act for it in the discharge of the duties of the County Reorder; and,

WHEREAS, the Office of Recorder has become vacant with the retirement of Recorder Cindy Koosmann; and,

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners, at its meeting of July 25, 2006, adopted a new organizational structure which merged the Assessment, Taxpayer Services and Elections Department and Office of Recorder; and,

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners in their Resolution 97-131 set forth the manner in which the department head shall be appointed; and,

WHEREAS, Kevin J. Corbid has been appointed as the Director of Assessment, Taxpayer Services and Elections effective June 11, 2001.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Washington County Administrator hereby appoints Kevin J. Corbid as the County Recorder and the County Board of Commissioners hereby consents to this appointment.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the appointed Recorder shall discharge the statutory duties of these offices effective July 29, 2006.

Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Hegberg reported on his trip to Duluth for the regional rail meeting. More discussions are planned for August. They toured different facilities and discussed what would need to change to make it a seamless system. He also testified in New Scandia for its incorporation hearing.

Commissioner Peterson reported on the task force to discuss truck weight on county roads. Agencies that testified included: Minnesota Trucking Association; Minnesota Pork Producers; Minnesota Farmer's Union; and Minnesota Farm Bureau. They discussed increasing the road weight limits and stronger enforcement of weight and safety inspections of trucks.

Commissioner Peterson announced that there will be a grand opening of the north bridge of the Wakota river crossing on October 9, 2006. Two lanes will be westbound and three eastbound until the old bridge is replaced.

Commissioner Kriesel stated he will be attending the troop re-integration program on July 27 at the Stillwater Area High School. The purpose of the training is to equip family and friends of combat veterans with skills to help them re-enter society when they return from Iraq.

July 25, 2006

Commissioner Kriesel extended his best wishes to the Francis family and hope for the safe return of their son Jon Francis who is missing in Utah.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Kriesel moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Peterson and it was adopted unanimously. The Board meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Public Health and Environment and the Department of Transportation and Physical Development for an update on planning for a new household hazardous waste facility. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Peterson, Kriesel, Pulkrabek, Stafford, and Hegberg. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Sue Hedlund, Cindy Weckwerth, Jeff Travis, Keith Potter, Don Theisen, Wayne Sandberg, Kathleen Nyquist, Adam Frederick, Jeff Oertel, Architect, Oertel & Associates, Yvonne Klinnert, Stillwater Courier, Kevin Giles, Star Tribune, and Alex Friedrich, Pioneer Press.

Bill Pulkrabek, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator