

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD**  
**WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA**  
**OCTOBER 16, 2007**

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, Kriesel, Orth, and Hegberg. Absent none. Board Chair Kriesel presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Suzanne Pollack, Community Services Supervisor; Richard Backman, Community Services Division Manager; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Sue Hedlund, Deputy Director of Public Health and Environment; Jeff Travis, Program Manager; Wayne Sandberg, Public Works Deputy Director; John Elholm, Parks Director; Cory Slagle, Transportation Manager; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Kay McAloney, Human Resources Director; Harley Will, Financial Services Director; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; and Steve Nelson, Public Information Coordinator.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

1. Approval to appoint Kimberly Luchsinger to the Workforce Investment Board representing small business to a first term expiring June 30, 2010.
2. Approval of county comments on the City of Lakeland's proposed creation of a Development Program for Municipal Development District No. 1 to establish a Tax Increment Financing (TIF) District No. 1-1.
3. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2007-127** as follows:

Amendment No. 1 to House Rental Agreement with  
 Thomas and Heidi Goossen, Marine on the St. Croix, MN

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Washington County Board of Commissioners that the county pay to Thomas and Heidi Goossen (hereinafter Tenants) the amount of \$45,000 and allow Thomas Goossen to bow hunt on county-owned property located south of the new park entrance road, east of CSAH 15, north of CSAH 4, and west of Big Marine Lake

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during the 2007 bow hunting season as consideration for amending their rental agreement with the county with respect to the property of 11509 Lomond Trail North, Marine on the St. Croix, MN 55047, in order to allow the county to begin construction of park facilities on the leased land.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board Chair and County Administrator are hereby authorized to execute Amendment No. 1 to the rental agreement as presented to the Board this day without further authority of the Board and conditioned upon approval as to form by the County Attorney.

4. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2007-128** as follows:

Resolution to Acquire Kartarik Property  
for Inclusion into Grey Cloud Island Regional Park

WHEREAS, Washington County is interested in acquiring the property described herein on Grey Cloud Island for inclusion into the Grey Cloud Island Regional Park; and

WHEREAS, the owner has agreed to sell the property to Washington County; and

WHEREAS, the Land and Water Legacy Program has received application for this purchase and has approved this purchase for funding.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby authorize its Chairman and Administrator to execute on behalf of the County a Purchase Agreement and any other document necessary for the County to purchase the property as shown on the aerial photo attached and to be more fully described upon accurate survey to be conducted.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County will purchase said property for a sum of \$450,450.00

5. Approval of 800 MHz radio site lease agreement with the City of Woodbury for the construction of an antenna support monopole and equipment shelter at the water tank located at 6769 Upper Afton Road.
6. Approval of 800 MHz radio site lease agreement with the City of Woodbury for installation of antennas and an equipment shelter at the water tank located at 9430 Hudson Road.
7. Approval to enter into an agreement with FSH Communications to provide an inmate telephone system.
8. Approval to accept the base bid for a food service agreement with Aramark Correctional Services.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

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## COMMUNITY SERVICES

Commissioner Kriesel presented Family Child Care Provider of the Year, Center Caregiver of the Year and a School Age Caregiver of the Year certificates of recognition to the following individuals: Annetta Albrecht, Stillwater, and Marilyn Lockie, Woodbury as Family Child Care Providers of the year; Dharma Alaksza, St. Croix Montessori, Stillwater, as Center Caregiver of the Year; and Lisa Wroblewski, Pullman Elementary School-Kids Club, St. Paul Park, School Age Caregiver of the year.

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Jeff Travis, Program Manager, reported on a new information management system that would more effectively serve a distributed work environment, meet state and county performance expectations, and demonstrate accountability for local public health essential activities. The Digital Health Department is a comprehensive web-based information management system dealing with environmental health, solid and hazardous waste, infectious disease, and emergency preparedness program.

Commissioner Peterson moved to approve a contract with Garrison Enterprises for a digital health information system. Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

## PUBLIC WORKS

### Continued Support for the Minnesota-Wisconsin Bridge

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2007-129** as follows:

A Resolution Supporting the Continued Design and Construction of the  
Minnesota-Wisconsin Interstate Bridge at Minnesota Trunk Highway 36  
and Wisconsin Highway 64, in Stillwater/Oak Park Heights MN

WHEREAS, the Sierra Club North Star Chapter has filed a lawsuit against officials in the United States Government challenging the construction of the interstate bridge crossing the Lower St. Croix River in Stillwater/Oak Park Heights; and

WHEREAS, representatives from this same Sierra Club Chapter attended two years of mediation meetings in which consensus was reached among the 28 participating organizations as to the location, basic design, construction and other characteristics of the new bridge; and

WHEREAS, the participants agreed at the outset of the mediation to abide by the consensus of the group; and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater lift bridge was first designated for replacement during the Truman Administration, some 58 years ago, being labeled as inadequate and unsafe for traffic in 1951; and

WHEREAS, the economic vitality of Stillwater and the surrounding Lower St. Croix Valley depends on a robust and well operating transportation system, including safe and efficient river crossings; and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Lift Bridge now services an average of 18,000 vehicles per day, and nearly double that amount during special events in the Valley; and

WHEREAS, the Environmental Impact Statement states, “. . .problems with safety and congestion have been documented for many years, and they continue to grow worse as traffic volumes increase;” and

WHEREAS, the Stillwater Lift Bridge creates a safety hazard for the 18,000 motorists from both Minnesota and Wisconsin; and

WHEREAS, traffic back-up is so severe that vehicles are backed up for blocks with motors idling, waiting to cross the lift bridge, and vehicle emissions are causing deterioration to the historic buildings in downtown Stillwater; and

WHEREAS, the traffic delay at the lift bridge has encouraged motorists to detour through the residential neighborhoods creating residential safety concerns and additional wear on local streets; and

WHEREAS, this project has been approved by 58 units of government, has had more than ten years of study under the Federal Environmental Impact Statement process, and then conducted two-years of a formal negotiation in which every participant signed an agreement at the outset to support the final conclusion of the 28-member committee.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby supports, without delay, the continuation and immediate funding for the design and construction of the Minnesota – Wisconsin Interstate Bridge.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby requests the Governor of the State of Minnesota, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the Minnesota Senate, the Speaker and the Minority Leader of the Minnesota House of Representatives, and Legislators: as well as Senator Norm Coleman, Senator Amy Klobuchar, and Representative Michele Bachmann, to support this vital project for Stillwater, Oak Park Heights, Washington County and Minnesota.

Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

### **Opposing Additional Delay in the Construction of the Wakota Bridge**

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2007-130** as follows;

Resolution Opposing Additional Delay in the Construction of the  
Wakota Bridge (Interstate 494 Bridge Over the Mississippi River) in Newport

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WHEREAS, the Wakota Bridge Project encompasses a large area of both Interstate 494 and US TH 61, and provides a vital transportation link for residents of Washington and Dakota Counties; and

WHEREAS, the Wakota Bridge Project has been under construction for 4 years, beginning in 2003 and was originally scheduled to be completed in late 2007; and

WHEREAS, the construction and associated traffic detours and changes have already caused numerous hardships for local businesses and residents; and

WHEREAS, design flaws in the original design, along with contractor issues have already caused significant delay in the completion of this project; and

WHEREAS, the need to construct a new I-35W bridge has exacerbated the already existing transportation funding crisis in Minnesota to the point where Mn/DOT has identified the need to delay other state transportation projects; and

WHEREAS, the Wakota Bridge Project is one of the projects being considered for further delay; and

WHEREAS, any additional delay to the completion of this project would substantially and permanently harm the businesses and residents in this area. Estimates of costs to area businesses have reached \$11.5 Million per year for each additional year of delay; and

WHEREAS, for this project to remain partially completed, leaving work zones, narrow shoulders and lane shifts in place is an unsafe long term condition; and

WHEREAS, Due to the restriction of truck traffic on I-35 E in St. Paul, I-494 and the Wakota Bridge serve as the primary East Metro Area Interstate Truck Route and the primary Metro Area Trucking Bypass route; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interests of the state, counties and cities to see this project completed in a timely manner.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby requests that the Commissioner of Transportation remove the Wakota Bridge Project from consideration for further delay for any reason.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the County Board additionally requests that the Wakota Bridge Project be placed on a fast track for completion.

Commissioner Orth seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

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

### **CSAH 18 Reconstruction**

Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve Amendment #1 to the Short, Elliott, Hendrickson, Inc. contract for additional design services in the amount of \$49,160 for the CSAH 18 reconstruction project in Lakeland and

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Lakeland Shores. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Pulkrabek absent.

Commissioner Pulkrabek returned at 10:05 a.m.

### **Xcel Energy Construction Agreement**

Commissioner Orth moved to approve a construction agreement with Xcel Energy to install eight light poles at the Radio Drive/Bailey Road multi-lane roundabout for \$33,444. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

### **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

Jim Schug, County Administrator, reminded the Board that the new Service Center and Library in Forest Lake will hold an open house on Saturday, November 3. The groundbreaking ceremony for the new courts facility will take place next Tuesday, October 23 at noon.

### **COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS**

Commissioner Hegberg referred to a letter from the Metro Transit Development Board asking for suggestions on projects. He suggested that every overpass from Highway 96 north, including Highway 8 where it comes into 35E, be looked at. Congestion is occurring on Highway 61 from Hugo to Forest Lake, as it is becoming an alternative to 35E.

Commissioner Orth reported on the tour they took of Rock-Tenn and District Energy facilities and were shown how energy is created and items are recycled. They will be taking a tour of the Resource Recovery Project Facility in Newport and view the Xcel RDF facility in Red Wing this Friday.

Commissioner Kriesel also reported on the Rock-Tenn and District Energy facilities. Rock-Tenn is a paper recycling company. District Energy consumes a considerable amount of clean wood in an environmentally friendly manner. They mentioned that they are looking at constructing a site in Washington County where they would collect trees downed from storms and clean up a particular community and use that as a source of fuel supply. Staff will be bringing forward more information on that.

Commissioner Peterson urged all Commissioners to attend the Association of Minnesota Counties District X meeting on Monday, October 22. The main issue of discussion will be transportation. Counties are being asked to come prepared to discuss how they are coping with limited resources and the impact on county property taxes for 2008. She asked that staff prepare a report on how much of Washington County's property taxes are being used for transportation.

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Commissioner Peterson announced that Representative Karla Bigham will be discussing veteran's affair issues at the Cottage Grove VFW Red Barn at 7:00 p.m. tonight.

### **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 10:30 a.m.

### **BOARD WORKSHOP WITH COMMUNITY SERVICES**

The Board met in workshop session with the Community Services Department to discuss the Community Development Block Grant and Home Investment Partnership program. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Peterson, Pulkrabek, Kriesel, Orth, and Hegberg. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Dan Papin, Patrick Singel, Mary Farmer-Kubler, Josh Beck, Diane Elias, Barbara Dacy, Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Rich Malloy, Housing and Redevelopment Authority, Yvonne Klinnert, Stillwater Courier, and Allie Shah, Star Tribune.

### **BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES**

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Property Records and Taxpayer Services for an update on the 2008 assessment, housing market information for the county including foreclosure statistics, and tax system conversion project. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Peterson, Pulkrabek, Kriesel, Orth, and Hegberg. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Kevin Corbid, Jennifer Wagenius, Bruce Munneke, Rollie Huber, Ann Pung-Terwedo, Larry Timmerman, Yvonne Klinnert, Stillwater Courier, and Allie Shah, Star Tribune.

Gary Kriesel, Chair  
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug  
County Administrator

