

Washington County, Minnesota

Board of Commissioners - Actions

Actions at the Tuesday, April 5, 2011 Board Meeting

This page is a brief view of the actions taken by the Washington County Board of Commissioners. For further information, please telephone 651-430-6001.

Washington County's mission is to provide quality public services in a cost-effective manner through innovation, leadership, and the cooperation of dedicated people.

Williams will serve on Mental Health Advisory Council

Marjenia Williams, Cottage Grove, will serve on the Washington County Mental Health Advisory Council after her appointment by the Washington County Board of Commissioners April 5.

The advisory council is required by state law. The purpose of the committee is to review and evaluate the local mental health system, and make recommendations regarding it to the County Board. It also arranges for receiving information from the regional treatment center review board regarding coordination of care between the regional treatment center and community-based services, and receiving information from the local system of care providers regarding coordination of care between services.

Engineers will start to design bridge in Afton

A contract for Erickson Engineering to provide bridge design for the Stagecoach Trail South (County State Aid Highway 21) bridge over Valley Creek in Afton was approved by the Washington County Board of Commissioners April 5.

The existing bridge is made of timber, and it is not cost-effective to rebuild a timber bridge. Erickson Engineering will design a new bridge for the roadway, which is expected to be built in 2012. The design will cost \$44,850.

Final phase of 9-1-1 communications system will be put in place

The Washington County Sheriff's Office will purchase hardware and software from Motorola to complete the equipment needs of the county's 9-1-1 Communications Center.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a \$60,900 transfer of state funds from the 911 Fund to the Sheriff's Office to pay for the equipment. The equipment allows the county communications system to work with the state's emergency radio system, and is the final phase of the county's new Communication Center's radio system. The board also approved the use of \$22,800 from the county's public radio system fund balance to pay for three years of maintenance on the microwave system that carries radio traffic on tower sites.

Agreements will guide construction on Broadway Avenue project

Spring will bring the second year of construction on the "mega" road construction project in Forest Lake, and the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved agreements April 5 with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to oversee some of the work.

Washington County will do the construction on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 2, or Broadway Avenue, over Interstate 35. To be able to do that, the county and the state agrees:

- that the state will do construction oversight engineering for the CSAH 2 Interchange, as required by the Federal Highway Administration.
- that there is an outline for ownership, maintenance and future responsibilities of the bridge, roadway and ponds.
- that the State grants to the county (and its contractors and consultants) the right to occupy trunk highway right-of-way as necessary to perform the work described in the plans, specifications and special provisions.

Washington County will seek funds to help prevent homelessness

Washington County will apply for \$270,000 in state grants to fund programs that work to prevent homelessness, after approval by the Washington County Board of Commissioners April 5.

The grant is provided by the Minnesota Housing and Finance Agency Family Homelessness Prevention and Assistance Program, for use between July 1, 2011, and June 30, 2013. The grant money is to assist families with children, youth and unaccompanied youth, and single adults who are experiencing barriers to housing stability.

If awarded, the county would use the money to contract with:

- the Salvation Army, to provide direct financial assistance for housing-related costs to prevent homelessness and support services, for \$76,000;
- East Metro Women's Council Home and Outreach Worker, for direct financial assistance in rent payment assistance, case management and support services, for \$145,000;
- Human Services, Inc., Youth Transition Project for support services, for \$49,000.
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Washington County would use \$27,000 in grant money for administrating the program. The county's Department of Community Services would serve as the fiscal agent, and prepare the necessary reports for the state housing agency.

Land to be added to Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park boundary

An additional 9.5 acres will be included in the Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park boundary, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to the addition at its meeting April 5. The land would help complete the replacement of 17.7 acres that were removed from the park when the county built the county South Service Center in Cottage Grove. Of the replacement land, 15.8 acres has been purchased by Washington County. That left 1.9 acres of park land remaining to be replaced.

A neighbor of Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park expressed interest in selling 9.5 acres of land to Washington County for inclusion in the park. This land has similar characteristics to the land that was removed for the service center, and the parcel would be a good addition to the park for recreational trail purposes. To make the land eligible for use as replacement land (1.9 acres) and for the remainder to be eligible for Metropolitan Council funding (7.6 acres), the land was required to be included in the park boundary, which is what the Board did with its vote for the addition to the park's master plan.