

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
DECEMBER 9, 2010

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 6:00 p.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room. Present were Commissioners Hegberg, Kriesel, Pulkrabek, and Weik. Commissioner Peterson absent. Commissioner Pulkrabek presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; Linda Krafthefer, Assistant County Attorney; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Dan Starry; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; Greg Wood, Building Services Manager; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Joanne Helm, Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Kay McAloney, Human Resources Director; Vicki DeFord, Deputy Human Resources Director; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Patricia Conley, Library Director; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Robert Crawford, Workforce Division Manager; Amanda Hollis, Management Analyst I; Melinda Kirk, Budget/Financial Analyst; Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant; Harley Will, Accounting and Finance Director; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; and Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Coordinator II.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Mike Polehna, on behalf of the City of Stillwater and the Yellow Ribbon Networks of Washington County, presented the County Board with a picture taken when the 34th Red Bull Division returned last winter. He also introduced Marcus Kuboy, who was wounded in Iraq and spent a year in Walter Reed Hospital and is a resident of Woodbury. The Yellow Ribbon Network is working with individuals such as Marcus to welcome them back into our communities.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the November 9, 16, and 23, 2010 Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval of Amendment #2 to Contract #5131 with East Suburban Resources, Inc. to continue the Extra Taking Action on Racial Disparities project in partnership with the Workforce Center in 2011.
3. Approval to transfer ownership of Washington County Sheriff's Office K-9 "Simon" to his handler, Deputy Keith Anderson.

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4. Approval to accept a donation in the amount of \$100 from Residential Mortgage Group on behalf of Jon and Mary Stevenson, Denmark Township, MN.
5. Approval of Amendment #3 to food service agreement with Aramark Correctional Services LLC.
6. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2010-161** as follows:

Approval of State of Minnesota Department of
Corrections Mutual Aid Joint Powers Agreement

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Sheriff's Office is authorized to enter into a Mutual Aid Joint Powers Agreement between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Commissioner of Corrections, Minnesota Department of Corrections, Minnesota Correctional Facility – Stillwater (MCF-STW) and the County of Washington, Minnesota.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Sheriff, William M. Hutton, is hereby authorized to execute and sign this Mutual Aid Joint Powers Agreement and any amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement this agreement on behalf of the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

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

SHERIFF'S OFFICE RECOGNITION

Sheriff Bill Hutton announced that three members of the Sheriff's Office were recognized last week with Minnesota Sheriff's Association 2010 Life Saving Awards: Deputy Shane Linehan; Sergeant Tim Harris; and Sergeant, Matt Wieland. On February 13, 2010 at 3:00 a.m. they helped rescue an individual whose truck had fallen through thin ice on the St. Croix River.

PUBLIC BUDGET MEETING ON THE 2011 PROPOSED BUDGET

Jim Schug, County Administrator, advised the audience that after this evening's meeting the County Board at their next meeting on December 14 will act on adopting the 2011 budget and also setting the levy for the county. Staff is also available to answer questions about property valuation for tax purposes in adjoining meeting rooms.

Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator, presented an overview of the proposed 2011 budget.

Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services Director, presented an overview of the property valuation process.

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Jeff Olson, 4693 Europa Trail North, Hugo – Mr. Olson stated his market value went up \$32,000 this year and he felt that was quite high, especially with the economy the way it is. Nothing has been done to the house in eight years. He has lived in the house for ten years.

Lauren Malmgren, 2475 River Road South, St. Mary's Point – Mr. Malmgren stated his valuation went down \$4,000 and his taxes have gone up 8.5 percent. He felt that is out of line. The private sector is hurting, he's in construction and his business has gone down 80 percent. He's having a tough time making ends meet. He's willing to pay his fair share in taxes, but the county has to be fiscally responsible. He asked that the County Board watch its spending.

Jim Kramer, 5475 Oakgreen Place North, Stillwater – Mr. Kramer stated the county should be starting with zero based budgeting. His valuation went down and the county portion of his taxes went up because of the change in the mill rate.

Tom Bartholomew, 400 Glenmar Avenue, Mahtomedi – Mr. Bartholomew stated that as a business owner last year he took a 180 percent increase in his taxes. He fought it and got it down to 120 percent. This year he took a 10 percent increase. He wants the Board to know that to take that kind of a hit in this economy is killing his business and he is not the only one in town. His business is in Mahtomedi and after talking with several business owners they are in the same boat. He asked the Board to be careful or it will lose a lot of businesses and a lot of good people. He has talked to businesses that are in Willernie and their taxes have gone down or stayed the same and their businesses are bigger than or almost as big as his.

Dan Smith, 104 North Main Street, Stillwater – Mr. Smith stated he owns a home in Mahtomedi and a business in Stillwater. He mentioned that his value has dropped but the taxes have gone up. He pays \$23,172 for taxes in Stillwater. Last year he paid \$21,482. He believes that is a little steep. Downtown Stillwater is struggling and he believes the reason is, as a building owner, taxes. They are killing downtown Stillwater. Pretty soon the only people who can afford to come into downtown Stillwater and run a business are franchises.

The Board Chair asked for further comments; none were heard.

Commissioner Hegberg stated that the school district in Mahtomedi could have an impact on commercial taxes in that area. Just like his home budget, gas prices are nearing \$3.00 and snowplowing is being reduced to live within the budget that is set this year. Other mandated services the county has very little choice it has to provide the service. He believes the county does a good job, but they always try to do better.

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Commissioner Pulkrabek thanked everyone for attending this evening and encouraged everyone to attend their local budget hearings.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Washington County's 2011 Legislative Agenda

Commissioner Kriesel stated he has talked to the St. Mary's Point Mayor Gary Williams and he had expressed concern about the lower St. Croix Valley Fire Department and how they have to respond to issues on I-94 and that they are not reimbursed. He understood that Senator Kathy Saltzman tried to find a state remedy for this problem, but is not sure where that is at. Mayor Williams mentioned something about the weigh station on I-94 and if the county gets funds from that if that could be used for reimbursement to the St. Croix Valley Fire Department. Commissioner Kriesel asked if there is an opportunity for Washington County to support their effort in getting reimbursement for those services.

Jim Schug, County Administrator, stated that this issue could be looked at and added at a later time. He knows this has been discussed in years past. The county did pursue some legislation last year to try and get that weigh station fine revenue distributed differently. He knows that it is a very complicated issue and the Sheriff's Office had difficulty in testifying in getting legislators to understand, and secondly, it is a very tough time to get legislative changes that would cause money to move away from the state revenue and go to the local jurisdictions. Staff will look at this issue again and report back to the Board.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve Washington County's 2011 Legislative Agenda. Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Peterson absent.

Project Evaluation Criteria and Funding Guidelines – Land and Water Legacy Program

Commissioner Hegberg moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2010-162** as follows:

Resolution Adopting the Project Evaluation Criteria and Funding Guidelines
Used for Lands to be Protected Through the Land and Water Legacy Program

WHEREAS, Washington County is authorized to purchase development rights in the form of conservation easements under MINN. STAT. CHAP. 84C in areas where preservation is considered to be desirable; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is authorized to acquire the development rights in the form of conservation easements through capital improvement funds pursuant to MINN.STAT. 373.40; and

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WHEREAS, Washington County is authorized to acquire land and interests in land through general obligation bonds pursuant to County Question #1 on the November 7, 2006 ballot; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners has named the program for purchasing development rights the Washington County Land and Water Legacy Program; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Ordinance #144, Purchase of Development Rights, requires the Washington County Board of Commissioners to establish the criteria to be used in prioritizing applications and determining which projects to consider for purchase; and

WHEREAS, the County Question #1 on the November 7, 2006 ballot allows funds to be used for the purposes of improving water quality of rivers, lakes, and streams; protecting drinking water sources; purchasing parklands; preserving wetlands and woodlands; and protecting land along water bodies from development; and

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners desires to have guidelines to use to assist in determining the amount of funds the county would contribute to Land and Water Legacy Program projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners adopts the attached Project Evaluation Criteria and Funding Guidelines for the Land and Water Legacy Program.

Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted 4-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Hegberg, Kriesel, Weik, and Pulkrabek; Nays, none; Commissioner Peterson absent.

Revisions to Policy No. 1032 – County Fee Schedule

Commissioner Kriesel moved to revise Policy No. 1032, Washington County Fee Schedule to be effective January 1, 2011. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Peterson absent.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Weik recognized County Administrator Jim Schug on winning a state wide Outstanding Service Award from the Association of Minnesota Counties this week. She attended the Gateway Corridor meeting this afternoon and the Get to Know Woodbury event this morning. She also attended an event for Cadet Westin who received the General Billy Mitchell award at the Lake Elmo Airport. She reported on the Library Express demonstration that was held in Hugo. She met with officials from the City of Woodbury to discuss key projects that the city and county are looking at for the next year. She reported on the Library Park Association meeting last week at the RH Stafford Library. She was elected to be president of that association for the next biennium. On Monday, December 13 the Woodbury Foundation will present a discussion on poverty.

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Commissioner Hegberg reported on the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) conference this past week. One speaker addressed structural tax changes in the State of Minnesota and discussed the aging of citizens and how that impacts income taxes and other services. Another speaker spoke on the 911 tragedy.

Commissioner Kriesel stated that the most significant thing at the AMC conference was transportation. He was appointed to the Complete Streets Committee, where Anoka County Commissioner Dennis Berg, who retired, has been a member. Commissioner Berg wanted to make sure that they do not concede too much of the right-of-ways to bicycles and make sure they protect the function of roadways. Commissioner Kriesel has been working on the St. Croix River Crossing and budget items for the Veteran's Rest Camp. This Saturday at the Warden's House Museum from 1:00 to 4:00 they will hold their annual book event with several authors in attendance.

Commissioner Pulkrabek recognized Commissioner-Elect Autumn Lehrke and Councilman-Elect Derrick Lehrke who are in the audience this evening.

Commissioner Hegberg recognized County Attorney-Elect Peter Orput who is also in the audience.

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 Hegberg and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Peterson absent. The Board meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Bill Pulkrabek, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator