

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
OCTOBER 10, 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, and Stafford. Commissioner Hegberg absent. Board Chair Pulkrabek presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Susan Harris, First Assistant County Attorney; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayers Services; Bogdan Filipescu, Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Don Theisen, Director of Transportation and Physical Development; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Robert Crawford, Workforce Center Division Manager; Sheriff Steve Pott; Harley Will, Financial Services Director; Kathy Trombly-Ferrin, Financial Services Supervisor; Tom Westling, Financial Services Principal Accountant; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Milan Tomaska, I.T. Supervisor; Barb Fritsche, I.T. Supervisor; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; Senator Brian LeClair; Senator Michele Bachman; Melinda Kirk, Budget/Financial Analyst; Marilyn Akey, Administrative Specialist; 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 audience; none were heard.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval to reappoint David Borash, West Lakeland Township, to the Valley Branch Watershed District Board of Managers to a three-year term expiring November 13, 2009.
2. Approval for the early hire of a Sentence to Service Crew Leader position in the Community Corrections Department.
3. Approval of agreement with the American Red Cross Twin Cities Area Chapter for transportation services for persons using waived services.
4. Approval for the early hire of a Victim/Witness Assistant Coordinator position in the County Attorney's Office.

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5. Approval to enter into a contract with Larson, Allen & Weishair Co. LLP to be the Independent Auditors for the county for the fiscal years 2006-2008.
6. Approval and execution of Metropolitan Council Grant Agreement No. SG-2006-121 in the amount of \$280,000 for the reimbursement of acquisition costs at Big Marine Park Reserve.
7. Approval and execution of Metropolitan Council Grant Agreement No. SG-2006-143 in the amount of \$20,953 for the partial reimbursement of acquisition costs at Big Marine Park Reserve.
8. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2006-138** as follows:

Resolution to Request Funding from the Minnesota
Department of Transportation through the Municipal
Agreement Program for CSAH 18 and 8th Street North

WHEREAS, Washington County wishes to install a traffic signal system on County State Highway (CSAH) 18 at the intersection of 8th Street North in Lakeland, MN; and

WHEREAS, the project will be of mutual benefit to the Minnesota Department of Transportation, the City of Lakeland, and Washington County; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to providing the county share of the costs if the project is selected as part of the FY 2008 Municipal Agreement Program; and

WHEREAS, Washington County is committed to completing the project if selected and funding is provided as part of the FY 2008 Municipal Agreement Program; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County is requesting funding from the Minnesota Department of Transportation for the installation of a traffic signal system on County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 18 and 8th Street North and is committed to completing such project and providing the county share of funding.

9. Approval of Forest Lake Service Center Fiber Cabling installation and maintenance contract with Access Communications and fiber-based capacity "Gigabit Transport" with AGL Consulting.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Hegberg absent.

MINNESOTA SENATE RESOLUTION 210

Senator Brian LeClair and Senator Michele Bachman presented Minnesota Senate Resolution 210 that was signed by Majority Leader Dean Johnson and sponsored by Senator Charles Wiger, Senator Sharon Marko

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and Senators LeClair and Bachman recognizing Commissioner Dick Stafford on his retirement from the Office of County Commissioner at the end of his current term on January 2, 2007.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2006-139** as follows:

Resolution Approving the Classification and Sale of 21 Parcels Located in Various Municipalities

WHEREAS, the County Board of Commissioners of the County of Washington, State of Minnesota, desires to offer for sale or conveyance these 21 parcels of land that forfeited to the State of Minnesota; and

WHEREAS, said 21 parcels have been reviewed by the designees of the County Board of Commissioners and have been recommended for classification as non-conservation land; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Property Records & Taxpayer Services determines that these 21 parcels may be classified as non-conservation land as provided for Minnesota Statutes 282.01.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby certifies that these 21 parcels have been reviewed and comply with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes 85.012, 92.461, 282.018, and other statutes that require withholding of tax forfeited land from sale or conveyance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby classifies these 21 parcels as non-conservation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby requests approval for the classification and sale from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the local municipalities in which these 21 parcels are located.

See attached list of 21 parcels.

<u>City</u>	<u>Parcel ID Number</u>	<u>Appraised Value</u>
Cottage Grove	08.027.21.12.0067	\$70,800.00
Cottage Grove	08.027.21.21.0003	\$101,200.00
Cottage Grove	08.027.21.21.0004	\$187,200.00
Cottage Grove	08.027.21.24.0031	\$500.00
Cottage Grove	21.027.21.41.0032	\$13,200.00
Forest Lake	03.032.21.33.0044	\$118,800.00
Forest Lake	13.032.21.24.0027	\$1,000.00
Hugo	17.031.21.12.0011	\$700.00
Hugo	17.031.21.22.0010	\$12,600.00
Hugo	17.031.21.23.0001	\$75,000.00
Hugo	17.031.21.23.0039	\$1,600.00
Hugo	17.031.21.24.0006	\$300.00
Hugo	17.031.21.44.0037	\$52,500.00
Hugo	32.031.21.21.0039	\$500.00
Lakeland Shores	02.028.20.11.0001	Pulled

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<u>City</u>	<u>Parcel ID Number</u>	<u>Appraised Value</u>
Lake Elmo	04.029.21.33.0004	\$4,200.00
Lake Elmo	28.029.21.13.0005	\$100.00
Stillwater	31.030.20.41.0013	\$700.00
Stillwater	32.030.20.32.0048	\$700.00
Woodbury	05.028.21.12.0024	\$6,800.00
Woodbury	16.028.21.12.0008	\$300.00
Woodbury	17.028.21.11.0195	\$100.00

Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Hegberg absent.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment, asked that the Board approve comments related to a Draft Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the Xcel Energy Ash Landfill Project. He explained that Xcel is developing plans for the disposal of coal ash produced after 2009 by the A.S. King Electric Generating Plant in Oak Park Heights. Their preferred alternative is to dispose of this ash in a new landfill to be developed in West Lakeland Township. The proposed comments addresses the following items: project location and site information; project magnitude data; permits and approvals required; land use; water use; erosion and sedimentation; water quality; geologic hazards and soil conditions; solid wastes, hazardous wastes, storage tanks; traffic; and, compatibility with plans and land use regulations. These comments, if approved, will be submitted to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve the comments on the Draft Scoping Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the Xcel Energy Ash Landfill Project and submit them to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Hegberg absent.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Distinguished Budget Presentation Award for 2006

Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator, presented the Board Chair with the Distinguished Budget Presentation Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the 2006 budget document. Ms. O'Rourke thanked the Board, the Department Heads, Melinda Kirk and Marilyn Akey.

Introduction of New Information Technology Director

Jim Schug, County Administrator, introduced Mjyke Nelson as the new Information Technology Director. Mjyke comes from the Minnesota Department of Transportation where he was the Chief Information Officer. The Board welcomed Mjyke to Washington County.

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Informational Mailing on Ballot Referendum on Land Conservation Funding

Jane Harper, Principal Planner, presented a brief update on the activities that staff has been involved with regarding the ballot referendum on land conservation funding, as well as the outside organizations. She indicated that the August and October "Staying in Touch" county newsletters both addressed this issue. The October issue was a longer article and focused on the purpose of the referendum and what the county is trying to accomplish with the funds. There also was a sidebar article that highlighted seven projects the county has done to date. The County Administrator also sent a letter to all the communities with fact sheets that could be handed out to their elected officials and offered that staff would attend any of their council meetings if they requested. Presentations have been made to the Planning Commission, Parks and Open Space Commission and the Water Consortium. The county website also has the referendum information as well as all the information on the PDR program.

Ms. Harper stated that two outside organizations have been working on activities. One is Embrace Open Space which worked mostly on research and educational information. They are doing three mailings. Two informational mailings will be sent to 33,000 households with voters in Washington County. They will follow up with an advocacy brochure that is focused on the importance of open space protection, but it doesn't reference the county's referendum. That will also go to 33,000 households. The other organization is the Washington County Citizens for Land and Water and is the advocacy campaign organization for the county's referendum. They are doing five advocacy mailings that will be mailed starting October 21 going to the 33,000 households. They have been making presentations over the past two months almost every night of the week. Ms. Harper distributed a list of the groups they have presented to and the ones that are on their schedule for the next month. They are trying to hit all the watershed districts, environmental and sportsmen's groups in the county, and some of the city councils and park commissions. They are seeking endorsements from both individuals and organizations. In the last three to four weeks they will be turning their attention to working with the newspapers to get opinion editorials; there was one this morning in the Pioneer Press and one is ready to go in the Star Tribune.

Ms. Harper indicated that she is not aware of any formalized opposition group. She believes that in the next month there will be more information out there in the press.

Mr. Schug stated that after last week's discussion, staff looked at different options for mailings. The first option is that the Embrace Open Space group of the Trust for Public Land has already prepared two informational brochures. One has already been sent out to 33,000 households, and one is scheduled for mailing tomorrow. There is a potential for working with them to distribute the brochure to the other households in the county where there are registered voters. This brochure has been reviewed with the County Attorney and it does meet the test for being informational. If the county were to participate in a purchase for service agreement with the Embrace Open Space group it would cost approximately \$24,000 to increase the coverage of the mailing from the original 33,000 household to the rest of the county.

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Mr. Schug noted that other options were explored of mailing out the county's own brochure, but the easiest would be to purchase this one from the Trust for Public Land/Embrace Open Space. Printing costs would be about \$27,000 and mailing would be another \$26,000 to \$27,000 depending on the county wide coverage. The county could design and develop its own brochure and then mail it, but the timeline would be difficult. The more realistic option would be to contract with Trust for Public Land for the existing brochure if there is an interest on the part of the Board to do something additional to what has been done.

Commissioner Pulkrabek asked what is the significance to the 33,000 and why are the mailings staggered? Ms. Harper indicated that the 33,000 is a combination of working within their budget, so they have targeted their mailing and figured who would be the best to target. In terms of the timing of the brochure, they did have another brochure that went out last week. It is the same information, but is formatted differently. The staggering is a strategy to catch people at different times and hopefully get the message across.

Commissioner Pulkrabek asked if it is a geographical area, what type of demographics were used? Justin Fay, Washington County Citizens for Land and Water, indicated that their mailings are based on the result of polling they did last October. Within that polling there was information, demographic characteristics of likely swing voters and their mailings are being targeted accordingly.

Commissioner Pulkrabek asked if the county puts in \$24,000 then every registered voter in the county would get it. Mr. Schug indicated that was correct.

Commissioner Pulkrabek asked when would it go out? Ms. Harper stated they are ready to print tomorrow and then it will be mailed as soon as the printing is done, probably by the end of the week. They are waiting to hear from the Board if it wanted to go ahead with that option.

Commissioner Peterson stated when there is an advocacy group who has planned a strategy, she feels the Board should support the professionals who are out being advocates rather than for the Board to second guess what they are doing. They made a determination based on their research.

Commissioner Kriesel stated he is interested in whether the citizens have acquired information up to this point to make an educated decision and he feels comfortable that there has been enough information. He feels that the Citizens for Land and Water, who took on this enterprise, would bring that message forward campaign style. He is not interested in getting into campaign strategy. He is not interested in spending any more taxpayers' money on something that he feels has been adequately addressed.

Commissioner Pulkrabek stated if the Staying in Touch newsletter is already in the mail and will hit within the next few days, before the county puts in money to send anything additional out, to wait a week before they send it out. He just wants to make sure that all the citizens, regardless of whether they are going to vote yes or no, have the information as to what they are voting on. He feels that the county, at a minimum,

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should put in some money to insure that the citizens get the relevant information to make a decision. He would be in favor of putting in the \$24,000, but with the caveat that they wait a week.

Ms. Harper indicated that they do need to print tomorrow, she didn't ask about holding back the mailing, but she thought that would be possible. She did indicate that the approximate cost would be around \$24,600, so if the figure could be rounded up to \$25,000 that would cover all extra brochures to reach the additional households.

Mr. Schug advised the Board that even though the Staying in Touch Newsletter is probably going to hit the post office tomorrow, because it is mailed at a certain rate, it sometimes takes two to three weeks to be delivered. It will be before the election, but it won't be within the next few days.

Commissioner Stafford stated that the thing that has persuaded him to support this is the fact that the initiative that is being planned is not going to cover all the households and he is not sure when the Staying in Touch Newsletter will reach the people. He feels this is a stop gap, safety measure.

Commissioner Stafford moved to appropriate \$25,000 for an informational mailing to all Washington County households advising them of the November 7, 2006 ballot referendum on land conservation funding. Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion.

After discussion by the County Board, Commissioner Stafford withdrew his motion to appropriate \$25,000 for an informational mailing to all Washington County households advising them of the November 7, 2006 ballot referendum on land conservation funding. Commissioner Pulkrabek withdrew his second.

The Board will revisit this issue next week.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Peterson reported on the Wakota Bridge opening celebration she attended last evening. She looks forward to opening the south bridge soon, hopefully next year.

Commissioner Pulkrabek expressed his condolences to the family and friends of Marty Rafferty, Lake Elmo City Administrator, who passed away this past weekend.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Peterson moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Kriesel and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Hegberg absent. The Board meeting adjourned at 10:14 a.m.

2007 BUDGET WORKSHOP

The Board met in workshop session to review 2007 budgets with the Water Conservation District and Watershed Districts, and the Housing and Redevelopment Authority. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Peterson, Kriesel, and Stafford. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Melinda Kirk, Cindy Weckwerth, Joanne Helm, Jay Riggs, Rick Vanzwol, Craig Leiser, Matt Moore, Don Scheel, Barbara Dacy, Rich Malloy, Yvonne Klinnert, Stillwater Courier, and Kevin Giles, Star Tribune.

WORKSHOP WITH TRANSPORTATION AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Transportation and Physical Development to discuss the preliminary architectural design for the transit center and trailhead in Forest Lake. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Stafford, Kriesel, and Peterson. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Don Theisen, Jim Luger, Mike Rogers, and Keith Potter.

Bill Pulkrabek, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator