

Washington County, Minnesota

Board of Commissioners - Actions

Actions at the Tuesday, January 17, 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.

County will refinance capital improvement bonds to save \$3 million

The Washington County Board of Commissioners authorized a plan Jan. 17 to refinance a series of the county's general obligation capital improvement plan bonds worth \$23.6 million, to reduce the amount of interest that the county will pay over the life of the bonds.

The county's financial advisor, Springsted, Inc., reviewed the county's bond portfolio, and proposed refinancing the bonds, which will be fully paid off in 2024. With the refinancing, the interest rate is expected to be reduced from 4.52 percent to 2.46 percent, reducing the annual debt service cost between \$272,000 and \$276,000 in the 10 years from 2014 to 2024.

The county will not be able to pay off the original bond until next year, but will sell the bonds this year and hold the funds in escrow until the transaction can be completed in 2013. It is expected that the new bond sale will be negotiated Feb. 13, and the County Board will be able to approve the sale at its Feb. 14 meeting.

2 named to Veterans Rest Camp Association board

The Washington County Board of Commissioners named two members to the Veterans Rest Camp Association board at its meeting Jan. 17.

Jesse Kurtz, Stillwater, and Steve Campos, Cottage Grove, will serve on the board that oversees the camp that is on the south shore of Big Marine Lake.

The purpose of the camp is to administer and furnish relief and welfare services as well as to provide certain recreational facilities to men and women who have served or are currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States, and to the immediate families of those men and women.

The board's purpose is to maintain and manage the property of the camp for the use, benefit and best interest of all veterans. The board is also authorized to establish and publish certain rules and regulations to give priority consideration to the men and women who have or are currently serving in the Armed Forces of the United States and make and publish changes as deemed appropriate to manage the corporation.

Board approves plan for Red Rock stations

The Washington County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the Washington County Regional Rail Authority (WCRRRA) Jan. 17, approved the Red Rock Corridor Station Area and Site Master Planning and Environmental Analysis Study Final

Report.

The Red Rock Corridor is a 30-mile transportation corridor originating in Hastings traveling through downtown St. Paul and on to downtown Minneapolis. The corridor is roughly parallel to Trunk Highway 61 and Interstate 94.

The studies began in October 2009, with the WCRRA leading the study on behalf of the Red Rock Corridor Commission (RRCC). The study included an analysis of the anticipated growth within the corridor, as well as a market analysis that has identified opportunities for transit-oriented development. Station stops include Lower Afton Road in St. Paul, Newport, Cottage Grove and Hastings. A final report of the study was prepared incorporating feedback received through an extensive public engagement process.

The report was approved and adopted by the RRCC Oct. 27, 2011, after an official public comment period concluded. The report has since been approved by the cities of St. Paul, Newport, Cottage Grove and Hastings.

The next steps for the Red Rock Corridor Commission include conducting an advanced alternatives analysis and continuing to work with the local communities to collaboratively plan for future transit improvements in the Red Rock Corridor and the surrounding land uses within the station areas.

Ducks Unlimited may apply for gambling permit

The Hastings chapter of Ducks Unlimited may apply to the State Gambling Control Board to allow it to conduct a raffle at The Point in Denmark Township Feb. 23, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the application Jan. 17.

An exempt permit may be issued to a nonprofit organization that conducts lawful gambling on five or fewer days, and awards less than \$50,000 in prizes during a calendar year. The county is an authorized agent for this permit. After this acknowledgement by the County Board, the application will be sent to the State Gambling Control Board for approval.

May Township will contract with county for maintenance of septic collector system

The Washington County Board of Commissioners authorized an agreement with May Township Jan. 17 to provide operation and maintenance services for the township's septic collector system.

Washington County assisted local townships and cities in their application and construction of collection systems for septic tank effluents and jointly-used soil treatment systems. The systems were constructed using state and federal grant assistance and are known as "201" systems, derived from the federal law pertaining to sewer planning areas. The systems were completed in 1987.

May Township began contracting with the county for operation and maintenance services in 1987 for the Carnelian Hills system. The current agreement is for the same services for 2012.

The county will recover the costs associated with operation and maintenance by billing the communities for the actual cost of the maintenance, and the communities invoice their residents served by the "201" collector systems.

County will provide staffing, services for 4-H programs in the county

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed to a memorandum of understanding Jan. 17 to provide staffing and services for 4-H programs in Washington County in 2012 costing a total of \$50,000 for the year. The money will come from the county's contingency fund.

The County Board has determined that it will provide funding for 4-H Youth Development in Washington County in the

following way:

- \$30,000 will be used to provide partial support of one full-time equivalent University of Minnesota Extension County Program Coordinator, an employee of the university, to coordinate 4-H programs/activities countywide.
- \$20,000 will be used to provide programming and a half-time equivalent University of Minnesota Extension County Program Coordinator, also an employee of the university, to coordinate the Extension Youth Teaching Youth program in Washington County. These funds are provided as a match to a private foundation grant of \$20,000 that has been secured by the Washington County 4-H Federation.
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The Washington County 4-H Federation continues to provide non-county revenue of \$54,900, including a \$20,000 St. Paul Foundation Grant, for the remaining costs of this agreement. These funds are raised through private fund-raising efforts, grants and program dues/fees.

The county's Department of Public Health and Environment serves as the 4-H administrative partner with University of Minnesota Extension and the County Extension Advisory Committee.
