

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 14, 2010**

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY CONVENES

The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority met in regular session at 9:00 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room. Present were Commissioners Hegberg, Kriesel, Pulkrabek, Peterson, and Weik. Absent none. RRA Chair Peterson presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Doug Johnson, County Attorney; Susan Harris, Assistant County Attorney; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; Ted Schoenecker, Transportation Manager; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Steve Gransee, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager; Bruce Munneke, County Assessor; Jennifer Wagenius, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Harley Will, Accounting and Finance Director; Patricia Conley, Library Director; Nancy Brase, Administrative Services Manager; Melinda Kirk, Budget/Financial Analyst; Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant; and Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Coordinator II. Official Proceedings of the Regional Railroad Authority are available in the Office of Administration.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

WASHINGTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS CONVENES

The Washington County Board of Commissioners met in regular session at 9:04 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room. Present were Commissioners Hegberg, Kriesel, Pulkrabek, Peterson, and Weik. Absent none. Board Chair Pulkrabek presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Doug Johnson, County Attorney; Susan Harris, Assistant County Attorney; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; Ted Schoenecker, Transportation Manager; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Steve Gransee, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager; Bruce Munneke, County Assessor; Jennifer Wagenius, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Harley Will, Accounting and Finance Director; Patricia Conley, Library Director; Nancy Brase, Administrative Services Manager; Melinda Kirk, Budget/Financial Analyst; Stephanie Kammerud, Administrative Assistant; and Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Coordinator II.

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COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Craig Leiser, 10300 Kismet Lane North, Grant – Mr. Leiser stated he was here today representing the Brown's Creek Watershed District. Their watershed district has been involved in the possible disposition of what is known as the Jackson Wildlife Management Area, within the City of Stillwater, adjacent to County Road 12. The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has put this area up for sale with an appraisal of \$177,500. In the legislation which directed the DNR Commissioner to put it up for bid and to sell it, it also authorized the DNR Commissioner to accept a lesser amount from a public body. The Brown's Creek Watershed District is prepared to present to the DNR an offer of \$10,000, which is budgeted for 2011. The plan is to use this 34 plus acres as a site for managed wildlife space, an interpretative nature area offering trails and natural study sites. This would be a very low density utilization, but in the middle of an urban area. Within this area there is an endangered plant species. The plan is to fund the development of this area over a period of eight to ten years through the regular budgetary process. The Brown's Creek Watershed District will send the County Board an informative letter asking for a letter of support from the County Board. They have checked with the City of Stillwater and the county parks department, and there is not a significant interest to develop it as a park.

Commissioner Kriesel asked if this project would qualify for funding through the Land and Water Legacy Program. Mr. Leiser stated they don't know, but they will look at that. At this time they have a letter from the DNR requesting a bid and the DNR will act on it October 1.

Commissioner Kriesel asked staff to research this project to see if it would qualify for Land and Water Legacy Program funds.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval to appoint Danni Schifsky, Willow Haven, to the Mental Health Advisory Council to a first term expiring December 31, 2012.
2. Approval of Change Order #9 to contract with Ramsey Excavating, Inc. as part of the 2025 Government Center Campus Improvements project, in the amount of \$5,207.60.
3. Approval of Change Order #13 to contract with Sowles Company as part of the 2025 Government Center Campus Improvements project, in the amount of \$19,902.31.

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4. Approval of Change Order #4 to contract with St. Paul Linoleum and Carpet Company as part of the 2025 Government Center Campus Improvements project, in the amount of \$12,558.
5. Approval of Change Order #4 to contract with WL Hall Company as part of the 2025 Government Center Campus Improvements project, in the amount of \$1,650.
6. Approval to award bid for 9-1-1 Communications Audio Data Solution to Tierney Brothers, Inc. conditioned upon execution of a contract as required by law.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Hegberg, Kriesel, Peterson, Weik, and Pulkrabek; Nays, none.

2011 PROPOSED BUDGET PRESENTATIONS

The Departments of Property Records and Taxpayer Services, County Attorney, Administration, Human Resources, Information Technology, and Accounting and Finance presented their 2011 proposed budgets.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Certifying the Proposed Property Tax Levy for Payable 2011 for Washington County

Jim Schug, County Administrator, reviewed the proposed budget for 2011. The budget, as proposed, would increase the levy by 1.5 percent.

Commissioner Peterson asked if the debt service was reduced to 35.9 and the Land and Water Legacy were reduced to \$7.5 million what would the levy be. Mr. Schug stated that would be an increase of .4 percent.

Commissioner Peterson asked if the Board reduced the debt service and reduced the amount of dollars it was spending for capital improvements to 35.9, last year's level, and reduced the Land and Water Legacy to \$7.5 million that would still give the Board room for accepting new Land and Water Legacy projects and it would also pay for those projects the Board has committed to and currently negotiating on. Mr. Schug stated yes, the county would have the capacity for \$7.5 million and currently have committed or are negotiating on projects that would total \$3.6 million.

Commissioner Peterson stated she is very uncertain as to what will happen at the state level next February and April if there aren't any decisions made and the Board is left holding the bag. She asked would the .4 percent give enough contingency funds to address those issues. Mr. Schug stated that the .4

percent is programmed into the budget, so if an additional reduction would take it down to zero the county would have to go back on the proposed budget and cut other expenditures.

Mr. Schug noted that as far as the use and anticipation of state funds, staff feels the amount it has programmed into the budget is a reasonable amount, but it is by no means the worst case scenario. Given the state funding crisis that continues to loom, it is very likely that the reductions in state aid could be more than the county has projected. If that occurred next April or May when the state took a look at balancing the state budget it may require another mid-year county budget balancing.

Commissioner Pulkrabek asked what is the actual tax rate, how much will that go up. Mr. Schug does not have the tax rate; but, a house valued at \$250,000 with a 1.5 percent levy increase would see an \$11 reduction; a zero percent increase would take that down to an estimated \$30 reduction. Ms. O'Rourke stated she does not have the tax rate at her fingertips, but could get that information shortly.

Commissioner Pulkrabek stated that in previous discussions about bonding for the full \$20 million in Land and Water Legacy funds, then it was dropped to \$10 million, and now they are looking at dropping it to \$7.5 million, there was discussion about how much that would cost the county to do the bond sale if the county had to have two, three, four or five bond sales and in the long-run that may not be a smart thing to do. It might be better to do a bigger amount at one time. Mr. Schug stated that the approximate amount of issuance is about \$130,000 and is affected a little bit by the size of the issuance. The county had always planned on two issuances, but would probably not look at doing more than three. The bigger concern staff has now is that without projects in the pipeline, if the county sold bonds for \$10 million and are paying 3 percent on those bonds which is a good rate, on the short term investment the county is only getting a quarter or half a percent on interest, so the county would be losing principal if that money is sitting around for any significant amount of time.

Commissioner Kriesel stated that the two areas he focused on with staff was the bond issuance, holding the line at \$35.9 million. Traditionally the Board had built in 5 percent annually, but that was in better economic times. Also, reducing the Land and Water Legacy bond to \$7.5 million that will take care of the county's needs with what is on the table. Just with those two items they would be going from 1.5 percent levy increase down to .4 percent levy increase. The preliminary levy they set today cannot go up, but it can go down, and he's confident that between now and December the Board will find other opportunities.

Commissioner Hegberg cautioned the Board that if the levy is dropped today it cannot be raised in December when there might be more information available. He believes there may be other issues that could come forward such as funds from the federal government, and the county has been able to maximize some of those in the bond issues to do projects. He agrees with everything that is being said here today, but he is not convinced that the levy should be dropped today. He is more convinced to look

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at the 1.5 percent now, and then look at the Land and Water Legacy dollars later on. He would even be inclined to lower those some more if there are no projects, it could be lowered to \$5 million. If the county is not spending the money, there is no use putting it in the bank to earn a quarter of a percent, when they will pay 3 percent for the bond issue. Also the bond issue in there is \$38 million and the county does not know what federal stimulus dollars might come down that the county might want to look at and match those to go forward with some projects. He's inclined not to drop it at this time and go along with management's recommendation of a 1.5 percent increase in the levy. It still decreases the tax rate on houses by \$11. Later on they could look at further reductions.

Commissioner Kriesel stated the concern he has is if there are federal dollars coming, he is not sure what the turnaround time would be on these projects, whether that would even be an opportunity. Another concern he has is that at some point the Board has to give direction to staff where they want this to end up. He would not want to get to December 1 and then all of a sudden tell staff that the Board wants to get to zero, now get there. He feels the sooner the Board can give staff guidance on this the better. Particularly on the Land and Water Legacy program--\$7.5 million he believes will accommodate the county's anticipated needs for next year. If that need should drop to \$5 million, that's icing on the cake. He would much rather allow Public Works and staff to operate on certainty rather than uncertainty. He feels the Board is pretty much in agreement to hold the line on the capital bonding, and that would give them a degree of certainty and work towards that.

Commissioner Peterson stated if federal dollars became available for a transportation project the county can get through 2011 and then address it in 2012, because it takes roughly two years to get hands on the dollars. If the county has to have matching funds, she believes the county can do it in 2012. It is hard for her not to invest in infrastructure at this time because there is a wonderful interest rate, and the contracts are coming in so much lower than anticipated. But at the same time she would rather have some comfort level in addressing the 2011 budget, and hope that 2012 is better.

Commissioner Hegberg stated he does not believe 2012 will get better. Because in October they will be able to anticipate the value in real estate will continue to go down. So they know that 2012 is going to get worse than today because the asset they do tax is real estate and that is the county's primary source of revenue. He does not believe the county can rely on the state coming forward with any additional funds. He believes that staff has taken a reasonable look in how they have dealt with it.

Commissioner Pulkrabek stated it is difficult for him to buy into the argument that the bad news is we are raising the property tax rate, but the good news is your home value is going to drop and therefore you are going to pay a few dollars less. He feels that is essentially what this budget entails. The second thing is that he has been on the County Board for twelve years and he does not believe that in any of those twelve years that the final budget was lowered from the preliminary budget. He believes that more than likely what is decided today will be the final budget.

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Commissioner Kriesel reminded the Chair that there was a motion made to postpone bonding for the Land and Water Legacy program and that was a reduction of one or two percent.

Commissioner Pulkrabek also noted that he will support giving 4-H the bridge funding for next year, but that would be the last year he would support the bridge funding. He does support giving 4-H the in-kind funding of about \$25,000.

Commissioner Weik asked about the TIGER II grants and she was cautious about making applications for those. If the county is awarded those grants in the next couple of weeks, fund balance would need to be used to match those grants in the amount of \$350,000. She asked if that is in the Regional Railroad or in the county budget. Commissioner Peterson had stated that the matching of grants could be done in 2012, is that true for the TIGER II grants? Don Theisen, Public Works Director, stated the he believes they would be able to match that in 2012 if the county was successful with the TIGER grant applications. The best spot for that funding would probably be the Regional Railroad Authority, but there may be other options.

Commissioner Weik stated if the Board were going to look at a zero levy increase today, that would entail items such as Land and Water Legacy down to \$5 million and use of fund balance for certain operations, does staff have any knowledge where those items might come from. Mr. Schug stated that the budget continues to evolve as the weeks go on. There have been areas where the county has had the good fortune of lower out of home placement costs for children, but that is an area that has high variability and that service needs to be provided when it's necessary; and there is the possibility of some federal match on the financial assistance programs that the Governor just approved. The reality is that this budget does not anticipate any further reductions in State Human Service program grants, and that is one area staff has been very careful in reducing and then have to face another reduction of state aid. There are a number of areas and it is a relatively small amount, based on the overall budget, of about \$350,000 would be what is left to get to a zero percent increase.

Commissioner Weik stated that was about what she calculated and that's the amount of the TIGER II Grant matching fund. Depending on where that came from, she was going to suggest that the county cannot afford to win the grants. She knows this budget is a work in progress and the Board is going to be working over the next couple months collaboratively. She noted that with all due respect to Commissioner Hegberg she is not comfortable with setting the ceiling at 1.5 percent. She does take into account Commissioner Pulkrabek's statements that the Board typically does not come in with a lower final levy in December. If the gap is about \$350,000 she thinks the Board can get there. Continuing to freeze or cut in the budget is going to have consequences, she does not want to cut or affect the safety net; but she is not comfortable with presenting the public with a tax increase.

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Commissioner Kriesel stated he would support a levy increase of .4 percent now, but would ask staff what a zero increase would look like. The Board could give direction to staff today to put the Land and Water Legacy at \$7.5 million and hold the line at \$35.9 on the bonding.

Commissioner Peterson stated she could have gone with a \$5 million bond for the Land and Water Legacy, but they have just received information about the Zephyr Trail. If it were reduced further she is afraid there wouldn't be any room for negotiation that is ahead of them. She can live with the .4 percent and if it can be reduced more that would be fine.

Commissioner Pulkrabek stated he concurs with Commissioner Weik's comments and he has made a commitment to constituents not to raise their property taxes.

Commissioner Hegberg stated with the proposed budget at a 1.5 percent increase the taxes on a house valued at \$250,000 would be a decrease of \$11. What would be the decrease to that same valued home at the .4 percent increase? Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator, noted that would be a decrease of \$20. A zero percent levy increase would be a \$25 decrease on that same property.

Commissioner Hegberg stated at a zero increase the average taxpayer would save \$14 over a 1.5 percent levy increase; and he would have \$14 less tax deduction off his tax return on the federal level and state level. So it wouldn't amount to a huge amount of dollars. The other point is the State of Minnesota on their homestead credit has indicated they will give the county \$3 million. Last year they gave the county \$1.3 million. So when he thinks about Truth-in-Taxation and the statements that the county will be mailing out, they are no longer called Truth-in-Taxation statements for a reason because the state has indicated they will give the county more money, and the county will send the statement out with that amount, and both the state and the county know they gave us less money this year. He still argues that the Board has to be as conservative as it can with the information they have. He feels that being conservative means that the Board cannot trust its partner which is the State of Minnesota who is suppose to give the county money next year. The county's obligation is to take care of Washington County and make sure that the county keeps the AAA bond rating and have all the options they possibly can. He believes the county did lower the taxes once after the tax meeting and that is the only time that he can recall.

Commissioner Hegberg moved to recommend a 2011 levy increase of 1.5 percent or \$88,074,700. Motion failed for a lack of a second.

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt a certified levy increase of .4 percent or \$87,136,900. Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it failed 3-2 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Kriesel and Peterson; Nays, Commissioners Hegberg, Weik and Pulkrabek.

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Commissioner Weik stated that her concern is that when the Board gives staff direction, if the Board supports this today, then it will not support anything in December. There have been a lot of different ideas at workshops or the department head retreat such as: a new revenue stream by allowing paid advertising on the county web site with content parameters; or cut existing expenses by lowering salaries for new hires. She has made a commitment to citizens after listening to them since last spring of no tax increase. That is why she cannot support the motion today.

Commissioner Kriesel stated he supported the .4 percent at this time. He believes this is where the real homework begins and if this budget hasn't been reduced in the past maybe that is something the Board should pay attention to. He feels this is not the end of the process.

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to adopt a certified levy increase of zero percent or \$86,783,800. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it failed 3-2 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioner Weik and Pulkrabek; Nays, Commissioners Hegberg, Kriesel, and Peterson.

Commissioner Hegberg reintroduced his motion to recommend a 2011 levy increase of 1.5 percent or \$88,074,700. Motion failed for a lack of a second.

Commissioner Pulkrabek asked if the levy needs to be done first; and, what would happen if no action is taken today.

George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney, stated he believes he knows the answer, but he will have to research the law.

Commissioner Kriesel stated he is strongly considering going along with the zero percent levy increase, rather than provide staff with chaos, but he is disappointed in doing that.

Commissioner Peterson stated if the County Board goes to zero, then it has to come out of the Land and Water Legacy, she doesn't see any other place that it can go.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2010-129** as follows:

Resolution Certifying Proposed Property Tax Levies for
Washington County Payable 2011

The Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby certify to the Washington
County Auditor-Treasurer the following proposed tax levy for payable 2011:

Washington County	\$86,783,800
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Commissioner Weik seconded the motion. She noted that she would like the 4-H bridging money protected. She did pledge that and there are reserve funds or other contingency and it is not that much.

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Commissioner Peterson stated that all of the Commissioners have sacred cows. If the County Board goes to zero, everything is on the table.

Commissioner Kriesel stated he agrees with Commissioner Peterson. He made the motion and everything is on the table. If they are going to get to zero, those are the hard decisions that will have to be made.

The motion was adopted 4-1 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Kriesel, Peterson, Weik, and Pulkrabek; Nays, Commissioner Hegberg.

George Kuprian stated that if the Board had not reached a decision today, the levy would have been set the same as last year.

Certifying the Proposed Property Tax Levy for Payable 2011 for Regional Rail Authority

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2010-130** as follows:

Resolution Certifying Proposed Property Tax Levies for
Washington County Payable 2011 – Regional Rail Authority

The Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby certify to
the Washington County Auditor-Treasurer the following proposed tax levy
for payable 2011:

Regional Rail Authority	\$574,800
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Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Hegberg, Kriesel, Peterson, Weik, and Pulkrabek; Nays, none.

Certifying the Proposed Property Tax Levy for Payable 2011 for HRA

Commissioner Pulkrabek noted that he would not be supporting this resolution. He believes that the Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority does a great job, but he fundamentally disagrees that the government should be involved to this degree in the housing market.

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2010-131** as follows:

Resolution Certifying Proposed Property Tax Levy for
Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority Payable 2011

The Washington County Board of Commissioners does hereby certify to the Washington
County Auditor-Treasurer the following proposed tax levy for payable 2011:

Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority	\$3,332,236
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Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted 4-1 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Hegberg, Kriesel, Peterson, and Weik; Nays, Commissioner Pulkrabek.

Regional Rail Authority Proposed Budget for Payable 2011

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2010-132** as follows:

Resolution Adopting the Washington County Regional Rail Authority
Proposed Budget for Payable 2011

<u>OPERATING FUNDS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE OTHER THAN LEVY</u>	<u>FUND BALANCE Contrib/(Use)</u>	<u>GROSS LEVY</u>	<u>STATE AIDS</u>	<u>CERTIFIED LEVY</u>
Regional Rail Authority	\$677,000	\$66,400	(\$35,800)	\$574,800	\$0	\$574,800
Total Proposed 2011 Budget	<u>\$677,000</u>	<u>\$66,400</u>	<u>(\$35,800)</u>	<u>\$574,800</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$574,800</u>
Total Washington County Regional Rail Proposed 2011 Levy:				\$574,800	\$0	\$574,800

Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Hegberg, Kriesel, Peterson, Weik, and Pulkrabek; Nays, none.

Washington County Proposed Budget for Payable 2011

Commissioner Weik moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2010-133** as follows:

<u>OPERATING, SPECIAL REVENUE, AND DEBT SERVICE FUNDS</u>	<u>EXPENDITURES</u>	<u>REVENUE OTHER THAN LEVY</u>	<u>FUND BALANCE Contrib/(Use)</u>	<u>GROSS LEVY</u>	<u>STATE AIDS</u>	<u>CERTIFIED LEVY</u>
General Government	\$93,356,900	\$41,863,600	\$510,400	\$52,003,700	\$5,506,600	\$46,497,100
Community Services	\$35,128,500	\$18,215,100	(\$530,800)	\$16,382,600	\$0	\$16,382,600
Debt Service - Countywide	\$8,019,800	\$0	\$1,482,500	\$9,502,300	\$0	\$9,502,300
Debt Service - Library District	\$804,800	\$0	\$148,800	\$953,600	\$0	\$953,600
Library	\$6,527,900	\$461,100	\$0	\$6,066,800	\$223,800	\$5,843,000
Parks	\$3,391,600	\$2,657,000	(\$50,000)	\$684,600	\$0	\$684,600
Public Safety Radio	\$570,600	\$570,600	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Public Works	\$8,449,900	\$3,925,600	\$0	\$4,524,300	\$0	\$4,524,300
Subtotal:	<u>\$156,250,000</u>	<u>\$67,693,000</u>	<u>\$1,560,900</u>	<u>\$90,117,900</u>	<u>\$5,730,400</u>	<u>\$84,387,500</u>
<u>CAPITAL PROJECT FUNDS</u>						
Capital Historic Courthouse	\$0	\$8,000	\$8,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Projects	\$196,400	\$0	\$0	\$196,400	\$0	\$196,400
Capital Repair	\$1,640,000	\$958,100	(\$681,900)	\$0	\$0	\$0
Capital Road Bridge	\$60,172,00	\$56,939,800	\$0	\$3,233,000	\$1,883,100	\$1,349,900
Subtotal:	<u>\$62,009,100</u>	<u>\$57,905,800</u>	<u>(\$673,900)</u>	<u>\$3,429,400</u>	<u>\$1,883,100</u>	<u>\$1,546,300</u>
<u>REFERENDUM ITEM</u>						
Land & Water Legacy Program	\$167,300	\$0	\$682,700	\$850,000	\$0	\$850,000
Total Proposed 2011 Budget	<u>\$218,426,400</u>	<u>\$125,598,800</u>	<u>\$1,569,700</u>	<u>\$94,397,300</u>	<u>\$7,613,500</u>	<u>\$86,783,800</u>
Total Washington County Proposed 2011 Levy				<u>\$94,397,300</u>	<u>\$7,613,500</u>	<u>\$86,783,800</u>

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Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted 5-0 with a Roll Call vote as follows: Ayes, Commissioners Hegberg, Kriesel, Peterson, Weik, and Pulkrabek; Nays, none.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Weik reported on the Woodbury Development tour she participated in last week. Thirty-four different locations were included in the tour. She attended the I-94 Gateway Corridor meeting. The Minnesota Department of Transportation presented an update on their highway study. Tonight she will attend the 10th Annual Spaghetti Dinner fund raiser for Woodbury's public safety equipment. She will not be able to attend the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Policy meetings.

Commissioner Peterson reported that she attended the Counties Transit Improvement Board Executive Committee meeting last week. The consensus of that group was that Washington County would be given permission to bank its dollars. She will not be attending the AMC policy committee on Thursday morning. There will be an open house for Glen and Lorraine Brown celebrating their sixtieth wedding anniversary. Glen Brown has served on numerous county committees over the years. She asked staff to put together a Commissioner's Award to present to them.

Commissioner Kriesel reported he attended the Public Works training day at Lake Elmo Regional Park. He spoke to the group about the Yellow Ribbon Network. He attended the Gateway Trail Commission meeting and met with the Stillwater Area Chamber on the Stillwater Bridge. Last evening he attended the Oak-Land Junior High PTA meeting. Public Works staff gave an outstanding presentation on the intersection of 10th Street and Manning. Folks were looking for a light signal at that intersection. He has a conflict with the Vet's Rest Camp Board, which is conducting its budget sessions, and Andersen Windows Citizen Committee. He asked if any of the Commissioners could attend the Andersen Windows Citizen Committee.

Commissioner Hegberg stated he will try to attend the AMC Transportation Policy meeting. He reported on the Rush Line Corridor meeting. They approved the contract to allow buses to go from Forest Lake to St. Paul and that will begin October 15. It came in under budget to such an extent that they might be able to fund it for a longer period of time if the Metropolitan Council does not pick it up. He and Commissioner Kriesel met with the City of Hugo Mayor to discuss abandoned gravel pits. They will meet with staff to discuss that further. He reported on the Transportation Advisory Board meeting he attended last week. They discussed that if additional federal dollars are made available, could the process be sped up to be eligible for those dollars. They are also looking to see if funding for signal lights with the yellow turn arrows could be used because they cost so much more than regular signal lights.

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Commissioner Pulkrabek asked Sheriff Hutton if any cities in Washington County, other than Woodbury, have canine units, or do they use the county's. Sheriff Bill Hutton mentioned that when a canine is needed throughout the county they contact the Sheriff's Office. Cottage Grove has one dog, Bayport has one dog, Stillwater will be getting a dog, and Woodbury has two dogs.

Sheriff Bill Hutton updated the Board on the recent homicide that occurred in Lake Elmo. He noted that two suspects were apprehended and have been charged with 2nd degree homicide.

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 Weik and it was adopted unanimously. The Board meeting adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Bill Pulkrabek, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator