

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
MARCH 4, 2008

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, Stafford, and Kriesel. Commissioners Hegberg and Pulkrabek absent. Board Vice Chair Peterson presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Doug Johnson, County Attorney; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Harley Will, Financial Services Director; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Richard Backman, Community Services Division Manager; Suzanne Pollack, Community Services Supervisor; Patricia Conley, Library Director; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Deb McDonald, Management Analyst II; and Dave Brierley, Public Information Coordinator.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

The Board Vice Chair asked for comments from the public; none were heard.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the February 19, 2008 Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval of Contract Amendment #1 between the State of Minnesota Tenth Judicial District and Washington County to provide a means of state reimbursement for direct payments made by the county as required by statute as part of the transfer of court administration functions from the county to the state.
3. Approval to submit a grant proposal to the Department of Human Services to fund additional respite care for families with children with a serious emotional disturbance.
4. Approval of Amendment #1 to the 2008 – 2011 contract with Haven Chemical Health Systems, LLC to add out-patient chemical dependency treatment services for adolescents.
5. Approval to renew application for an off sale liquor license for SSG Corporation, Denmark Township, for April 1, 2008 through March 31, 2009.

6. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2008-030** as follows:

Marine Branch Library Lease

WHEREAS, the County of Washington and the City of Marine on St. Croix propose to enter into an annual lease agreement providing library space in the building known as Village Hall, Marine on St. Croix, MN; and

WHEREAS, the City of Marine on St. Croix has approved and signed said lease; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Branch Library enriches the community by assisting county residents in their search for information, ideas, education and recreation.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the lease between the County of Washington and the City of Marine on St. Croix be executed through the signatures of the Chairman of the Washington County Board of Commissioners and Washington County Administrator without further action of the County Board conditioned upon compliance with all lease specifications, requirements, and approval as to form by the Washington County Attorney's office.

7. Approval to accept a \$162 donation from the staff at Prosperan/Washington County Bank, Oakdale, to be used towards the Washington County Sheriff's Office K-9 Unit.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously; Commissioners Hegberg and Pulkrabek absent.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Commissioner Stafford moved to accept a County Veteran Service Office Enhancement Grant from the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs in the amount of \$32,375; and, authorization for a two year 0.25 FTE special project position supported by the grant. Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioners Hegberg and Pulkrabek absent.

Commissioner Stafford mentioned there are several groups being established to help veterans. He does not believe there is any coordination between them. He asked if it would be possible to find out who's doing what. Dan Papin, Community Services Director stated he will have the Veterans Service Officer Jon Larson look into that.

Commissioner Kriesel asked that the Board hold a workshop with the Veterans Service Officer, Disabled Veteran's Rest Camp and other veteran's groups to get these questions answered.

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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Legislative Update

Tax-forfeited Land – Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services stated that the bill in which parcels of tax-forfeited land that were requested to be transferred to the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District was heard in the Senate Committee last week and staff presented the Board's letter of support. He also testified on the parcel in Mahtomedi that borders Long Lake that is proposed for a private sale. The Department of Natural Resources supported both bills. Both items were moved forward to the Senate's Omnibus Land Sale bill. The House heard the bill on Monday. There is not a house author to the bill on the Mahtomedi parcel for the private sale, but Mr. Corbid believes that will be taken care of in the conference committee.

Transportation – Don Theisen, Public Works Director, provided a brief overview of the 2008 Transportation Bill. Estimates for Washington County for 2009 – 2018 are: \$122,728,000 with the allocation divided 60% for construction, \$73,636,800 and 40% for operation and maintenance \$49,091,200. The local option tax that was approved allows a 0.25 percent sales tax and motor vehicle excise tax of \$20. Counties need to be part of a joint powers board. Joint powers agreements need to be formed by July 1 to become effective at the start of the next quarter which would be October 1, 2008. A workshop will be scheduled in the near future for further discussion of this bill.

Bonding Bills – Mr. Schug announced that the bonding bills were introduced in both houses. Washington County had positions on four items: I-94 transitway—county asked for \$1 million, Senate included \$750,000, House, \$500,000; Red Rock Park and Ride, both bills included \$500,000; Rush Line Park and Ride, both bills included \$500,000; and the St. Paul to Chicago High Speed Rail—Senate bill had \$2 million and the House bill \$4 million. The county's request for bond funding for the Big Marine Park was not included in either bill. \$6 million was earmarked for the Metropolitan Council which is the county's other source of funding for parks.

State budget shortfall – Mr. Schug noted that this figure is now at \$935 million. There are no details on what impact that could have on the county. The Governor has indicated that he is looking at reducing Health and Human Service funding and spending.

Community Services Advisory Committee

Commissioner Stafford moved to appoint Tom Halfpenny, Woodbury, to the Community Services Advisory Committee to a first term expiring December 31, 2010. Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

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COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Kriesel reported that he attended the Governor's conservation award program. The Resource Recovery Project received an award for participating with St. Paul Schools for the food to waste recycling program. The schools recycle their food waste and it is sent to hog farmers. He also attended a transportation traffic study to look at the intersection of County Road 12 and Owens.

Commissioner Stafford is reviewing a report that was written in 2005 by the Center for Finance Research, a part of the Taxpayers Association. This report showed that there were \$5 billion in dedicated funds in the State of Minnesota which they called "hidden funds". These funds are attached to a fee which keep accumulating and earning interest. Some of them get used and are very worthy, but some don't. He feels that if the State revisited these funds they could cut 20% of them and that would take care of the shortfall for this year.

Commissioner Peterson will be attending a meeting this evening at the All Saints Lutheran Church to discuss water issues surrounding 3M. Tomorrow evening there is a meeting in St. Paul Park on water issues. Tomorrow is Transportation Alliance Day at the Capitol. Woodbury will have their water quality meeting on March 10.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Stafford moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Kriesel and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioners Hegberg and Pulkrabek absent. The Board meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Myra Peterson, Vice Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator