

# Washington County, Minnesota

## Board of Commissioners - Actions

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### Actions at the Tuesday, January 24, 2012 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.

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*Washington County's mission is to provide quality public services in a cost-effective manner through innovation, leadership, and the cooperation of dedicated people.*

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### Board passes resolution of appreciation, names day for Schug

The Washington County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution of appreciation Jan. 24 for County Administrator Jim Schug, who will be retiring Jan. 26. The resolution also named Jan. 26 "County Administrator James R. Schug Day in Washington County."

The resolution noted Schug's accomplishments as county administrator during the past 17 years, including overseeing county services in a county with rapid population growth; restructuring and streamlining the county's management structure; overseeing the addition of service centers in communities around the county and the St. Croix Bluffs Regional Park and Big Marine Regional Park to the county's park system; and overseeing the redevelopment of the Government Center in Stillwater to meet future needs of the county.

The resolution also noted the county's AAA bond rating and the fact that Schug established county priorities for the balanced provision of services and programs while carefully managing the county's budget.

Deputy Administrator Molly O'Rourke was named by the County Board Jan. 17 to be promoted to administrator position.

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### Firm will design Newport Transit Station, parking lot

Stantec Consulting Services, Inc., will design the Newport Transit Station after the Washington County Board of Commissioners, sitting as the Washington County Regional Rail Authority (WCRRA), approved a contract with the firm Jan. 24.

The firm was chosen from among seven who submitted proposals for the project. The contract is not to exceed \$249,915. The proposals were reviewed by staff from Washington County, the City of Newport and Metro Transit, and the same group interviewed finalists.

The project is being funded by the 2011 Capital Grant from the Counties Transit Improvement Board for \$225,000 and the required WCRRA local match of \$25,000. The project is in the WCRRA budget for 2012. The contract is for design of a building for a transit center and the parking area, as well as a master plan for the remainder of the site. It is expected that the building will be about 1,200 square feet, enclosed and climate controlled. It has yet to be determined whether it will have restrooms. A 200-stall parking lot is planned for the site.

The Newport Station will be the first station built along the planned Red Rock transit corridor. 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 Newport Station is planned for the former Knox Lumber site in Newport, and is identified as a station in the transitway plan. The first step to implementing the transit plan is to identify stations that will allow for the expansion of bus service, the increase of bus frequency, and the building of park-and-ride facilities. The City of Newport supports the project, which is scheduled for construction for bus service by 2013.

The Counties Transit Improvement Board is a regional transit consortium in the metropolitan area. Since April 2008, five counties – Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey and Washington – have utilized a quarter-cent sales tax and a \$20 motor vehicle sales tax, permitted by the Minnesota Legislature, to invest in and advance transitway projects by awarding annual capital and operating grants. The Counties Transit Improvement Board works in collaboration with the Metropolitan Council and Carver and Scott counties.

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### **Skinner named to Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District**

Pamela Skinner, Oakdale, was named to the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District by the Washington County Board of Commissioners Jan. 24. Skinner's term will expire Feb. 23, 2015.

Watershed district governance, required by state statute, helps to control or alleviate damage by flood waters; improve stream channels for drainage or navigation; reclaim or fill wet or overflow lands; oversee water supply for irrigation; regulate the flow of streams; divert or change water courses; provide and conserve water supply; and provide for the protection of groundwater and regulation of groundwater use.

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### **County will receive funds for parent support outreach**

Washington County will receive a \$50,000 grant from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) to fund a Parent Support Outreach Program (POSP) after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved the grant agreement Jan. 24.

The county submitted a grant application to the DHS last November seeking funding for a Parent Support Outreach Program. DHS recently notified Washington County that it, along with 38 other counties in the state, will receive the funds.

The money will be used for 50 eligible families to receive services designed to deliver family centered services for those not meeting the criteria for child protection services, but needing resources and support to improve the child/family well-being and reduce the risk of future maltreatment. The grant may be renewed annually through 2016.

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### **Homemaker services will be delivered through Accent Integrated Health Services**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract Jan. 24 with Accent Integrated Health Services to provide homemaker services to county residents who receive Medical Assistance and Community Based Services. State law requires counties to manage contracts to providers of these services through Medical Assistance programs. Accent Integrated Health Services provides services to disabled and elderly persons, including personal care assistance, adult day care, and homemaking. Homemaking includes assisting persons with cleaning, meal preparation, laundry, and shopping. Although the company will serve all county residents, it provides culturally specific services to persons of Russian descent.

Services will be paid for through Medical Assistance Home and Community Based Services and aging or disability "waivers." County case managers will assess client needs and determine how frequently a homemaker is needed to help clients remain safely in their homes.

## **Library property will be conveyed to Lake Elmo**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners agreed Jan. 24 to convey property that was in the county's Rosalie E. Wahl Library to the City of Lake Elmo.

The items transferred to the city are items that were donated by the Friends of the Lake Elmo Library. Last year, the City of Lake Elmo made the decision to withdraw from the Washington County Library system and create a city library. Items transferred included a wheelchair, a marker board, display racks, a patio table and four chairs, and a number of games.

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## **County will provide assessing services for City of Birchwood**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners approved a contract Jan. 24 for the county to continue providing assessment services to the City of Birchwood.

Washington County provides assessing services for 25 of the 33 communities in the county. The city approved the contract renewal Sept. 13, 2011. The contract is for five years and outlines the services and fees.

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## **Law firm will provide federal relations services for county**

The law firm Lockridge Grindal Nauen, P.L.L.P, will provide federal relations services to Washington County, after the County Board approved an amendment to the firm's contract Jan. 24.

Federal funding is a key component of Washington County's Transportation Capital Program, and is necessary to deliver critical transportation improvements in Washington County. The county's continued presence in Washington, D.C., will be important to ensure future projects are successful in obtaining federal funding; Lockridge Grindal Nauen provides federal relations services and works with county staff to devise and implement a federal strategy to secure these resources.

Funding priorities for the county are a new St. Croix River crossing, and upgrading three interchanges along Trunk Highway 36 in Washington County. The county is also asking the law firm to work toward \$8 million in funding for the Gateway transit corridor, as well as a request that the Red Rock, Rush Line and Gateway transit corridors be listed as authorized corridors in a reauthorized federal transportation bill.

This amendment to the contract with the firm is in an amount not to exceed \$60,000, with expenditures to be based on actual services provided.

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## **Aramark will continue to provide meals to county jail inmates**

Aramark Correctional Services, LLC, will continue to provide meals to inmates in the Washington County Jail, after the Washington County Board of Commissioners approved an amendment to the company's contract Jan. 24.

The contract for 2012 will cost \$493,000.

The food service agreement between Washington County and Aramark to provide inmate meals includes provisions for yearly price increases, either through mutual agreement or based on the Consumer Price Index. The yearly price increase for the contract period of Nov. 1, 2011, through Oct. 31, 2012, is 2.69 percent, as agreed upon by the parties.

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