

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
APRIL 25, 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, Stafford, and Hegberg. 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; Kay McAloney, Human Resources Director; Julie Sorrem, Risk Manager; Don Theisen, Director of Transportation and Physical Development; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Director of Transportation and Physical Development; Ted Schoenecker, Traffic Engineer; Jim Luger, Parks Director; Keith Potter, Facilities Manager; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Patrick Singel, Deputy Community Services Director; Linda Bixby, Community Services Supervisor; Jenna Penfield, Community Services Supervisor; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Patricia Conley, Library Director; Kevin Corbid, Director of Assessment, Taxpayer Services and Elections; Cindy Koosmann, Recorder; and Steve Nelson, Public Information Officer 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 Hegberg to adopt the following Consent Calendar:

1. Approval to appoint Jessica Parcheta, Stillwater Township, to the Minnesota Extension Service Committee, to a first term expiring December 31, 2008.
2. Approval to renew application for off sale liquor license for AJL Enterprises, Inc. for the period of April 1, 2006 through March 31, 2007.
3. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2006-059** as follows:

Resolution Approving the 2007 Qualified Allocation Plan
for Housing Tax Credits

WHEREAS, Congress has permanently extended the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program by enactment of the Revenue Reconciliation Act of 1993;

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WHEREAS, Treasury Regulations (the “Regulations”) require allocators of low income housing credits, including the Washington County Housing and Redevelopment Authority (the “Authority”) which allocates such credits on behalf of Washington County (the “County”), to provide procedures to allocate low income housing tax credits and monitor compliance of projects to which it has allocated low income housing tax credits pursuant to Section 42 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

WHEREAS, the Authority has determined it is necessary and appropriate to modify the Authority's previously adopted Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan (the “Plan”); and

WHEREAS, the Authority has adopted the Plan, as amended, in substantially the form attached hereto as Exhibit A following a public hearing regarding the revision of the Plan for which not less than 14 days notice was published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF WASHINGTON COUNTY, that the amended Housing Tax Credit Qualified Allocation Plan previously adopted by the Authority and attached hereto as Exhibit A is hereby adopted and approved.

4. Approval of licenses for use of real property for the collection of household hazardous waste and authorize execution by the Board Chair and County Administrator with the following communities: New Scandia Township, Cities of Lake St. Croix Beach, Cottage Grove, Forest Lake, Woodbury, and Stillwater.
5. Approval to set public hearing on the Lake Elmo Park Reserve Master Plan amendment for May 9, 2006, at 9:00 a.m.
6. Approval and execution of a contract with the Brickman Group to provide lawn care and landscaping services for various county facilities.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

MINNESOTA COUNTIES INSURANCE TRUST

Jane Hennagir, MCIT Account Executive, presented a brief overview of MCIT's operations and its successes, coverage and services offered, the value of loss control and risk management, challenges facing MCIT, the county's role and a variety of risk management resources provided.

TRANSPORTATION AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

Vacating County's Interest in Certain Real Estate on CSAH 16 and Bielenberg Drive

Commissioner Stafford moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2006-060** as follows:

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Vacating the County's Interests in Certain Real Estate Located
in the Northwest Quadrant of the CSAH 16 (Valley Creek Road) and
Bielenberg Drive Intersection

WHEREAS, the County of Washington has certain interests in real estate associated with County State Aid Highway No. 16 (Valley Creek Road), as more fully delineated in Washington County Highway Right-of-Way Plat No. 7, as amended; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to MINN. STAT § 163.11, subd. 4, the interests of Washington County in such highway right-of-ways may be vacated upon a determination by the County Board that all or a portion of the same is unnecessary to be retained for public purposes; and

WHEREAS, it appears as a result of highway reconstruction and modification that certain portions of the right-of-way are no longer necessary to be held by Washington County; and

WHEREAS, the Office of the Washington County Surveyor has determined in conjunction with the Office of the Washington County Engineer and Department of Transportation and Physical Development the legal description of that portion of property that no longer needs to be retained by the county; and

WHEREAS, that legal description is set forth below and incorporated herein.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that upon compliance with the provisions of MINN. STAT. § 163.11, subd. 4, the portion of right-of-way for County State Aid Highway No. 16 as delineated on Washington County Highway Right-of-Way Plat No 7, as amended and legally described as follows:

That part of County State Aid Highway No. 16 (Valley Creek Road) located in the Northeast Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section 8, Township 28 North, Range 21 West of the Fourth Principal Meridian, Washington County, Minnesota, within the delineated boundaries of Washington County Highway Right of Way Plat No. 7, as Amended, according to the recorded plat thereof, described as follows:

Beginning at the southeast corner of Lot 1, Block 1, Woodbury Village 6th Addition, according to the recorded plat thereof Washington County, Minnesota; thence South 56 degrees 05 minutes 37 seconds West, assumed bearing along the southeasterly line of said Lot 1, a distance of 187.76 feet, to the most southerly corner of said Lot 1; thence southeasterly along the southeasterly extension of the southwest line of said Lot 1 along a nontangential curve concave to the southwest having a radius of 2083.48 feet, a central angle of 01 degree 49 minutes 06 seconds and an arc distance of 66.12 feet, the chord of said curve bears South 67 degrees 37 minutes 12 seconds East; thence North 56 degrees 05 minutes 37 seconds East, a distance of 113.54 feet to the intersection of the southerly extension of the east line of said Lot 1; thence North 00 degrees 23 minutes 22 seconds East, along said southerly extension of the east line, a distance of 66.57 feet to the point of beginning and there terminating.

be and is hereby vacated.

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that noting herein is intended to relinquish or vacate any other rights or interests of Washington County relative to County State Aid Highway No. 16 or Washington County Highway Right-of-Way Plat No. 7 as amended.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County staff, in conjunction with the Office of the Washington County Attorney, shall ensure proper compliance with MINN. STAT § 163.11 subd. 4 relative to notice and posting of this resolution.

Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Update on the Driver Feedback Sign Study

Ted Schoenecker, Traffic Engineer, reviewed the effectiveness of driver speed awareness signs in suburban speed transition zones. The study concluded that there was a reduction in overall speeds and better conformance with posted speeds. The results were specific to speed transition zones and it was found to be an effective solution to speeding when applied properly. The cost for each sign including installation (parts and labor) power supply, electrical costs and maintenance costs totaled about \$11,000 per sign. They have received positive feedback from citizens.

COMMUNITY SERVICES

Child Support Enforcement

Linda Bixby and Jenna Penfield, Community Services Supervisors, presented an overview of child support core functions, how that support is delivered, caseloads, distribution of child support, federal performance measures, and county performance audit results. Ms. Bixby stated that Washington County fully passed the audit that was performed last month. Since 1998 175 reviews have been done and only ten counties have passed. This is the first year that Washington County has passed the audit and it is the first metro county to pass and the largest.

Ms. Bixby stated that beginning January 1, 2007 the process to calculate child support is changing to an income shares model. The new guideline formula requires both parents' incomes to calculate each parent's share of the cost of raising their children. It is estimated that child support staff time for the new guidelines will increase by 2.5 hours per case to determine child support. She addressed the deficit reduction act of 2005: Effective October 1, 2007, states cannot use federal funds earned through incentive grants towards their federal match, causing an estimated \$24.26 million in lost federal revenue for the state of Minnesota and an estimated revenue loss of \$917,206 for Washington County. She stated an estimated \$311,850 in additional funds will be needed to maintain the existing level of program effort for the county.

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GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**National County Government Week**

Jim Schug, County Administrator, noted that prior to this morning's meeting, the Board hosted a reception for employees in honor of National County Government Week.

Commissioner Peterson moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2006-061** as follows:

Resolution of Appreciation to Washington County Employees
National County Government Week
April 23-29, 2006

WHEREAS, county governments and employees are instrumental and central to providing quality county services and programs for children, adults, and seniors; and

WHEREAS, there are 3,066 counties in the United States of America that serve over 295 million citizens as an integral form of local government to help make America's communities stronger and safer places to live; and

WHEREAS, Washington County employees serve over 217,000 citizens by providing services and programs that provide assistance in everyday life and in times of special need by planning, training, and coordination of emergency services; and

WHEREAS, Washington County places a high value on its employees who administer, plan, interact with customers and other units of local government, provide innovation, and support their fellow employees on a daily basis; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Washington County Board of Commissioners acknowledges with grateful appreciation all Washington County employees for conducting exceptional customer services in a cost-effective manner; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Washington County Board of Commissioners heartily commends all county employees who are continuously "Protecting Our Communities" and hereby proclaims the week of April 23-29, 2006, as "National County Government Week in Washington County."

Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Schug noted that staff and Commissioners will be visiting various county facilities during the week.

Legislative Update

Mr. Schug presented a brief legislative update on the following items: Senate passed a \$60 million appropriation that would help backfill funding to counties for human services costs because of the impact

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to counties of the Federal Deficit Reduction Act; and the bonding bills have been passed by the House and Senate and they are in conference committee.

Commissioner Peterson supports the \$60 million in appropriation to help with the Federal Deficit Reduction Act. She asked if the Board was in support of doing an article for the Opinion/Editorial page she feels that would be more beneficial. It was Board consensus to do an article for all the county newspapers.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Stafford discussed a letter that was sent to the Minnesota State Colleges regarding land that is available on I-694 where the college had a semi-truck driver's training course. It was suggested by Commissioner Hegberg that the land be used as an east metro driver's license testing center. He's been told that they will move quickly on this and the Commissioner's idea might take time to cultivate. He asked if it would be practical or possible for the county to acquire that property and then follow through with the idea of a driver testing center. Mr. Schug stated that the proposal from the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities System is to actually sell the property for \$2.2 million. It's not a tax forfeiture claim; it is a purchase that is being offered first to local governments. If the county were to move quickly, it would mean purchasing it for \$2.2 million and then trying to figure out how to motivate the Department of Public Safety to buy it from the county. He stated that legislatively it will not have time. When he talked to John Kaul the county legislative liaison there was hope that by pointing out to MNSCU that there might be another state agency interested, they may hold that back from sale, especially if there was not interest by the other local units of government.

Commissioner Stafford announced that he would not be seeking re-election as County Commissioner and will retire at the end of the year. He has loved doing this, but feels it is time to stop and smell the roses and do some things while he can.

Commissioner Kriesel stated he will be attending the Farm Family of the Year award this Thursday, in Hugo.

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 Stafford and it was adopted unanimously. The Board meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

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BOARD WORKSHOP WITH TRANSPORTATION AND PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Transportation and Physical Development to discuss proposed changes to County Parks Ordinance #93. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Peterson, Kriesel, Stafford, and Hegberg. Also present were Jim Schug, Don Theisen, Jim Luger, Steve Pott, George Kuprian, Steve Nelson, Yvonne Klinnert, Stillwater Courier, and Kevin Giles, Star-Tribune.

Bill Pulkrabek, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator

