

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
JANUARY 27, 2009

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, Pulkrabek, Hegberg, Weik, and Kriesel. Board Chair Peterson presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Doug Johnson, County Attorney; Don Theisen, Director of Public Works; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Director of Public Works; Ted Schoenecker, Public Works Transportation Manager; Dan Papin, Director of Community Services; Cindy Rupp, Community Services Division Manager; Julia Wallis, Management Analyst II; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Sue Hedlund, Deputy Director of Public Health and Environment; Mjyke Nelson, Director of Information Technology; Kay McAloney, Director of Human Resources; Harley Will, Director of Accounting and Finance; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Jennifer Wagenius, Division Manager of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; and Dave Brierley, Public Information Coordinator.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Hegberg moved, seconded by Commissioner Pulkrabek, to adopt the following Consent Calendar:

1. Approval of the January 13, 2009, Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval of grant agreement between the State Department of Natural Resources and Washington County in the amount of \$250,000 for the Rowe conservation easement to be negotiated for purchase through the Land and Water Legacy Program.
3. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2009-010** as follows:

Department of Natural Resources Planning Assistance Grant

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Legislature, by Minnesota Laws 2008, Chapter 367, Sec. 2, Subd. 3(a), appropriated funds to the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources for the purposes of planning, improving, and protecting important natural areas in the metropolitan region, as

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defined by Minnesota Statutes, Sec. 473.121, Subd. 2 and portions of the surrounding counties, through grants, contracted services, conservation easements, and fee acquisitions; and

WHEREAS, the grant requires a 1:1 match; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Natural Resources has approved a grant to Washington County in the amount of \$19,000 to develop a conservation plan to guide the implementation of the Land and Water Legacy Program; and

WHEREAS, receipt of this grant would require Washington County to expend \$19,000 to meet the 1:1 match grant;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Washington County will accept the \$19,000 planning grant from the Department of Natural Resources; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Washington County will expend the \$19,000 required match.

4. Approval to appoint Commissioner Lisa Weik, District 5, to the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) County Futures Committee.
5. Approval to reappoint Pamela Skinner, Oakdale, to the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Board of Managers to a term expiring February 23, 2012.
6. Approval to appoint John Jansen, Lake St. Croix Beach, as Washington County alternate to the St. Croix Partnership Team.
7. Approval of the 2009 contract with Rule 36 Limited Partnership of Duluth III to fund services, intensive residential treatment services, (RTS) and residential crisis stabilization services, for the uninsured at its Willow Haven facility in Lake Elmo.
8. Approval of 2009 health insurance for Law Enforcement Labor Services employees.
9. Approval of recommended fee changes for Property Records and Taxpayer Services web remote access as contained in Washington County Administrative Policy #1032 – Fee Schedule, effective March 1, 2009.
10. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2009-011** as follows:

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WHEREAS, Washington County Public Works entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the city of Woodbury as part of the County State Aid Highway No. 13 (CSAH 13); and

WHEREAS, Washington County Public Works made certain improvements to County State Aid Highway No. 13 (CSAH 13) in 2007; and

WHEREAS, permanent right of way and easements were acquired as part of the project for said improvements; and

WHEREAS, said permanent right of way and easements are to be transferred to the city of Woodbury upon completion of the project so that the city may continue the operation and maintenance of same.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Cooperative Agreement for County State Aid Highway No. 13 (CSAH 13), paragraph B, item 2, Washington County transfers said permanent right of way and easements acquired as part of the project to the city of Woodbury for continued maintenance and operation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Washington County will execute quit claim deeds to transfer said right of way and easements to the city of Woodbury legally described on the attached Exhibit A and Exhibit B.

11. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2009-012** as follows:

WHEREAS, Washington Public Works entered into a Cooperative Agreement with the city of Hugo as part of the County State Aid Highway No. 8 (CSAH 8); and

WHEREAS, Washington County Public Works made certain improvements to County State Aid Highway No. 8 (CSAH 8) in 2005; and

WHEREAS, drainage and utility easements were acquired as part of the project for said improvements; and

WHEREAS, said drainage and utility easements are to be transferred to the city of Hugo upon completion of the project so that the city may continue the operation and maintenance of said easements.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to Cooperative Agreement for County State Aid Highway No. 8 (CSAH 8), paragraph B, item 4, Washington County transfers drainage and utility easements acquired as part of the project to the city of Hugo for continued maintenance and operation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Washington County will execute a quit claim deed to transfer said easements to the city of Hugo legally described on the attached Exhibit A.

12. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2009-013** as follows:

Approval of Amendment #1 to the
Narcotics Task Force Grant

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Sheriff's Office is authorized to enter into an Amendment agreement with the State of Minnesota, Commissioner of Public Safety, Office of Justice Programs 2008-2009 Narcotics Task Force.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that Sheriff William M. Hutton is hereby authorized to execute and sign this amendment and any amendments thereto, as are necessary to implement the program on behalf of the Washington County Sheriff's Office.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Director of Public Works, presented an overview of the projects that would qualify to be submitted for the economic stimulus package in anticipation of President Barack Obama's proposed American Recovery and Reinvestment Bill of 2009. If the economic stimulus bill is adopted, there will be a short timeframe for projects to be selected, started, and completed during 2009. Potential projects that meet the tentative selection guidelines have been selected by Public Works and discussed. The final selection criteria and eligibility guidelines are not known at this time.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

Commissioner Weik moved to approve changes to individual property valuations for the 2008 assessment year that occurred after meetings of the Local Boards, the County Board of Appeal and Equalization, and the State Board of Equalization. The changes will be reported to the Minnesota Department of Revenue. Many of the changes occurred with the passage of a new market value exclusion program by the 2008 Legislature for certain disabled veterans, and from taxpayers applying for homestead after the original deadline. In addition, changes must be made when property begins to be used for an exempt purpose, goes into property tax forfeiture, or when common elements are created when land is platted. State law requires any of these types of changes to be approved by the County Board. Commissioner Kriesel seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Schug, County Administrator, gave an update on the 2009 legislative session. He noted today was a significant day for counties and cities eager to learn of Governor Pawlenty's budget recommendations. Mr.

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Schug mentioned concerns with cuts in program aid and a preview suggesting there may be significant cuts particularly in health and human service programs which counties deliver on behalf of the state. Mr. Schug noted once this information is available we'll begin analyzing it as will our colleagues in the Minnesota Inter-Counties Association and the Association of Minnesota Counties. Mr. Schug gave an update on last week's hearings in the Senate and House Tax Committees on Senate File 49 and House File 95. These hearings proposed to repeal the provisions adopted last year in the omnibus tax bill providing relief to counties on maintenance of effort, cost shares and matching funds. He noted despite considerable testimony from counties the bill passed out of both committees and likely on the fast track for repeal.

Dan Papin, Director of Community Services, provided the Board with an overview of his testimony as well as his colleagues at the hearings last week.

Mr. Schug spoke on the summaries from the Minnesota Inter-Counties Association and Association of Minnesota Counties related to the Green Acres legislative changes. He said the House Agricultural Finance Committee did hear testimony last week. He understands there will be a number of bills presented to try to address the response received from those currently using the Green Acres Program. He mentioned the House Public Safety Finance Committee had a hearing on the issue about the transfer of costs for legal representation for parents in child protection cases. The committee reviewed a report and recommendation from the Children's Justice Initiative calling for a statewide system to provide this legal representation as opposed to the current county by county method. Mr. Schug reported there will be a hearing held today in the Senate Transportation Committee to review the 2030 Plan for transit.

Mr. Schug recognized and congratulated Commissioner Hegberg on his reappointment by Governor Pawlenty this past week to the Board of Trustees for the Public Employees Retirement Association.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS

Commissioner Hegberg reported the Housing and Redevelopment Authority Board met last week and it is looking at additional scattered sites for low income housing and available options to purchase homes in foreclosure. He noted they are looking at projects in the Cottage Grove area not just in the metropolitan area. He attended a workshop for the Counties Transit Improvement Board last week and heard speakers from Denver and Salt Lake City; these cities are also expected to experience the same growth rates as in the metropolitan area within the next 20 years.

Commissioner Hegberg reported he met with a constituent requesting the placement of a stoplight at County Road 34 and Highway 97 located near the Forest Lake Junior High School. He commented the number of accidents does not warrant a stoplight at this time but this issue does remain on our list.

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Commissioner Pulkrabek mentioned he plans to attend Metropolitan Council State of the Region 2009 meeting on Monday, February 2nd.

Commissioner Kriesel recognized Gregory Reiter, Washington County Sheriff's Office lead investigator, for being named Investigator of the Year by the Tri County Law Enforcement Association last week.

Commissioner Weik reported she met last week with Bill Hargis, Mayor of the city of Woodbury, and Jim McDonough, Ramsey County Commissioner, to discuss transportation needs. She noted they spoke about the quarter cent sales tax and attempts to improve Washington County's return on its contribution. They spoke about the fact Washington County has funded approximately one-half of the alternatives analysis study and are seeking other contributors for the remaining funds needed to complete the analysis.

Commissioner Weik attended the open house at the Woodbury City Hall last week to discuss the I-494 Capacity Expansion (I-94 to Lake Road) Improvements that include pavement overlay and third lane addition. She mentioned the discussions included the topic of the noise wall to be constructed south of Lake Road on I-494.

Commissioner Weik reported the Library Board approved their policy document for 2009. She mentioned discussions it is having about various ways to measure population growth, and needs for future facilities. The Board anticipates bringing a number of ideas to an upcoming Board workshop on February 10th.

Commissioner Peterson met last week with Bart Fischer, Interim Administrator for Newport, leaving to take a deputy administrator position with the city of Chaska. Commissioner Peterson wished him well.

Commissioner Peterson attended a rail meeting on Monday, January 26, with multiple jurisdictions in attendance, discussing voting and prioritizing of projects for the economic stimulus package.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Hegberg moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Pulkrabek, and it was adopted unanimously. The Board meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

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BOARD WORKSHOP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Public Health and Environment to provide the results of the Washington County 2008 Community Health Assessment. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present were Commissioners Peterson, Pulkrabek, Hegberg, Weik, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Lowell Johnson, Sue Hedlund, Stephanie Lenartz, Christine Lee, Kris Keller, Diane Benjamin, Jean Streetar, Jackie Weber, Connie Waldera, Patrick Waletzko, Deb Paige, Amanda Hollis, and Jeff Travis.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Information Technology to review the status of recent investments in fiber optic communications infrastructure and outline the major initiatives planned for the future. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present were Commissioners Peterson, Pulkrabek, Hegberg, Weik, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Mjyke Nelson, Milan Tomaska, Don Theisen, Wayne Sandberg and Harley Will.

Myra Peterson, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator

