

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
SEPTEMBER 16, 2008**

WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY CONVENES

The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority met in regular session at 9:05 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room. Present were Commissioners Peterson, Pulkrabek, Hegberg, Stafford, and Kriesel. Absent none. RRA Chair Peterson presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; Mike Rogers, Senior Planner; Ted Schoenecker, Transportation Manager; Cory Slagle, Transportation Manager; John Elholm, Parks Director; Keith Potter, Facilities Manager; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Steve Gransee, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager; Rebecca Ault; Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Jeff Travis, Public Health and Environment Program Manager; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Commander Steve Pott; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Harley Will, Accounting and Finance Director; Jane Harper, Principal Planner; and David Brierley, Public Information Coordinator. 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 9:10 a.m. in the Washington County Government Center, County Board Room. Present were Commissioners Peterson, Pulkrabek, Hegberg, Stafford, and Kriesel. Absent none. Board Chair Hegberg presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; Mike Rogers, Senior Planner; Ted Schoenecker, Transportation Manager; Cory Slagle, Transportation Manager; John Elholm, Parks Director; Keith Potter, Facilities Manager; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Steve Gransee, Property Records and Taxpayer Services Division Manager; Rebecca Ault; Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Jeff Travis, Public Health and Environment Program Manager; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Commander Steve Pott; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Harley Will, Accounting and Finance Director; Jane Harper, Principal Planner; and David Brierley, Public Information Coordinator.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

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

CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Kriesel moved, seconded by Commissioner Peterson to adopt the following Consent Calendar as follows:

1. Approval of the August 26, and September 2, 2008 Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval of a lease agreement with Toshiba for library copiers for the public.
3. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2008-118** as follows:

Recommending Approval of Conveyance of
Tax Forfeited Land for an Authorized Public Use

WHEREAS, Parcel 30.030.21.43.0018 located in the City of Mahtomedi forfeited for the non-payment of property taxes on August 9, 1991. The City of Mahtomedi made application and acquired the property for the public use of storage of public works equipment on May 19, 1995; and

WHEREAS, the City has determined that it would like to use the parcel for the public use of right of way, storm water treatment, ponding, drainage, and utility right of way purposes; and

WHEREAS, in order to allow the additional public uses, the city must reconvey the parcel to the State of Minnesota and apply for a subsequent conveyance that includes the additional public uses. A copy of the appropriate reconveyance form, executed by the City of Mahtomedi, is included in the packet and will be sent to the State; and

WHEREAS, the City has completed the new application for conveyance (PT Form 962) and the uses identified in the application meet the criteria for public use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners hereby recommends to the Commissioner of Revenue of the State of Minnesota to grant the application for the acquisition of the following parcel:

City: Mahtomedi

PIN: 30.030.21.43.0018

Authorized Public Use: Right of way, Storm water infiltration, storm water treatment, ponding, drainage, and utility right of way

Legal Description: Lot 22 Orchard Homesites, exc to hwy

4. Approval of amendment to the Public Health Preparedness and Cities Readiness initiatives project agreement with the Minnesota Department of Health and authorization for the County Board Chair and County Administrator to enter into the agreement.
5. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2008-119** as follows:

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Final Payment on 2007 Bituminous Road
Overlays-North to Hardrvies, Inc.

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners, on May 1, 2007 approved a bid award to Hardrives, Inc. and signed a contract with said company for overlays on CSAH 2, from State TH 61 to Greenway Avenue North in the City of Forest Lake; CSAH 5, from 500 feet north of State TH 36 to 550 feet north of Croixwood Boulevard in the City of Stillwater; CR 57, from CSAH 7 to 3,790 feet north of Lynch Road in the City of Hugo and May Township; Lake Elmo Regional Park boat launch road and parking lots; and Pine Point parking lot in Stillwater Township; and

WHEREAS, Hardrives, Inc. has satisfactorily completed all work in accordance with the terms and conditions of the contract.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Hardrives, Inc. be paid in full for the said contract work in the amount due indicated on the final payment voucher which is attached herewith and is hereby a part of this resolution.

- 6. Approval to accept the software maintenance agreement with Radio IP Software, Inc. for the squad mobile computer project.
- 7. Approval of Motorola Change Order #11 to the radio service agreement to extend the agreement for three months until December 31, 2008.
- 8. Approval to award contract to Xybix Systems, Inc. for supplying, installing and commissioning communications center furniture for the Washington County Communications Center.
- 9. Approval of the plat of I-94 Plaza Addition located in West Lakeland Township.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

Washington County Environmental Center

Bids were received for construction of the County Environmental Center as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
Jorgenson Construction	\$3,889,000
Ebert Construction	\$3,924,000
Rochon Corporation	\$3,994,000
Merrimac Construction	\$3,998,986
CM Construction	\$4,020,000

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Base Bid</u>
Greystone Construction	\$4,045,157
Lund Martin Construction	\$4,053,000
Morcon Construction	\$4,062,000
Parkos Construction	\$4,072,000
Shaw Lundquist	\$4,167,000
Meisinger Construction	\$4,425,000

Commissioner Stafford moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-120** as follows:

Bid Award for Washington County Environmental Center to Jorgenson Construction, Inc.

WHEREAS, in order to provide for the construction of the Washington County Environmental Center, the county solicited bids for this service; and

WHEREAS, bids were opened on August 28, 2008, with Jorgenson Construction Inc., being the lowest responsible bidder; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLED, that the bid of Jorgenson Construction Inc. be accepted and the county enter into a contract with Jorgenson Construction Inc. for all labor, materials, equipment and services for the construction of the Environmental Center; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the contract between the county and Jorgenson Construction Inc. be executed through the signatures of the Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners and the Washington County Administrator without further action of the County Board conditioned upon compliance with all bid specification requirements and approval as to form by the Washington County Attorney’s office.

Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Award Landscaping, Lighting & Irrigation on Radio Drive

Bids were received for landscaping, lighting and irrigation on Radio Drive as follows:

<u>Bidder</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Noble Nursery Retail, Inc.	\$272,365
Hoffman & McNamara Co.	\$274,743
Woyda & Mortel, Inc.	\$282,205

Commissioner Stafford moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2008-121** as follows:

Bid Award for CSAH 13 Landscaping to Noble Nursery Retail, Inc.

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WHEREAS, in order to complete landscaping, the county solicited bids for this project; and

WHEREAS, bids were opened on September 8, 2008, with Noble Nursery Retail, Inc. being the lowest responsible bidder; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the bid of Noble Nursery Retail, Inc. be accepted and the county enter into a contract with Noble Nursery Retail, Inc. under the terms and conditions set forth in the bid specification documents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the contract between the county and Noble Nursery Retail, Inc. be executed through the signatures of the Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners and the Washington County Administrator without further action of the County Board conditioned upon compliance with all bid specification requirements and approval as to form by the Washington County Attorney's Office.

Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Subsidizing Operating Costs for Commuter Coach Bus Service

Mike Rogers, Senior Transportation Planner, presented an overview of transit operations funding for bus service in Washington County. He outlined the Transit Taxing District in the seven county metro area. He noted that Forest Lake, Hugo and Columbus in Anoka County are not part of the taxing district. Since 2001, property taxes no longer pay for transit operations and it was replaced by the vehicle sales tax. Historically, Washington County has not provided funding for transit operations. It has provided funding for capital facilities such as the Forest Lake Transit Center and property acquisition. It has also provided funding for the development of transitways such as the Red Rock, Rush Line and I-94 corridors. Part of the county's comprehensive plan includes a vision for transit. The county will continue to fund capital facilities and transitway development.

Mr. Rogers stated there are currently two requests for transit operations funding: Route 288 (existing route from Forest Lake to Minneapolis); and a new route from Forest Lake to St. Paul. If the Board decides to put money into operations funding it could set a precedent for future requests for transit. County funding sources are limited to the county levy for bus operations. It is possible that cities outside of the transit taxing district could be included which would provide more capital to keep these services for the long term.

Commissioner Pulkrabek asked for an explanation on what the Transit Taxing District does and how that relates to Forest Lake and Hugo not being in that district. Mr. Rogers stated that being part of the Transit Taxing District does involve an additional tax on residents and property owners within cities that are part of it. When they talked to Forest Lake, he believes the cost would be \$25 for a house valued at \$250,000.

Commissioner Pulkrabek asked who decides who is in the taxing district. Mr. Rogers stated that cities that are not in the taxing district now may request the Met Council to be included. Negotiations would take

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place between the city and Met Council on what they would get out of it, how much it will cost, and does it make sense for the community based on the costs they know they will have to put in for the service. Mr. Rogers indicated that the City of Forest Lake will discuss this matter on September 22 and will ask their staff to start negotiations with Met Council to get into the taxing district. The City of Columbus has directed their staff to do the same. Up until this time there hasn't been a real push to do that. Now that they see that the service is there, there is more of an impetus to get going.

Mr. Rogers stated there is an immediate need for Route 288. Federal funding for this route is tied to the bridge opening and Met Council will cover the cash flow until October 1, 2008. There will be an estimated \$180,000 to \$190,000 operating shortfall to continue this service to December 31, 2008. To cover this shortfall a funding request has been made for \$45,000 to \$50,000 each from Met Council, Washington, Anoka, and Chisago Counties. The request could increase without full participation. If there is no funding agreement, the service from Forest Lake to Minneapolis will stop.

Future costs for Route 288 for 2009 amounts to an estimated \$800,000 operating cost. This amount would be before any fares are subtracted. Funding options are Washington County's 1% from the Counties Transit Improvement Board (CTIB), or levy. This cost could be reduced with an increase to fares from \$2.75 to \$4.75, buy coach buses, and include cities in the transit taxing district.

Commissioner Stafford asked when will Washington County's 1% from CTIB start coming in. Mr. Rogers stated the county would start to receive money on January 1, 2009.

Commissioner Stafford asked would the money come in quarterly. Mr. Rogers stated he believes that's how it would be.

Commissioner Peterson believes the key issue is to have Forest Lake, Columbus, and the contribution from Chisago and Anoka Counties reduce Washington County's initial dollars.

Commissioner Kriesel asked is this a responsibility of the Met Council, or should it be the county's responsibility. Traditionally and historically, hasn't the Met Council stepped up and funded this. Commissioner Peterson stated that the Met Council has not increased its contribution to the operational costs for buses in the last 10 years. In 1993 there was more bus service in her district than there is today.

Commissioner Kriesel asked who is responsible for this, is it Met Council or the counties. Commissioner Peterson stated it is the Met Council's responsibility, but they are not fulfilling that responsibility.

Jim Schug, County Administrator, clarified in response to Commissioner Kriesel's question, which was one of the issues that were mentioned earlier that this would set an expectation or possible precedent for future requests. This morning they will be focusing primarily on continuing the service through the end of the year

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while additional options are being considered. They are not asking for a commitment at this time for all of 2009. Mr. Rogers stated that is correct.

Mr. Rogers stated that the second request is from the Rush Line Task Force for a Forest Lake to St. Paul service starting up in 2009. Their yearly operating cost estimate is the same for Route 288, but because they have Federal money available to pay for bus leases the funding request they are looking to split equally between Anoka, Chisago, Ramsey and Washington Counties is about \$472,200 or \$118,050 from each county. Chisago County has already put this money into their budget for next year to start the service. There are issues with this route including no White Bear Lake Stop, other county commitments, and funding for 2010.

Mr. Rogers stated the key questions raised by Route 288 and the Forest Lake to St. Paul route are: Is it the county's role to fund transit operations? Is it the county's role to fund Route 288 commuter coach service in 2008? Is it the county role to fund route 288 commuter coach service in 2009? And, is it the county role to fund a new Forest Lake to St. Paul commuter coach service in 2009?

The County Board discussed the issue of transit operations funding.

Commissioner Hegberg feels that the county needs to continue Route 288 until the end of the year. At that time, the county will have a better understanding if it will get additional funds from CTIB. He is asking the County Board to continue the service at least until January of 2009.

Commissioner Pulkrabek asked how long has it been known that the Federal money would be going away as far as funding this bus route? How long has it been known when the bridge opening is going to be? Is there any justification or explanation of why the Federal government has decided that all of a sudden this busing is not worth while? Commissioner Pulkrabek asked why should Washington County fund this. Why isn't Forest Lake, the Met Council or the Federal government funding this?

Mr. Rogers stated that two weeks ago was the first meeting they had with Met Council where they said the funding from the Federal Transit Administration would end. The law states that this mitigation money goes away once the bridge is opened. It was appealed and denied. They have heard rumblings for two weeks to a month about when the bridge would open, and that day has changed almost every day. The cost for the remainder of 2008 is \$45,000. The funding source for 2009 is going to be looked upon to be Washington County's responsibility. Between now and 2009 hopefully that will give the cities and Met Council time to negotiate an agreement to get into the Transit Taxing District so that this doesn't become a long-term cost to the county. If they don't fund the service, then the service goes away.

Commissioner Peterson stated that the original concept of CTIB was to grow the system. It is to promote the development of transitways and transit corridors. She believes that if the county funds Route 288 until

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the first of the year that will give Forest Lake, Hugo and those communities an opportunity to join into the taxing district. She asked could the riders in Chisago and Isanti Counties be charged a higher fare box because they are not members of the taxing district. Mr. Rogers stated it is something they can look at, but from his experience from reading things around the country and talking to other Met Council people that is very hard to do.

Commissioner Hegberg stated that is one of the reasons he voted for CTIB because in Chisago County they are shopping primarily in Forest Lake. Also, Washington County residents shop in Maplewood Mall, Rosedale, and the Mall of America so county residents would be paying the sales tax for transportation systems. If Washington County didn't join, they would still be paying for it but the county wouldn't get anything out of it.

Commissioner Pulkrabek feels that Commissioner Hegberg is off base. He hasn't been to Rosedale or Maplewood Mall in probably five years. When he wants to go shopping he goes to Woodbury Lakes or Tamarack for just about anything he needs. He disagrees with that argument. Commissioner Kriesel stated he agrees with Commissioner Pulkrabek.

Commissioner Kriesel stated he is not worrying about continuing Route 288 for the next three months, he believes that \$30,000 is fair to keep it going. He asked how long is Chisago in this agreement? Mr. Rogers stated the Chisago County piece is for the new service, it is not for the 288 service and it is just the one year commitment.

Commissioner Kriesel asked what happens if Washington County opted out January 1, does it still get a portion of funding to continue a bus service or does the bus service end on January 1 if the county opted out. Mr. Rogers stated he will research that question.

Commissioner Kriesel stated the concern he has is eventually the county will have to face up to how long they will keep this bus service going. The information he has today is that it will end on January 1, 2012 if they get the guaranteed money from CTIB for three years. In 2011 if nothing changes the Board will be back asking how it is going to fund the Forest Lake bus service. The whole argument for CTIB was that it would take transit off the back of property taxes. He struggles with where the county will be at in three years. They are getting into the area where Met Council should be stepping up to the plate. If the county funds this for the next three months and keeps it open until January 1 that should allow the county time to talk with the Met Council and find out why they are not stepping up to the plate, particularly if they are going to get Forest Lake and Hugo to join the taxing district. It is hard for him to tell the residents in his district that are paying that taxing district tax that all of a sudden they are reaching in their pockets again to fund operations up in Forest Lake.

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Commissioner Peterson feels that is the issue that is critical. The 2030 Transit Plan is out for public comment. There is virtually no new transit service in the East Metro. The county cannot allow there to be no additional transit service. The Met Council has only raised its budget 1% a year for the past ten years for operational costs, and at the same time they have not dealt with the cost of fuel, the cost of health insurance, and the cost of operating the system, other than to reduce the system. That is their way of dealing with it.

Commissioner Kriesel agreed that the East Metro does not have a lot of transit, but he thought that was what CTIB was about, to be able to bring transit out in this direction. The way he sees it now, none of the CTIB money will be used for studies, that will come out of the county taxpayers' pockets. \$2 million has been spent on the Red Rock Corridor and there are no buses or trains running down there. That is a significant amount of money. How much will be required of Washington County to move the studies forward that will eventually get us transit. It will be 2030 before they see light rail. Obviously the county has to look at investments and move in that direction, the problem he has under the current structure of CTIB is that the county will run out of benefits in three years. From then on it comes at Washington County's expense to pay for studies, justification and everything else.

Commissioner Hegberg noted that those concerns will be discussed at a workshop later this morning. The issue the Board needs to deal with right now is will the county fund \$45,000 to keep Route 288 open until January 1.

Commissioner Hegberg moved to authorize funding to continue Bus Route 288, Forest Lake to Minneapolis, until January 1, 2009. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion.

Commissioner Stafford stated there is CTIB money coming in January, money that has already been paid by county citizens, and it will be distributed in January. Could a deal be worked out with Met Council to run this route until January. When the county gets its CTIB money, it will pay Met Council for the fourth quarter of 2008. That way the funds are not coming from the property tax base and not from the county's reserves, the county is using the money it was originally intended for in the first place. If it is not used and the county pulls out of the CTIB that money is gone anyhow. The down side of that is it will cut into the \$800,000 for 2009 and the next couple of years.

Commissioner Hegberg stated he would look at that as a friendly amendment. Technically the CTIB funds have been collected since July 1.

Commissioner Pulkrabek stated he likes Commissioner Stafford's suggestion; however, what if the Met Council says no. Where does that money come from. Commissioner Hegberg stated it would be Met Council, it would be CTIB. Commissioner Pulkrabek asked if CTIB says no, where would that money come from. Mr. Schug stated the two funding sources identified would be 2008 contingency funds or some type of advance, borrow on the CTIB revenue.

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Commissioner Peterson suggested that the other caveat should be, and she is not sure if it would be part of the motion—she would like the communities who are not a member of the Transit Taxing District to be a part of it. She thinks that is an essential issue, because that is really hard for Stillwater, Oakdale, Cottage Grove, and Woodbury to say the county is going to use property tax dollars, or even CTIB dollars, to fund the service if they are not part of the taxing district.

Commissioner Stafford stated that the question isn't going to CTIB and asking for the county's money, the question is to go to the Met Transit and ask them to fund the operational costs until January, until the county gets the CTIB money where the county then pays them the \$45,000. It is asking for a deferment, having Met Transit front end it until the CTIB funds are distributed. Commissioner Stafford also believes that no community should benefit from all the agony the county is going through right now, unless they have at least applied to Met Council to become a part of the Transit Taxing District, and that would be one of his conditions.

Commissioner Kriesel stated he agrees with Commissioner Stafford and Commissioner Peterson's comments. On this motion, would it be fair to have a contingent built into it that this motion is contingent on Hugo and Forest Lake joining the Transit Taxing District, and also contingent that the Anoka, Chisago and Met Council agree to this.

Commissioner Hegberg stated he would not accept that as a friendly amendment and here's why. Normally the Met Council has no money, even if Forest Lake and Hugo joined they would not be guaranteed any services to Forest Lake or to Hugo. When Lakeville joined they had to go to the Met Council and negotiated certain services for that area. He would not want to push Hugo and Forest Lake into joining without some sort of guarantee that the service would continue on. It is outside of CTIB.

Commissioner Stafford stated the ultimate goal is that these cities should be in the system, but for this immediate remedy it can be said that the people in Chisago County, Hugo and Forest Lake have been paying the sales tax, they have been shopping in the metro area, so they have in effect put some money into CTIB. That gets back to his friendly amendment of having Route 288 approved provided it is funded out of CTIB money for the fourth quarter.

Commissioner Pulkrabek agrees with Commissioner Kriesel, Hugo and Forest Lake have already been receiving the bus service. To say all of a sudden that they shouldn't have to pay for it—he would at least make it contingent on that they at least apply to be in the Transit Taxing District. He would also like to see in writing from CTIB that the county will get reimbursed for this money spent at the end of the year. He will support continuing Route 288 until the end of the year on those two conditions. Anything short of that he will not support it.

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Commissioner Hegberg stated that the county is collecting part of the sales tax as of today and the county will have some funds from CTIB regardless. Commissioner Pulkrabek stated if the county can spend it anyway it wants then there shouldn't be any problem with getting that in writing.

Mr. Schug stated that CTIB meets tomorrow, and there is a workshop following the meeting to go over the agenda and that could be discussed at that time. There was preliminary discussion and they seemed to be receptive to giving the county an early assurance or partial settlement of the money that is being collected now but they do not have anything in writing. He is concerned about the number of contingencies that are trying to be built into the motion. The other alternative would be to have staff go back, check on a few things, get some type of assurance from CTIB that the money could be used and would be reimbursed to Washington County so that it isn't property tax money. Metro Transit has said that they would fund \$45,000 or a quarter of it. That wouldn't be enough to cash flow service through the end of the year. The county could approach them as to whether or not they would fund it through the end of the year without the assurance that they would be reimbursed the other 75% of the cost.

Commissioner Kriesel moved to table his motion to authorize funding to continue Bus Route 288, Forest Lake to Minneapolis, until January 1, 2009 for one week. Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Mr. Schug stated in preparation for next week's meeting, the following items will be clarified: Check with CTIB to see if funding would be available between now and the end of the year to cover the cost; staff will contact the Metropolitan Council to ask if they are willing to fund this service through 2008; and contact the cities of Forest Lake and Hugo to see if they are inclined to petition to join the Transit Taxing District.

Commissioner Peterson suggested a letter from the County Board to the communities of Forest Lake and Hugo suggesting that they participate in the Transit Taxing District and state that it is unfair for the other municipalities within the county that have paid into the taxing district for many years, that in order to continue this service, the Board would like them to join the taxing district.

George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney, cautioned the Board from a legal perspective. If the Board does craft all of these contingencies, it may make this joint powers agreement unworkable. It's funding, but it will actually end up being a Joint Powers Agreement. If the Board crafts all these contingencies it will probably make a joint powers agreement, at least for the end of the year, unworkable. There are legal ramifications for all of these contingencies.

Commissioner Peterson noted there was a piece of legislation last year that would have made the entire seven county metropolitan area a part of the Transit Taxing District for capital expenditures, but it was

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vetoed by the Governor. She believes it should be a part of the legislative agenda this next year that Washington County supports all seven metropolitan counties be a part of the Transit Taxing District for capital improvements.

Commissioner Stafford stated he was concerned about the County Attorney's legal statement. Why would a resolution by this Board dealing with how it would subsidize a bus service in Forest Lake complicate the Joint Powers Agreement. Mr. Kuprian stated he wasn't talking about the CTIB Joint Powers Agreement. This cooperative funding mechanism for the end of the year is in essence a Joint Powers Agreement, all the counties would be agreeing to put in \$45,000, so that in essence is a Joint Powers Agreement. Those are the contingencies he believes the Board wanted to put on that particular small Joint Powers Agreement.

Mr. Schug stated that they will use this next week to try and get as many answers as they can. At that point staff would ask the Board to vote the motion up or down. He does not believe the contingencies can be carried forward when there may be some parties that wouldn't even plan to act on this by the end of the year.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Purchase of Grundhofer Property for Use in the Big Marine Regional Park

Commissioner Peterson moved to approve the use of Land and Water Legacy Program funds to purchase property from Jerry and Lois Grundhofer in Big Marine Regional Park. Commissioner Stafford seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Peterson distributed a copy of a Joe Mauer book from MELSA and Macy's. It shows the partnership that MELSA is developing with Macy's. They also collaborated on the museum passes. She thought it would be interesting if Library staff would talk to local elected officials, civic leaders, and community celebrities, to ask them what their favorite childhood book was and what book they are currently reading to promote the idea that reading is important. She would then take that information and use it on the County Insight program. She attended the 3M 60th Birthday party. It was an impressive list of things that 3M and their employees gave back to the communities. She updated the Board on the Wakota Bridge. The pylons on the east and west are done and they are working on the middle section pylons. Beginning next spring they will be doing the decking for the bridge and it will open in 2010. This Sunday Lois Schultz, a long-time Oakdale employee will turn 80. They are having a birthday party for her at Lake Elmo Inn. She would like to present her with a certificate recognizing her for her contribution to Washington County and for being an outstanding citizen. She noted that Bernie McHattie, Cottage Grove, passed away. Bernie and Ralph Mchattie were instrumental in Cottage Grove, they were part of the incorporation, they were on the first city council and Bernie was always the lady behind the man. It's really sad to see so many of these

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Senior Citizens pass away. She also reported on the MICA meeting she attended and will share a census update that was given by the State Demographer Tom Gillaspay. She distributed an article from the Transportation Alliance about more people traveling on transit in the second quarter of 2008.

Commissioner Pulkrabek reported on the razing of Blackies Restaurant last week in Oakdale. This is the beginning of redevelopment in that area. He received calls from people who attended the Blue Grass Festival held at the Lake Elmo Park Reserve and was advised that it was a good time. He also noted that John Brandl of the Humphrey Institute passed away last month. He was a Washington County resident and spoke at the League of Local Governments event a few years back. He distributed an article that Senator Kathy Saltzman wrote in the Stillwater Gazette talking about the funding for the Counties Transit Improvement Board.

Commissioner Kriesel reported that he will be meeting with residents, local businesses and staff at the Liberty Village Café for an appreciation luncheon related to the reconstruction of Manning Avenue. There will be an open house for the Holiday Station in West Lakeland on September 29.

Commissioner Stafford stated he received a phone call and an e-mail yesterday as a result of an article that was in the St. Paul Pioneer Press yesterday regarding the Counties Transit Improvement Board funding. The e-mail was an "I told you so" response and the phone caller gave him an opportunity to explain his concerns about transit. The phone caller ended up agreeing with him and it felt good. He got two negative communications and one ended up being a positive.

Commissioner Hegberg stated he also received phone calls for and against buses. This morning he got a call from a gentleman asking if it is settled that he can ride the bus until the end of the year. He indicated that it was not settled yet because the funding hasn't been approved. His concern is that he has to line up parking. As the Board debates this subject, the people riding the bus have to deal with life's issues and those issues are where do I park in downtown Minneapolis, if there are buses will they be larger so they don't have to stand for 30 minutes to take the bus to Minneapolis. He met yesterday with the City of Forest Lake to discuss the Broadway project. They are looking at alternatives for Lake Street and Highway 61. He is not promoting one alternative over the other, but there have been over 85 accidents with injuries in that corridor in a three-year time period. Commissioner Hegberg reported that he met with Met Council, the cities of Columbus, Forest Lake, and Chisago County. Hugo wasn't there because they do not have bus service at this time. Forest Lake wouldn't either if it wasn't for special funding that came about because of the bridge collapse. The bus system has worked in Forest Lake and a number of people are using it. He is giving out Commissioner awards to Lake Area Bank, and AmericInn for the donation and storing of mattresses for the Mental Health group in Washington County. He is also giving a Commissioner award to Ann Miron, the 2007 Princess Kay of the Milky Way. She is from Hugo and did an outstanding job.

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BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Hegberg adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Property Records and Taxpayer Services to discuss legislative changes to the Green Acres program and agricultural classification. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Peterson, Hegberg, and Stafford. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Kevin Corbid, Bruce Munneke, Steve Gransee, Harley Will, and Kevin Giles, Star Tribune.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Public Works for an update on the Counties Transit Improvement Board meeting that will be held on September 17. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Peterson, Hegberg, and Stafford. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Ted Schoenecker, Mike Rogers, and Kevin Giles, Star Tribune.

Dennis C. Hegberg, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator