

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA
APRIL 7, 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 Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Peterson, Weik, and Kriesel. Absent none. Board Chair Peterson presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; Linda Krafthefer, Assistant County Attorney; Harley Will, Director of Accounting and Finance; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Jon Larson, Veteran's Service Officer; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment; Sue Hedlund, Deputy Public Health and Environment Director; Jean Streetar, Program Manager; Fred Anderson, Epidemiologist; Jeff Travis, Program Manager; Don Theisen, Public Works Director; Cory Slagle, Transportation Manager; Ted Schoenecker, Transportation Planning Manager; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; John Elholm, Parks Director; Mike Polehna, Parks Manager; Keith Potter, Facilities Manager; Patricia Conley, Library Director; Vicki DeFord, Deputy Human Resources Director; Julie Sorrem, Risk Manager; Sheriff Bill Hutton; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; Barb Fritsche, I.T. Supervisor; Director; and David Brierley, Public Information Coordinator.

The Board recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Dan Dolan, 7120 Glen Road, Woodbury – Mr. Dolan is the President of the Washington County Agricultural Society. He stated he was here to answer questions posed to him by various Commissioners. He distributed information on the number of people working at the University of Minnesota Extension and the various areas they work in; Extension source of funding; Extension expenditures; comparisons between Washington County and other metropolitan counties related to 4-H headcount and ratios; Washington County 4-H operating costs; 4-H Program Coordinator job description; and a breakdown of where 4-H members in Washington County live.

CONSENT CALENDAR

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

1. Approval of the March 17 and 24, 2009 Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to appoint Richard Thron, West Lakeland, to the Groundwater Advisory Committee as a Well Drilling Representative to a first term expiring December 31, 2010.

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3. Approval to appoint Robert Bankers, Woodbury, to the Groundwater Advisory Committee as a Construction Representative, to a first term expiring December 31, 2010.
4. Approval to appoint Peg Killen, Woodbury, to the Workforce Investment Board representing Rehabilitation Services, to a first term expiring June 30, 2012.
5. Approval of revisions to County Policy #2901, Revenue and Expenditure Object Codes and Definitions.
6. Approval to accept a \$250 donation from Rollx Vans to be deposited in the Veterans Service Office emergency assistance fund.
7. Approval to renew applications for consumption and display permit and on sale and Sunday liquor license for the Disabled Veteran's Rest Camp Association, Inc. for the period of April 1, 2009 through March 31, 2010.
8. 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.
9. Approval of the Volunteer Management Services project agreement with the Community Volunteer Service and Senior Centers and authorization for the County Board Chair and County Administrator to enter in the agreement.
10. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2009-026** as follows:

Final Payment on CSAH 8 Construction Project to
Arnt Construction

WHEREAS, the Washington County Board of Commissioners, on February 14, 2006 approved a bid award to Arnt Construction and signed a contract with said company for grading, aggregate base, bituminous paving, storm sewer, concrete curb and gutter, concrete walk, bituminous path, turf establishment, signing, striping, traffic control signals, sanitary sewer, and watermain on County State Aid Highways 14 and 8 between I-35E and TH 61 in Lino Lakes, Anoka County and Hugo, Washington County, Minnesota.

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Arnt Construction 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.

11. Approval to request proposals for concessionaire operations at Point Douglas Park.

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12. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2009-027** as follows:

Trunk Highway 5 Detour Agreement with Minnesota
Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT)

IT IS RESOLVED that Washington County enter into Mn/DOT Agreement No. 94255 with the State of Minnesota Department of Transportation for the following purposes:

To provide for payment by the State to the County for the use of County State Aid Highway No. 17 (Lake Elmo Avenue North) as a detour route during grading, drainage and bituminous surfacing construction and other associated construction upon, along, and adjacent to Trunk Highway No. 5 from 1,460 feet west of Trunk Highway No. 694 to 1,000 feet north of 53rd Street in accordance with State Plans, specifications and special provisions designated as Project No. 8214-143 (T.H. 5=045).

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the County Board Chair and County Administrator are authorized to execute the Agreement and any amendments to the Agreement.

13. Approval of contract with Ruffridge-Johnson Equipment Company, Inc. to purchase one Midland Self Propelled road widener for the fleet maintenance division.
14. Approval to amend the contract with Waste Management to extend the contract term to December 31, 2009 for trash hauling services through the signatures of the Chair of the Washington County Board of Commissioners and the Washington County Administrator without further action from the County Board.
15. Approval of permit for Southeast Area YMCA to operate a Day Camp at Lake Elmo Park Reserve, Group Camp Site #2.
16. Approval of agreement with CenterPoint Energy to provide natural gas installation and services to the new Environmental Center located in Woodbury and a development cash incentive to be paid to the county.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Briana Goodreau, SOS Technologies, presented an overview of the Philips HeartStart Defibrillator which is designed to be used by the layperson, it is safe, effective, small, lightweight, and low maintenance.

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Julie Sorrem, Risk Manager, reviewed the new Automated External Defibrillator (AED) Plan, Policy #5435. The AED's are now in county parks, the Law Enforcement Center and squads, and the Public Works North Shop. The new AED's will be placed in the Cottage Grove Service Center, Government Center, Headwaters Service Center, Historic Courthouse, Libraries, and the Woodbury Service Center. The plan outlines the locations of the AEDs, types of AED equipment, plan authorization/responsibility, maintenance, list of job classifications (first aid/CRP/AED trained), medical emergency procedures, post incident procedures, and training.

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to adopt Policy #5435, Automated External Defibrillator Plan. Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC WORKS

CSAH 18 Road Construction Project Contract

Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve Supplemental Agreements #2 and #3 to the CSAH 18 road construction project contract with Forest Lake Contracting. Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Corridor Access Plan with Woodbury

Commissioner Weik moved to approve the Memorandum of Understanding for Corridor Access Management Plan with the City of Woodbury for the following corridors: Bailey Road (County Highway 18) from Military Road to Manning Avenue; Radio Drive (County Highway 13) from Bailey Road to Military Road; and Woodbury Drive (County Highway 19) from Bailey Road to the south city limits. Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

Lowell Johnson, Director of Public Health and Environment, presented an overview of the Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) to address chronic diseases and rising health care costs, targeting tobacco use and obesity. In the recently completed Community Health Assessment obesity was prioritized as the number one health concern in Washington County. Tobacco use was also identified as a top health concern as it is a major factor in heart disease, stroke and cancer.

Commissioner Peterson asked if this program will be evaluated by the county. Mr. Johnson stated there is a specific evaluation component with this grant. The county needs to show results.

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Commissioner Peterson stated the four cities that were chosen, Minneapolis, St. Paul, Willmar, and Rochester, are traditional cities, no suburban areas are represented. Suburban areas have been designed to accommodate travel by car. She hoped that the county would work with policy makers and planning commission members in the redesign of communities to promote healthier activities.

Commissioner Pulkrabek asked is the money for this project coming from the tobacco settlement of a few years ago. Mr. Johnson stated that the funding for the Statewide Health Improvement Plan comes from the Healthcare Access fund, which is the 2% provider tax from medical clinics and hospitals.

Commissioner Pulkrabek stated if these are different phases and if the legislature, for whatever reason, decides not to fund them, does this program just go away, there is no expectation that this will suddenly fall on the property tax. Mr. Johnson stated it is his understanding at this point in time there is no expectation of an ongoing maintenance of effort type of model. While these dollars are available they will be granted to local health departments.

Commissioner Pulkrabek referred to claims that the Cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Willmar and Rochester have been doing this, and that there is evidence that it is working. He asked to see the data that this is the case before he would move to approve this project. Mr. Johnson stated he does not have those statistics with him today, but he can get that information. He indicated that the grant proposal is due on Monday to the State Health Department.

Commissioner Hegberg stated that Mayo Clinic had a speaker at the AMC conference who spoke about this program and if you want to hold health care costs down, physical activity and good healthy living standards are important.

Commissioner Kriesel agreed with Commissioner Pulkrabek and how to measure success. What goals are to be achieved. He gets nervous about government getting into too much social engineering. He supports the mission of providing opportunities for education, but he is concerned about intervention and policy.

Commissioner Weik stated she agrees with the comments of Commissioners Pulkrabek and Kriesel, however, she can support this Phase 1 proposal and she sees it as a mission of the county through the parks and the development of trails and education through the library system to facilitate programs for children and families to help engage them in physical activity and using better nutrition options. She sees no harm in that. She did ask that staff come back with a detailed proposal before Phase 2 is approved.

Commissioner Hegberg moved to authorize the Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment to submit a proposal to the Minnesota Department of Health as part of the Minnesota Statewide Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) to address tobacco and obesity health issues, in the amount of

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\$75,000. Commissioner Weik seconded the motion and it was adopted 3-2 with the vote as follows: Yes, Commissioners Hegberg, Peterson, and Weik; No, Commissioners Pulkrabek and Kriesel.

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Jim Schug, County Administrator, presented a brief legislative update as follows: the Green Acres bill has now passed both the House and Senate and includes an additional program that was discussed a few weeks ago; authorization for a county based sales tax is getting a lot of attention and he will discuss that further; under the Public Safety area, two bills on eliminating the short-term offender program seem to be moving forward; one eliminates the short-term offender program and the other gives the State some opportunity to provide for an early release of some prisoners to supervised release in the community which would have an impact on the county probation system; there are some additional requests for raising revenue through higher fees on court documents, increase in attorney licensure, increase the public defender co-payments, and other miscellaneous fine increases which are meant to restore some of the lost funding that the State is anticipating; the House bonding bill was voted on last evening and includes \$250,000 for the I-94 corridor study, the Rush Line Park and Ride was proposed for \$500,000, and \$5 million for the high speed rail project; in Health and Human Services a bill has been discussed having to do with transportation for non-emergency medical care; and there is a North Star Care for Children proposal that would transfer revenue currently being paid for foster care to homes where there is a subsidy for adoption.

Mr. Schug reviewed the county .5% sales tax. Under this proposal counties would be given the authority to levy .5% sales tax that would be in addition to the sales tax currently collected in Washington County. That would raise approximately \$10 million in county sales tax revenue. Currently there is approximately \$7.4 million in county program aid that the county is scheduled to receive this year. If the sales tax were not implemented there would be a reduction in county program aid of about \$3.3 million, leaving about \$4 million in county program aid. If the county did adopt the .5% sales tax, the county program aid would be reduced by \$5.9 million, but the county would be collecting \$10 million in sales tax, the difference would be a net gain of \$4.2 million.

Commissioner Peterson asked for a legal opinion to find out if in fact this were implemented, could the State take away the dollars, or because the county voted it in is it the county's money.

PROPERTY RECORDS AND TAXPAYER SERVICES

Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services, stated that the two day event reducing passport photos from \$15 to \$5 was very successful. During the two days they handled 267 passport applications and 418 passport photos. He believes they would have gotten about 60 of those applications regardless of doing this, so the net increase was about 200.

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Mr. Schug advised the Board that there is a proposed bill as part of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Bill that would exempt DNR wildlife management areas from certain local ordinances.

Commissioner Hegberg moved to oppose Section 6 of the Department of Natural Resources Bill that would exempt DNR wildlife management areas from certain local ordinances. Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Peterson supported the motion, but she asked staff to review this matter further.

Mr. Schug stated that as part of its legislative platform, Washington County had supported a Metro-wide transit tax. There have been some procedural problems, so that item was pulled. He suggested waiting to see if there might be broader support, because it is a bill that affects more than Washington County.

911 CALL CENTER

Sheriff Hutton informed the Board that the new 911 Call Center opened at 4:00 a.m. Things are going well with just a few minor phone issues. There are personnel in the old and new communication centers to make sure things will go as seamless as possible. Next week he will be coming before the Board with a resolution recognizing the Public Safety Dispatchers in Washington County and an award the Call Center received from the State Organization in regards to the Hugo Tornado.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS

Commissioner Hegberg apologized to his fellow Board members for his misjudgment and improper behavior of driving while intoxicated a couple weeks ago.

Commissioner Hegberg reported on his trip to Washington D.C. last week for the Transportation Fly-in. He met with a number of Members of Congress to discuss transportation and transit issues. He believes they were successful in getting authorization for the I-94 corridor study. They also discussed high-speed rail and the Stillwater Bridge.

Commissioner Hegberg stated that the City of Forest Lake will reconsider their vote about joining the transit taxing district. That will be considered on April 13. He will be there advocating for its passage. He also attended the Hugo City Council meeting last evening. Hugo talked about the assessors and the Green Acres program. They also discussed the Yellow Ribbon Initiative and will become active in it. The City of Forest Lake is also looking at it.

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Commissioner Kriesel stated he has a Grant Evaluation and Ranking System (GEARS) Committee this week and the Metro Emergency Services Board.

Commissioner Weik reported on a Chamber Lunch for the I-94 corridor and that Ramsey County Commissioner Jim McDonough was the speaker. The message was about economic development along transit corridors and to update the business leaders from Woodbury to let them know the progress on other metro transit projects and the recently signed joint powers agreement by Ramsey and Washington Counties. She has been attending several meetings on the Yellow Ribbon Initiative and informed the Board that former Commissioner Dick Stafford is also working on the initiative, as is the City of Woodbury. On Thursday afternoon she will tour the Idea Farm in Afton.

Commissioner Peterson reported there are a number of people in her district who are upset about 3M asking the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for authority to have other states and businesses bring their waste to Cottage Grove to be burned. 3M is sending their manufacturing overseas and they are also reducing the amount of waste that needs to be burned. The MPCA was supposed to meet on April 15 to discuss that issue, but it has been postponed.

Commissioner Peterson met with the State Rail Committee yesterday and the extension of the North Star Corridor was brought forward. There is a new corridor called the Little Crow which comes in from Willmar into Minneapolis. She will meet with the Newport City Council and county staff to update them on Red Rock Rail activities.

Commissioner Pulkrabek stated he received a couple of calls about allowing pets in county parks. He thinks it might be time to revisit that issue. He asked for information about the Federal tax on cigarettes that was just increased and how and if that would affect the county. Will that go back to the states and then go to community groups or the county?

Commissioner Weik addressed the ad that was placed in the Sunday St. Paul Pioneer Press and noted that it is not a paid advertisement from Washington County. It is entitled "How to Stop Flushing Money Away on Your Property Tax".

Mr. Schug announced that the workshop to review the draft Historical Resources and Parks and Open Space Chapters of the 2030 Comp Plan will be moved to the April 14 agenda.

BOARD CORRESPONDENCE

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

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ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Kriesel moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Pulkrabek and it was adopted unanimously. The Board meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC WORKS

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Public Works to discuss the request to amend the boundary of the Big Marine Park Reserve. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Peterson, Weik, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Don Theisen, John Elholm, Mike Welling, Dennis O'Donnell, Linda Krafthefer, and Mary Divine, Pioneer Press.

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 the final 2009 property taxes. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Peterson, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Kevin Corbid, and Joanne Helm.

BOARD WORKSHOP WITH PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT

The Board met in workshop session with the Department of Public Health and Environment to discuss Minnesota's electronics waste collection law. No business was transacted and the public was welcome to attend. Present for the workshop session were Commissioners Hegberg, Pulkrabek, Peterson, and Kriesel. Also present were Jim Schug, Molly O'Rourke, Lowell Johnson, Judy Hunter, Sue Hedlund, Jeff Travis, and Adam Frederick.

Myra Peterson, Chair
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug
County Administrator

