

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY BOARD  
WASHINGTON COUNTY, MINNESOTA  
JUNE 9, 2009**

**WASHINGTON COUNTY REGIONAL RAILROAD AUTHORITY CONVENES**

The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority 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. RRA Chair Peterson presided. Also present were James Schug, County Administrator; Molly O'Rourke, Deputy Administrator; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Doug Johnson, County Attorney; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; Ted Schoenecker, Transportation Manager; John Elholm, Parks Director; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Robert Crawford, Workforce Center Division Manager; Josh Beck, Associate Planner; Amanda Hollis, Management Analyst I; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Harley Will, Accounting and Finance Director; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; David Brierley, Public Information Coordinator; and Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Coordinator II. 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 9:14 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; George Kuprian, Assistant County Attorney; Doug Johnson, County Attorney; Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director; Ted Schoenecker, Transportation Manager; John Elholm, Parks Director; Dan Papin, Community Services Director; Robert Crawford, Workforce Center Division Manager; Josh Beck, Associate Planner; Amanda Hollis, Management Analyst I; Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services; Chief Deputy Sheriff Mike Johnson; Mjyke Nelson, Information Technology Director; Harley Will, Accounting and Finance Director; Tom Adkins, Community Corrections Director; David Brierley, Public Information Coordinator; and Yvonne Klinnert, Public Information Coordinator II.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

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

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**CONSENT CALENDAR**

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

1. Approval of the May 26, 2009 Board meeting minutes.
2. Approval to appoint Jeralyn Jargo, Stillwater, to the Workforce Investment Board, representing Education, to a first term expiring June 30, 2012.
3. Adoption of **Resolution No. 2009-058** as follows:

Lawful Gambling Exemption for Hastings Chapter  
of Ducks Unlimited

WHEREAS, the Hastings Chapter of Ducks Unlimited has made application to the Gambling Control Board for the exemption from certain requirements contained in M.S. 349.166 sub 2 in order to conduct a raffle at The Point, 12378 Point Douglas Dr., Hastings (Denmark Township), 55033.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Washington County Board of Commissioners does not oppose issuance of exemption consistent with the application.

4. Approval and execution of a license to the Picnic Basket, Inc. for the use of a portion of the grounds at Point Douglas Park to operate a concession stand.
5. Approval to accept amendment to Joint Powers Agreement with the State of Minnesota, Commissioner of Corrections, to house Minnesota Department of Corrections offenders in the Washington County Jail for a daily per diem of \$56.10 and extend the contract through June 30, 2010.
6. Approval of the 2009 Federal boating safety supplemental grant in the amount of \$25,708 to purchase a 19 ½ foot commercial boat, motor and trailer to station on Forest Lake.

The foregoing Consent Calendar was adopted unanimously.

**PUBLIC WORKS****Manning Avenue and Gateway Trail**

Commissioner Kriesel moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2009-059** as follows:

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Cooperative Construction Agreement with State of Minnesota  
 Department of Natural Resources for the Gateway Trail  
 County State Aid Highway 15 Crossing

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Natural Resources has planned and intends to construct a separated trail crossing of the Gateway Trail over Manning Avenue (CSAH 15) in Washington County; and

WHEREAS, Washington County, through its 2009 Capital Improvement Program allocated \$100,000.00 towards the construction of this Trail Crossing; and

WHEREAS, the State and the county are authorized under Minnesota Statutes Section 471.59 to enter into agreements to jointly or cooperatively exercise common powers; and

WHEREAS, the plans for the Trail Crossing have been developed by the State and approved by the County Engineer; and

WHEREAS, the construction of this Trail Crossing has numerous safety benefits for both trail and highway users; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the County of Washington hereby approves the Gateway State Trail Highway 15/Manning Avenue Crossing Cooperative Agreement and authorizes the proper county officers to execute such agreement and any amendments, and thereby assume for and on behalf of the county all of the contractual obligations contained therein.

Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

**Response to Petition to Assume Ownership of Goodview Avenue**

Wayne Sandberg, Deputy Public Works Director, presented a brief overview of a petition for Washington County to assume ownership of Goodview Avenue which is located in the Cities of Grant and Hugo and White Bear Township in Ramsey County. Goodview Avenue runs north and south and is approximately 2.1 miles long. A segment in White Bear Township and Grant is gravel the rest is paved. Goodview Avenue is classified as a local street and a local collector. It lacks shoulders and is not designed for trucks. The adjacent use is exclusively residential and traffic volumes are low. The Washington County Comp Plan does not contemplate this as a county route.

Mr. Sandberg presented two options for the Board to consider: Option 1) Unilaterally assume ownership of Goodview Avenue through resolution which would mean that the county would be expected to pave the roadway, build to a 10 ton design and it would become a truck route; however, it is not state aid eligible so the use of levy or wheelage tax would be needed; or, Option 2) take no action thereby denying the request of the petitioners, ownership of Goodview Avenue would remain with the cities and township, the gravel road issues will remain, and there would need to be continued dialog with communities on a potential solution. Mr. Sandberg concluded that Goodview Avenue currently is not a candidate as a county road, and recommended Option 2 and would support continued efforts to develop a plan to pave the roadway.

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Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve Option 2 and deny the petition for Washington County to assume ownership of Goodview Avenue. Commissioner Peterson seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Hegberg asked that the county continue to work with the cities and township to develop a plan for Goodview Avenue.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES**

### **Neighborhood Stabilization Program Grant Agreement**

Commissioner Pulkrabek moved to adopt **Resolution No. 2009-060** as follows:

Resolution Authorizing Washington County Community Services  
to Enter Into a Grant Agreement with Minnesota Housing for  
Neighborhood Stabilization Program Funds

WHEREAS, the federal Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) appropriated \$3.92 billion in federal funds for emergency assistance for redevelopment of abandoned and foreclosed homes and residential properties, through a grant program commonly referred to as the Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP); and

WHEREAS, the goal of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program is to diminish house vacancy rates, reverse the decline of property values, and stabilize neighborhoods negatively impacted by foreclosure and abandonment; and

WHEREAS, the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008 (HERA) provides that grants under the Neighborhood Stabilization Program shall be treated as though such funds are Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, the state of Minnesota through Minnesota Housing received approximately \$38 million in NSP funding from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Housing issued a request for applications for Neighborhood Stabilization Program funds in counties most impacted abandoned and foreclosed homes; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Housing required that eligible applicants administer Community Development Block Grant (Community Development Block Grant) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Community Services is the organization that is responsible for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; and

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WHEREAS, Washington County has seen a rapid increase in foreclosures and vacant properties; and

WHEREAS, Washington County Community Services applied, in partnership with the Washington County HRA, the City of Cottage Grove, the City of Oakdale, and Two Rivers Community Land Trust, to Minnesota Housing for \$1,642,035 in NSP funds; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Housing has allocated \$1,642,035 in NSP funds to Washington County Community Services to meet the goals of the Neighborhood Stabilization Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Washington County Board of Commissioners authorizes a grant agreement between Washington County Community Services and Minnesota Housing and that the County Board Chair and the County Administrator are authorized to execute the grant agreement.

Commissioner Hegberg seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

Commissioner Pulkrabek left the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

#### **Workforce Investment Act 2009 Local Unified Plan Update**

Robert Crawford, Workforce Center Division Manager, presented an overview of the 2009 Workforce Investment Act Local Unified Plan Update. The plan covers veterans, dislocated workers, economically disadvantaged, adults and seniors. In 2009 there are increased funds in the amount of \$734,905 for the dislocated workers program, adults program and senior program. Funding amounts for the state dislocated workers are still pending.

Commissioner Hegberg moved to approve the Washington County Workforce Center's 2009 Local Unified Plan Update as required by the Federal Workforce Investment Act. Commissioner Kriesel second the motion and it was adopted unanimously; Commissioner Pulkrabek absent.

Commissioner Pulkrabek returned to the meeting.

#### **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

##### **Appointments to the Metropolitan Airports Commission Joint Airport Zoning Board for the Lake Elmo Airport**

Commissioner Kriesel moved to approve the appointment of former Commissioner R.H. Stafford and Washington County Senior Planner Dennis O'Donnell to the Metropolitan Airports Commission Joint Airport Zoning Board for the Lake Elmo Airport. Commissioner Pulkrabek seconded the motion and it was adopted unanimously.

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**Performance Measurement Annual Report**

Amanda Hollis, Management Analyst I, presented an overview of the 2008 Annual Performance Measurement Report.

Commissioner Hegberg stated that in next year's report he would like to see comparisons for the five past years and also five years previous to that to see growth in the county or where there may be areas or services that are no longer needed.

**Next Week's Board Meeting**

Jim Schug, County Administrator, announced that next week the County Board will meet as the Board of Appeal and Equalization. By statute that meeting will start at 5:00 p.m. and must continue to at least 7:00 p.m. The county is also hosting a meeting at 3:00 p.m. with horse boarders from throughout the county and local units of government in which the horse boarding operations are located in order to talk with them about concerns that have been raised during the valuation process. The County Board will start at 2:00 p.m.

Commissioner Pulkrabek asked why there was a drop in the number of cases to be heard at the Board of Appeal and Equalization.

Kevin Corbid, Director of Property Records and Taxpayer Services, stated there are a number of reasons why the number of cases went down. In some cases property owners got appraisals for the department or information that after review staff agreed that an adjustment was warranted. There were a number of cases where a taxpayer did not provide any additional information and when staff called them back to finalize plans for their appointment they informed staff that they did not want to appear. Some signed up prior to the local board finishing, and if the local board made an adjustment and they felt that was reasonable they canceled their appointment. A number of commercial property owners signed up. Staff sent out letters that in order to consider their appeal they need to give the county copies of appraisals, copies of income and expense, copies of rent roles and lease information. A lot decided they didn't want to share that with the county and would go to tax court. There are approximately 17 to 19 appellants who will appear.

Commissioner Weik mentioned that she will be in Chicago next week for an American Public Transportation Association Rail Conference so will miss the week's meeting.

**COMMISSIONER REPORTS – COMMENTS – QUESTIONS**

Commissioner Peterson noted that a former Mayor of Woodbury, Dan Guider, passed away last week. He was a friend before he was a Mayor. He made many contributions to Woodbury and to South Washington County.

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Commissioner Weik noted that the Pioneer Press had a nice obituary for Mr. Guider that outlined his years of service, quotes from friends and colleagues that the City of Woodbury owes Mr. Guider a great debt. Her sympathy and thoughts are with the family.

Commissioner Weik stated she will be taking the Amtrak train to Chicago for the Rail Conference. It's an eight hour train ride. If there is high speed rail into the Twin Cities from Chicago in the future, close to three hours will be taken off that trip. She will be returning on June 23. She noted that she will not be here for the July 7 Board meeting.

Commissioner Weik noted that the City of Woodbury will consider appealing the Board of Water and Soil Resources decision to expand the South Washington Watershed District. She will try to attend the council meeting for that discussion.

Commissioner Weik reported that Councilwomen Julie Ohs has had a couple meetings to get orientated with the Yellow Ribbon Initiative in Woodbury. There is an effort also to form a steering committee in the City of Woodbury. They are tentatively preparing a kick-off event for September.

Commissioner Weik will attend a meeting with Commissioner Pulkrabek and Woodbury staff tomorrow morning to discuss the Northeast Business Park proposal.

Commissioner Weik announced that local churches in Cottage Grove have been offering free meals once a week for those who have been laid off and families struggling to feed their family a nutritious meal.

Commissioner Kriesel reported on the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board meeting he attended last week which discussed the 2010 budget. The Audit Committee met and Washington County came out with a good report from the external auditors. Last evening he attended the West Lakeland Town Board and made a presentation on the Yellow Ribbon Initiative.

Commissioner Hegberg reported on the Resource Recovery Budget meeting. The system is now 30 years old, technology is changing rapidly, and there is a waste processing technology forum that will be held on June 26. He attended the Public Risk Management Association conference in Dallas last week. He rode all the rail systems in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. He believes Minnesota is doing a better job in designing the system and making it more accessible to the handicapped and elderly. The insurance industry is in a lot of change and reinsurance will be a bigger issue for the county and will affect the rates in the future.

Commissioner Pulkrabek reported on the Public Policy Forum held by the Oakdale Business Professional Association. Tomorrow he will meet with representatives from the City of Woodbury and Thursday he will attend the I-94 Corridor Commission.

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Commissioner Peterson reported she attended the High Speed Rail Joint Powers meeting held in Red Wing last week. All the counties on the corridor have joined and many of the cities have also joined. There are also a few cities along the Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern (DM&E) Railroads that have joined. They will have a press conference in July to announce the membership as well as those folks who have been elected chair and vice chair. She attended the State Rail meeting yesterday and will distribute copies of the State Rail Plan update to the Board. The Youth Service Bureau is selling tickets for the annual garden tour with a focus on gardens in Woodbury. Former City Administrator Barry Johnson will have his house on tour.

Commissioner Kriesel reported that Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program continues to list the St. Croix River Crossing as a viable project. Wisconsin is also in line with that.

#### **BOARD CORRESPONDENCE**

Board correspondence was received and placed on file.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Kriesel moved to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner Hegberg and it was adopted unanimously. The Board meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Myra Peterson, Chair  
County Board

Attest:

James R. Schug  
County Administrator