

# Washington County, Minnesota

## Board of Commissioners - Actions

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### Actions at the Tuesday, March 9, 2010 Board Meeting

This page is a brief view of the actions taken by the Washington County Board of Commissioners. For further information, please telephone 651-430-6001.

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*Washington County's mission is to provide quality public services in a cost-effective manner through innovation, leadership, and the cooperation of dedicated people.*

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### **Regional rail authority agrees to buy land in Newport for transit hub**

The Washington County Regional Railroad Authority – which is composed of the Washington County Board of Commissioners – approved a resolution March 9 to purchase property for a potential transit site in Newport on land known as the Knox Lumber site.

The agreement calls for the purchase of the parcel, at 2222 Maxwell Ave., for \$3.295 million. The money will come from the Counties Transit Improvement Board capital grant, and the Regional Rail fund balance. The purchase offer was made after the owner presented the rail authority with an offer to sell, and after Washington County conducted an independent appraisal of the property, to verify the value of the offer presented.

The land will be used as a park-and-ride lot for commuters. In the short-term, it may be used for bus commuters; the long-term plan is to have it function as a transit center when commuter rail runs through the area.

The purchase of the land is also consistent with Washington County's 2030 Comprehensive Plan.

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### **Community Thread will continue to recruit, manage medical volunteers**

Community Thread, a non-profit organization in Stillwater, formerly Community Volunteer Services and Senior Centers, will continue to recruit and manage volunteers registered in Washington County's Medical Reserve Corps.

Community Thread will continue its work after an agreement was authorized by the Washington County Board of Commissioners March 9. This is the sixth year in which the Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment has entered into the agreement with Community Thread. The organization maintains a system of medical professional volunteers who are part of the national Citizens Corps initiative to mobilize and coordinate volunteers to respond to disasters of all kinds.

Community Thread will recruit and support volunteers, and provide volunteer training in coordination with the Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment. The agreement period is for all of 2010, and the total amount of purchased services is \$54,629.

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### **State will pay county for road use**

The Minnesota Department of Transportation will be doing road work in Washington County during the summer, which will require detours onto county roads.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners entered in agreements March 9 which will allow the state transportation department to use detours onto County State Aid Road 22 in Cottage Grove, while work is being done on U.S. Highway 61/10, and onto County Road 71 and County State Aid Highway 95 while work is going done on Hudson Road, the frontage road along Interstate 94 in Afton and Woodbury.

In turn, the county will receive \$1,940 for the first project, and \$1,325 for the second project to compensate for the wear and tear on the county roads.

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## **Townships receive their town road allotments**

Allotments for Washington County's townships for their fuel tax distribution were noted at the Washington County Board of Commissioners' meeting March 9.

The allotment for the county from the state "Funds Held in Trust" is passed onto the townships. The distribution is based on 20 percent equal distribution, 40 percent on township road mileage, and 40 percent on population estimates. The township must also levy a minimum amount for its roads to qualify for the funds. The total allocation for Washington County for 2010 is \$72,918, to be used for the construction or reconstruction of township roads. Based on the formula, the distribution will be:

- Baytown Township, \$9,998;
- Denmark Township, \$12,011;
- Grey Cloud Township, \$3,900;
- May Township, \$15,507;
- Stillwater, Township, \$13,184; and
- West Lakeland Township, \$18,314
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There is no financial impact to the county.

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## **County will continue to lease space at Historic Courthouse**

The Washington County Board of Commissioners extended lease agreements March 9 to the Youth Service Bureau and Valley Tours, Inc., both of which currently lease space from the county in the Historic Courthouse in Stillwater. Youth Service Bureau leases three separate spaces in the courthouse, and will extend the lease for those spaces to Dec. 31, 2010. The total monthly fees for those spaces are \$2,477. Valley Tours pays a lease rate of \$318.75 a month for its space in the courthouse. The lease with that business is for two years.

The rental payments help reduce the amount of property tax funds needed to maintain the building.

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## **Retired deputy donates money to Sheriff's Office Explorer program**

Lawrence J. Flaherty, a retired Sheriff's Deputy from Mahtomedi, donated \$75 to the Sheriff's Office Explorer program. The Washington County Board of Commissioners accepted the donation at its meeting March 9.

The Washington County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the Boy Scouts of America, works to teach the young adults of the community the different facets of law enforcement through its Explorer program. Topics of training include search tactics, crime scene investigation, First Aid, and other topics.

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## **County will waive park fees for veterans' event at Big Marine Park in August**

Park fees will be waived for those attending a Yellow Ribbon Network event planned for Big Marine Park Reserve in August.

The Washington County Board of Commissioners authorized the waiver of fees for picnic shelter use and vehicle permits at its meeting March 8.

Washington County was designated as a Yellow Ribbon County by Gov. Tim Pawlenty, which noted the county's support

to family members of service personnel during deployment and upon their return home. This waiver of fees shows support to the Yellow Ribbon Network's plan to hold a picnic in honor of veterans at the park Aug. 15.

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### **County libraries will receive funding for programming through Legacy funds**

Washington County Libraries will be able to provide more programming at its branches, paid for by funding provided by the voter-approved state Clean Water, Land and Legacy sales tax approved in November 2008.

Washington County Libraries will provide cultural programs at its branches, using the funds allocated to the Metropolitan Library Service Agency.

Thus far, a storyteller has been on hand to help celebrate Dr. Seuss' birthday, which was March 2. Native American dancers have been providing performances in the county's libraries. Later in March, a bluegrass band will perform at libraries.

Long-term projects will include author presentations, and projects that will commemorate the sesquicentennial of the opening of the Civil War, and the role that Minnesota soldiers played in that war.

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